



How I Learned to Ride the Bicycle: Reflections of an Influential 19th Century Woman

By *Frances E. Willard*

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

How I Learned to Ride the Bicycle: Reflections of an Influential 19th Century Woman By *Frances E. Willard*

In 1893 Frances Willard was at the height of her power and influence as leader of the women's social reform movement. It was also a time when bicycles were wildly popular. And so, when her doctor recommended she exercise out-of-doors, Willard was determined to learn to ride. It was not easy for a woman in her fifty-third year, hampered by long skirts, but she was eager for the challenge. She hoped her example would help other women seek "a wider world." She saw cycling as a way for women to gain independence, develop confidence, and be seen by men as equals in skill. A best-seller when originally published a century ago, Willard's fascinating account of her adventure continues to enchant and inspire readers today. An introduction by Edith Mayo, curator of political history at the Smithsonian Institution, describes the life and work of Frances Willard and her role as an early leader of the women's movement. The book concludes with an illustrated essay on the history of women and cycling.

 [Download How I Learned to Ride the Bicycle: Reflections of ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online How I Learned to Ride the Bicycle: Reflections o ...pdf](#)

How I Learned to Ride the Bicycle: Reflections of an Influential 19th Century Woman

By *Frances E. Willard*

How I Learned to Ride the Bicycle: Reflections of an Influential 19th Century Woman By Frances E. Willard

In 1893 Frances Willard was at the height of her power and influence as leader of the women's social reform movement. It was also a time when bicycles were wildly popular. And so, when her doctor recommended she exercise out-of-doors, Willard was determined to learn to ride. It was not easy for a woman in her fifty-third year, hampered by long skirts, but she was eager for the challenge. She hoped her example would help other women seek "a wider world." She saw cycling as a way for women to gain independence, develop confidence, and be seen by men as equals in skill. A best-seller when originally published a century ago, Willard's fascinating account of her adventure continues to enchant and inspire readers today. An introduction by Edith Mayo, curator of political history at the Smithsonian Institution, describes the life and work of Frances Willard and her role as an early leader of the women's movement. The book concludes with an illustrated essay on the history of women and cycling.

How I Learned to Ride the Bicycle: Reflections of an Influential 19th Century Woman By Frances E. Willard Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #835581 in Books
- Brand: Fair Oaks Publishing Company
- Published on: 1991-03
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: .33" h x 5.01" w x 6.99" l,
- Binding: Paperback
- 104 pages

 [Download How I Learned to Ride the Bicycle: Reflections of ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online How I Learned to Ride the Bicycle: Reflections o ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online How I Learned to Ride the Bicycle: Reflections of an Influential 19th Century Woman By Frances E. Willard

Editorial Review

Review

Willard "muses with sagacity and charm, on the sport's philosophical implications." (Publishers Weekly, February 1, 1991) "This delightful, uplifting and unique bit of history is bound to attract both browsers and researchers." (Booklist, February 15, 1991) "It's a wonderful study in social change and expanding freedom for women. (Feminist Bookstore News, February 1991) "Her account of the bicycle as a liberating force freeing women from home and long skirts is sweetly inspiring." (San Jose Mercury News, March 10, 1991) "daring little classic" (Washington Post Book World, April 21, 1991) "charming and disarming memoir" (Los Angeles Times, March 3, 1991)

"Willard took up cycling in an effort to forestall her deteriorating health in 1893, a period that coincided with the bicycle's emergence as a catalyst for sweeping social change. 'How I Learned to Ride the Bicycle' gives an appreciation of the enormity of that undertaking in the 1890s, and Willard relates her cycling tribulations with an easy wit reminiscent of Mark Twain. Willard became a passionate cyclist and in this book she encourages other women to participate in the sport." (Bicycle Guide, June 1991)

"The book is a charming and insightful parable that relates women's mastery of 'machinery' to the mastery of their own lives. . . Willard was clever enough to see a parallel in her struggle to ride a bicycle with the larger struggle of her WCTU sisters to control their lives. Corsets and long skirts curtailed the potential for freedom a bicycle could bring; women's mental bondage of dependence and subservience in Victorian society were equally prohibitive. . . Willard's subtlety in linking her bicycling experience to the broader issue of women's rights was her gift to her contemporaries, as well as to the generations of women that followed. As she wrote, 'I would not waste my life in friction when it could be turned into momentum.'" (Sacramento Bee, March 13, 1991)

