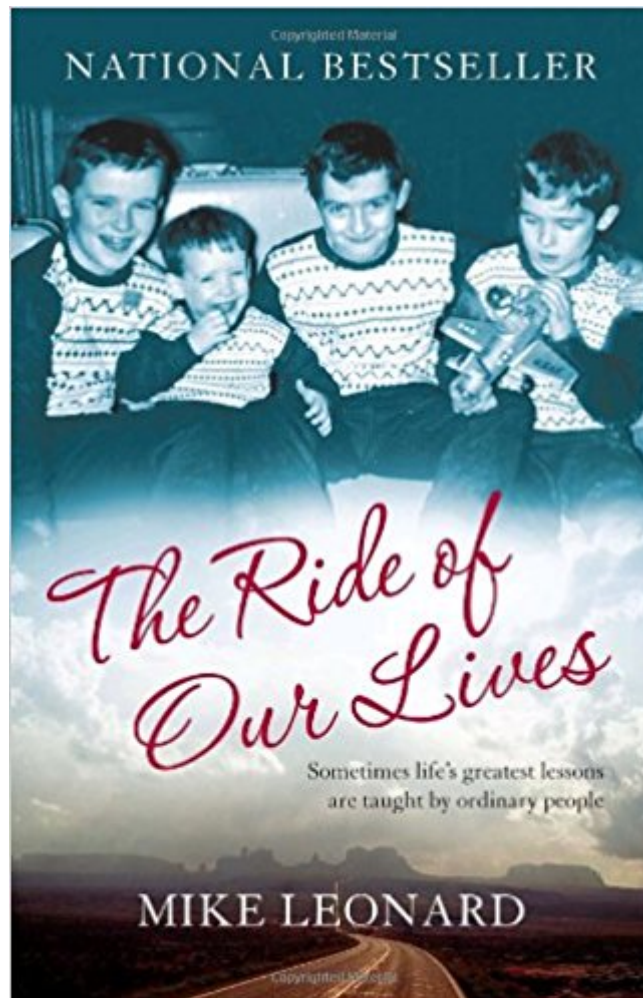




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The Ride Of Our Lives: Roadside Lessons Of An American Family



Synopsis

The Ride of Our Lives is the humorous yet deeply moving account of NBC journalist Mike Leonard's cross-country odyssey with his eccentric parents, three grown children, and a daughter-in-law. Full of ups and downs, laughs and tears, the month-long journey becomes a much larger tale of hope, persistence, and valuable lessons learned along the way. A celebration of the ties between parents and children, as well as the unforgettable community of people one can meet across America, The Ride of Our Lives is an inspiring narrative of self-discovery and self-fulfillment and how one unique family found blessings and simple pleasures on the road called life.

"Touching, hilarious . . . should be required reading in every family."

—Tom Brokaw

"Poignant moments of questions and discovery, of truth-telling and memories."

—The Charlotte Observer

"Often laugh-out-loud funny and sometimes heartbreakingly sad."

—St. Louis Post-Dispatch

"Delightful."

—Chicago Tribune

"Heartfelt and whimsical . . . a cross-country trek through life's lessons . . . Mike Leonard is a storyteller at heart, and each anecdote . . . punctuates the family's love, struggles, and triumphs. In short, this is one ride worth taking."

—Rocky Mountain News

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Fans of NBC News correspondent Leonard's slice-of-life features for the Today show may enjoy this account of a month-long road trip he took with his parents, now in their 80s. But what works on screen doesn't translate to the printed page, and Leonard's attempt to merge a tribute to his parents

with greater issues of life and death hits a dead end. As he drives from Chicago through the Southwest, up the East Coast and back to Chicago, Leonard intertwines his reflections with biographical stories by and about his somewhat eccentric parents. Their tales offer the book's most entertaining moments: phlegmatic Jack, who's "conversational 'off' button got jammed," likes to sing old songs, while gregarious Marge likes to drink and repeatedly spices her conversation with profanity ("Toora loora, my ass!" she yells during one of Jack's songs). Although Marge's behavior begins to seem more unnerving than unusual, Leonard's account of her brave childhood with an abusive father is the book's highlight. But Leonard keeps putting himself at the center of the story, detailing how charmed his life has been from his college prep high school days to lucking into his TV career, which makes for dull reading. Photos. (Apr.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

