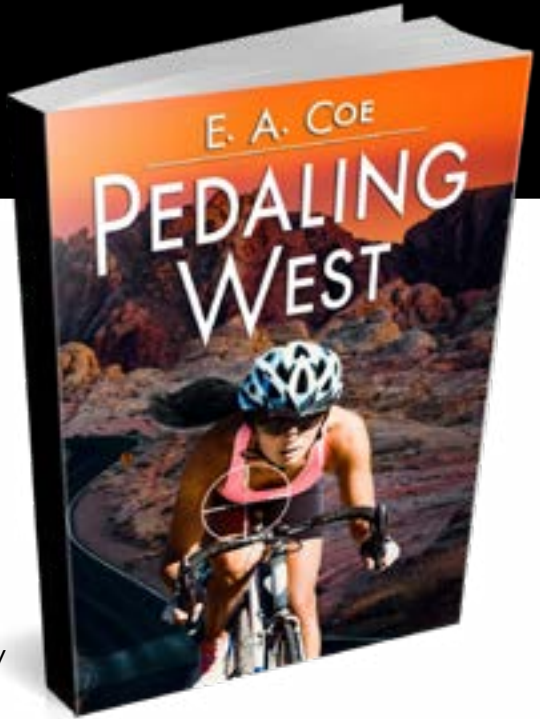


# Book Club Information



## Book Details:

Author: E. A. Coe  
(F. Coe  
Sherrard)

Publisher: Evolved  
Publishing  
(April 2023)

Genres: Contemporary  
Literature,  
Crime Fiction,  
Women's Literature

Literature Awards: Literary Titan Gold Book Award  
Firebird International Book Award  
Pinnacle Achievement Award  
Outstanding Creator Award

Synopsis ***It will be the adventure of a lifetime for Carrie Brinkley... if she makes it to the end alive.***

When Carrie loses her job and boyfriend during the opening weeks of the pandemic, she's determined to reset her life in a positive direction. The answer? A solo, two-month, cross-country bicycle trip from Virginia Beach to Mendocino, CA.

Yet dangers lurk that she'd never anticipated. During Carrie's idyllic journey across the continent, her greatest danger comes not from the encounters with angry animals, road hazards, or the elements. Something much worse stalks her—something much too human.

## *What some of the Pros say...*

“A story about perseverance, endurance, and inner strength, packed with emotional highs and lows. Coe’s writing is so vivid and descriptive that I found myself squeezing my imaginary bike brakes when I got to parts in the story where Carrie had near accidents.”

~**Rolanda Lyles, Editorial Staff Reviewer for Readers’ Favorite**

“Thriller readers will appreciate the intrigue and suspense that follows Carrie into these milieus; travel or bicyclist enthusiasts who anticipate an encounter with ordinary Americans will appreciate the extraordinary circumstances that force Carrie to adopt surprising positions of strength; and fans of novels that pair disparate elements of intrigue and growth will find her story compelling, riveting, and hard to put down.”

~**Diane Donovan, Senior Reviewer, Midwest Book Review**

“We won’t soon tire of reading about the many ways COVID has impacted our world, and E.A. Coe has gifted readers with a fantastic version of events in one neat package. I highly recommend Coe’s work to any mystery fan who appreciates a novel grounded in current events and is driven by a strong female main character.”

~**Literary Titan Reviews**



## *Whups! What Happened?*



In the original manuscript, Carrie dips her toes into the Atlantic, then tentatively steps back toward her bicycle to begin her cross-country trek. By the end of her trip, I envisioned the bolder and more confident Carrie triumphantly driving her bike right into the Pacific. After Jean (my wife) and I arrived in Mendocino during the cross-country vehicle ride we took to research the novel, I realized I would have to re-write the location for Carrie's entry. Biking into the Pacific from the town of Mendocino would be dramatic ... but not survivable, since the community sits on a cliff several hundred feet above the surf. We found a more suitable location at a state park just north of Mendocino.

The only place Carrie spent more than a day during her journey was Ottawa, Kansas, so that represented the only realistic opportunity for a road-trip romance. Since she was held up in the community for a medical emergency and bicycle repairs, a handsome doctor seemed a logical potential partner. When a beta reader, a former emergency room physician, read this part of the early draft, he was horrified, and advised that no ethical physician would begin such an overt flirtation. My beta reader friend found the doctor "creepy."

I re-wrote this section, converting the person who found Carrie on the road from a farmer to Russ, the young veterinarian who had attended the same university as Carrie.



The early draft of *Pedaling West* began with an explanation of how Norm Sloan's complicated string of fast food restaurants was organized and how the initial phases of the pandemic affected it.

One of my local writer friends noted that this part of the book almost put him to sleep, so I rewrote the opening with the words, "What, you're firing me?" The lines, "What, you're ticketing me?" and "What, you're breaking up with me?" were added as a recurring theme for the bad day.