"This charming essay is more than a how-to manual, for its not-so-hidden agenda encourages women to live their lives to the fullest, to engage in activities as controversial as ride a bicycle. The book contains a series of photographs in which the heretofore sedentary Willard mounts the machine and aided by friends who help her keep her balance, begins her lesson. The last photo shows her zipping down a byway, as free as the air." - *Minneapolis Star Tribune, April 7, 1991*

About the Author

Frances E. Willard (1839-1898) was widely known in the United States and abroad for her social reform efforts. Her causes included temperance, women's suffrage and education, eight hour workday, prison reform and public kindergarten. She served as president of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union from 1879 until her death in 1898, building it into the largest women's organization of its time. She also founded the World WCTU, the first international organization of women. She was a popular and prolific writer, outstanding educator, astute politician and strong advocate for the emancipation of women.

Excerpt. © Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved.

"She who succeeds in gaining the mastery of the bicycle will gain the mastery of life."

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Annette Morrison:

Book will be written, printed, or illustrated for everything. You can realize everything you want by a reserve. Book has a different type. As we know that book is important factor to bring us around the world. Alongside that you can your reading talent was fluently. A publication How I Learned to Ride the Bicycle: Reflections of an Influential 19th Century Woman will make you to end up being smarter. You can feel a lot more confidence if you can know about every thing. But some of you think that will open or reading any book make you bored. It isn't make you fun. Why they could be thought like that? Have you seeking best book or acceptable book with you?

Dora Gourley:

Do you certainly one of people who can't read enjoyable if the sentence chained in the straightway, hold on guys this kind of aren't like that. This How I Learned to Ride the Bicycle: Reflections of an Influential 19th Century Woman book is readable by simply you who hate those perfect word style. You will find the facts here are arrange for enjoyable looking at experience without leaving actually decrease the knowledge that want to provide to you. The writer involving How I Learned to Ride the Bicycle: Reflections of an Influential 19th Century Woman content conveys thinking easily to understand by many individuals. The printed and e-book are not different in the information but it just different by means of it. So , do you even now thinking How I Learned to Ride the Bicycle: Reflections of an Influential 19th Century Woman is not loveable to be your top list reading book?

Angeline Stallings:

Information is provisions for people to get better life, information today can get by anyone at everywhere. The information can be a know-how or any news even a concern. What people must be consider any time those information which is within the former life are challenging be find than now could be taking seriously which one is acceptable to believe or which one the resource are convinced. If you find the unstable resource then you obtain it as your main information there will be huge disadvantage for you. All those possibilities will not happen with you if you take How I Learned to Ride the Bicycle: Reflections of an Influential 19th Century Woman as your daily resource information.

Diane Lomas:

You can find this How I Learned to Ride the Bicycle: Reflections of an Influential 19th Century Woman by visit the bookstore or Mall. Just viewing or reviewing it could possibly to be your solve issue if you get difficulties on your knowledge. Kinds of this guide are various. Not only simply by written or printed but also can you enjoy this book by simply e-book. In the modern era such as now, you just looking from your mobile phone and searching what their problem. Right now, choose your own ways to get more information about your book. It is most important to arrange you to ultimately make your knowledge are still up-date. Let's try to choose appropriate ways for you.

**Download and Read Online How I Learned to Ride the Bicycle:
Reflections of an Influential 19th Century Woman By Frances E.
Willard #C7KY2ADWW0M**

Read How I Learned to Ride the Bicycle: Reflections of an Influential 19th Century Woman By Frances E. Willard for online ebook

How I Learned to Ride the Bicycle: Reflections of an Influential 19th Century Woman By Frances E. Willard Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read How I Learned to Ride the Bicycle: Reflections of an Influential 19th Century Woman By Frances E. Willard books to read online.

Online How I Learned to Ride the Bicycle: Reflections of an Influential 19th Century Woman By Frances E. Willard ebook PDF download

How I Learned to Ride the Bicycle: Reflections of an Influential 19th Century Woman By Frances E. Willard Doc

How I Learned to Ride the Bicycle: Reflections of an Influential 19th Century Woman By Frances E. Willard MobiPocket

How I Learned to Ride the Bicycle: Reflections of an Influential 19th Century Woman By Frances E. Willard EPub

C7KY2ADVW0M: How I Learned to Ride the Bicycle: Reflections of an Influential 19th Century Woman By Frances E. Willard