“Mike Leonard is a national treasure and his touching, hilarious, instructive account of a loving road trip with his parents and children should be required reading in every family. I’m sending it to all my children so they can share the laughs and the tears.”
—Tom Brokaw, author of *The Greatest Generation*
“Mike Leonard has generously invited the rest of us along for a ride aboard his land yacht, the ‘S.S. Fiasco.’ And what a ride it is. Profound and profoundly funny, Leonard takes us on a journey deep into the heart of his family. He has been blessed with characters who are as bizarre, maddening, unpredictable and hilarious as any dreamt up by Hollywood -- and they are his real-life parents! ‘The Ride of Our Lives’ reads like intimate dispatches from your funniest friend, and is as touching and whimsical as a series of home movies unspooling from an American childhood.”
—Amy Dickinson, syndicated advice columnist, “Ask Amy”
From the Hardcover edition.

I always did like Mike Leonard because of his outlook on life, just another day in America. He always found the characters but never made fun of these personalities, he appreciated and helped us appreciate these hard working people. This came out with the road trip in the mobile home with his parents. They had their quirks and ideas that were appreciated by Mike and his family and by me as a reader. He grew up in our generation and I remembered some of the situations he talked about in the 50's, riding bikes, going to the movie theater for 50 cents, and how our parents accepted that time differently than today's situations. He explained life simply and his parents were wonderful and accepting of our children and youth of today in a very kind and humorous way. I

loved riding along with Mike and his family!!!

This was an interesting book about a family taking a long trip via RV around the country. The reason for the trip was to take their parents on one last adventure. The family was very likable and they shared many funny stories along the way. It was an enjoyable book but it lost my interest at certain points along the way. Good book but not great.

Fun read. We lived in our RV for ten years, so it was a natural read!

This is a delightful, funny account of a family vacation by talented author and former Good Morning America contributor, Mike Leonard. Our book club read this a couple of years ago and it continues to be my "feel good" book. You will laugh out loud at the descriptions of the trip. Although it is funny, there are some heart-warming realities that are revealed.

I read this book several years ago and must have loaned out my copy. I enjoyed this book so much I wanted to have a copy to keep. This book tells the true story of a son taking his elderly eccentric parents on an RV road trip across the country to visit familiar places of times gone by, and ending up home in time for the birth of their first great grandchild. Very moving, humorous and poignant. This book is one of my all time favorite reads!

Love this book and the DVD that comes at the end. Mike Leonard and the story of his trip with his aging parents and his children, minus one who is having a baby when they are on the road is uplifting, funny and one that inspires the reader to make memories like these with your own family. It is indeed inspiring and I plan on reading it again after it gets back to me, as I've already lent it out to my young niece so that she may be inspired early in her children's lives to spend quality time with them and more than that to keep traditions alive for them. Mike's parents are lovely, lovely people as is the rest of his family and you quite simply fall in love with them whilst reading this book. Mike Leonard is a wonderful story teller and I hope he has another book or DVD in the future for those of us that love him. I recommend this book to all.

This is one of the funniest books I've ever read. Mike Leonard tell the story of taking his parents (in their mid to late 80's) and 3 of his 4 kids on a cross country trip in 2 Winnebagos. The way he writes about his parents is a riot! There were some very touching moments also. At the end of the trip they

meet up with his wife to be there when their daughter has their first grandchild. My whole family has read this book. Maybe because we're also Irish Catholic we could really relate to the way humor is in everything they do. I would really recommend this book for an entertaining read.

Buy these books for my traveling friends now. I've read it twice. If you have ever owned a camper or RV and travel cross country this book is a must read. Very funny.

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