Besides the danger and adventure Carrie encounters during her journey, she is also able to experience the awe of the country's beauty from a front-row seat on her bike. The early draft of the novel provided a more detailed perspective of the perils our geography faces due to climate change and our environment. The editor believed these parts touched, at times, on sensitive political issues that might distract from the entertainment purpose for the narrative, and many of these references were deleted.

## *What Some of Your Friends Say...*

“Pedaling West deserves a chance to be the next book that you can’t put down! E. A. Coe does a great job at weaving different genres together into his writing to keep things interesting/ unique, and makes you feel like you can envision the story unfolding in front of you.” ~**Kelli Burnett**

“Pedaling West is a fast-moving story with many different enjoyable facets: history, travel, high tech gadgets, educational components, happiness, fear, hate, suspense, compassion, mishaps, drama, twists and turns, crime, environmental dangers, love, romance, friendship, inspirational growth and an unexpected ending... I give Pedaling West 5 Diamonds...polished diamonds and I highly recommend!” ~**Peggy Easterly**

“This wonderful book has it all - good guys; bad guys; road hazards; ups and downs; loving relationships (and the possibility of a few new ones); solid family values; real wisdom; intrigue; plot twists; a surprise ending; and, perhaps most surprisingly, one of the most detailed and breathtaking armchair tours of America ever to have existed in print.”

~**Rich Follett - teacher, actor, singer/songwriter, poet, author**

“...he’s nailed all the elements I love in a good read: plausible scenario set in an all-too-recognizable post-COVID world, gripping drama, tantalizing romance, suspenseful danger, and rich characters that were well-developed and elicited emotional engagement from me as a reader.”

~**Elizabeth Cottrell, author of Heartspoken**





## *Things to Discuss...*

1. Should the genre for this novel be “Crime Fiction Adventure” or “Self-Discovery Coming of Age”?
2. Who is the stronger female character: Carrie, Silky, Henrietta, or Marina?
3. This novel portrays three different characters attempting to overcome life obstacles in different ways. Who are they? What are their obstacles? Were any of them successful?
4. In what way did this novel touch on environmental, political, and social issues that are relevant today?
5. What do snakes and public speaking have in common?
6. In one line of the book, Special Agent Hill describes the game of poker as 50% skill and 90% luck. What other things in life are similar?
7. Several secondary characters contribute important parts to the book. Who was your favorite and why?
8. Which is the more dangerous criminal: Norman or Silky?
9. Marina Butnari, Lynne Tune, and Tom Burns are characters from earlier E. A. Coe books. Which ones from Pedaling West would you like to see in future books?
10. A recurring theme in the novel is the importance of partnerships in life. Discuss the most important ones in Pedaling West.

# *Tidbits and Behind the Scenes*



I chose the name Carrie Brinkley randomly. When Jean, my wife, and I took the same highway route as Carrie as part of the novel's research, we discovered the names of two communities located within miles of each other in Kentucky with the names of "Carrie" and "Brinkley." Purely coincidental, the discovery affected the storyline positively.

The name, Oscar Fittipaldi (the young operations manager in Norm Sloan's fast-food operation) derives from a real-life Oscar, once a rising young operations manager who worked for me in another era. The non-fictitious Oscar became the first Chick-fil-a franchise owner in New York City and continues as one of that company's "star" performers.

Dave and Joan Harrison, from the tornado chapter, are my neighbors in Edinburg, Virginia.

Originally, the bike Carrie rode in the novel was a Surly. When the author received no response from the non-fictitious bicycle company to use the real name of their brand, he switched it to a fictitious brand, The Piker, made by the Shenandoah Bicycle Company. The name pays homage to Route 11, known in the Shenandoah Valley as the Valley Pike. There is no Shenandoah Bicycle Company located in Edinburg, Virginia, though. Ottawa Bike & Trail is a real company in Ottawa, Kansas, and Jeff Carroll is the real name of the owner.



## About the Author...

E. A. Coe is F. Coe Sherrard, a former United States Naval aviator and career business executive who is retired in Edinburg, Virginia.

A graduate of Western Maryland College (now called McDaniel College), Coe flew logistical support and airborne early warning aircraft during a combined active and reserve career spanning 21 years. He was a founding partner of Spirit Cruises, based in Norfolk, Virginia and later worked for Herschend Family Entertainment, where he was the General Manager of the Dollywood Theme Park.

He and his wife, opened the Woodstock Café in 2005 and operated it until 2019. The award-winning author of four novels, including *Full Count*, *The Road Not Taken*, *The Other Side of Good*, and *Pedaling West*, he has been married to Jean since 1971 and has three children and seven grandchildren.

*Thank you for your interest in my book! I hope you enjoy it and will consider posting a review to the Amazon website. Find out more about my other books on my website, [www.eacoe.online](http://www.eacoe.online).*

*Coe*