

"A fine portrait of obsession, and a rich reminder that cycling did not begin with Lance Armstrong." —*Financial Times*

HALF MAN, HALF BIKE

The Life of
**EDDY
MERCKX,**
*Cycling's
Greatest
Champion*

William Fotheringham

Merckx Half Man Half Bike

William Fotheringham



Merckx Half Man Half Bike:

Merckx William Fotheringham, 2012 Eddy Merckx is to cycling what Muhammad Ali is to boxing or Pele to football quite simply the best there has ever been Throughout his professional career Merckx amassed an astonishing 445 victories This title presents his story **Half Man, Half Bike** William Fotheringham, 2013 First published in Great Britain in 2012 as *Merckx half man half bike* by Yellow Jersey Press T p verso **Half Man, Half Bike** William Fotheringham, 2013-04-01 Eddy Merckx is to cycling what Muhammad Ali is to boxing or Pele to soccer simply the best there has ever been Merckx amassed an astonishing 445 victories Lance Armstrong by comparison managed fewer than 100 Merckx didn't just beat his opponents he crushed them But his triumphs only tell half a story that includes horrific injury a doping controversy and tragedy He was nicknamed the Cannibal for his insatiable appetite for victory but the moniker did scant justice to a man who was handsome sensitive and surprisingly anxious A number one bestseller in the United Kingdom *Half Man Half Bike* is the definitive story of a man whose fear of failure drove him to the highest pinnacles before ultimately destroying him

Cyclopedia William Fotheringham, 2015-09-01 If it's on the bike it's in the book The world of cycling is one of death defying feats and obscure mechanical oddities heroics and geekiness in equal measure In *Cyclopedia* renowned two wheel aficionado and acclaimed sports writer William Fotheringham delves deep into this world to unearth rare nuggets of amazing facts and enthralling anecdotes This essential book is an A Z compendium of everything you could ever want to know about the bicycle from the history of the Tour de France to Chris Hoy's dominance of the Beijing velodrome from the origins of the quick release system to the diet that powered Graeme Obree to the world hour record from Lance Armstrong's rise and fall to the slang words used for performance enhancing substances from the literature of cycling to the perils of vicious dogs *Cyclopedia* has all the equipment the races the chases the faces the places the drugs the sex and the scandals to convert any amateur cyclist into a fully fledged bike expert Project Rainbow Rod Ellingworth, 2013-10-15 A master psychologist cycling's answer to Brian Clough MARK CAVENDISH The inside story of Mark Cavendish's Rainbow Jersey Winning World Title of 2011 Twenty five years ago British road cycling was in the doldrums today it is at the top of the world thanks to Bradley Wiggins Chris Froome Geraint Thomas and the sprinter who has bridged all their careers the Manx Missile Mark Cavendish British cycling has become that rare beast a story of sporting success built from the bottom up *Project Rainbow* is the story of this sport's meteoric rise told by one of its key figures culminating in Cavendish's world road race title in 2011 As GB Elite Road Coach and former Team Sky Performance Manager Rod Ellingworth was one of the most important men behind this incredible rise Here one of the chief architects of this amazing journey tells the inside story of both teams advance to the top With an introduction by Mark Cavendish *Into the Suffersphere* Jon Malnick, 2016-08-31 According to the website of The Velominati the self professed Keepers of the Cog the optimal number of bikes owned is $n + 1$ where n is the number of bikes owned But there's also an important corollary $s + 1$ where s is the number of bikes that will cause your wife or

partner to leave you Into the Suffersphere Cycling and the Art of Pain is a brilliantly witty account of one former racer s exploration of whether cycling is the one sport that pushes its participants to the very limits of human endurance and delves painfully into the role that physical and mental suffering can play in this elite endurance sport Drawing together sporting history and pro cycling interviews and investigating current medical business and psychological theories this is the story of the extraordinary lengths to which minds and bodies can be pushed Peppered with recollections from the author s own racing experiences and offering a fascinating insight into the unique allure of pain in a sporting context Into the Suffersphere explores a side of cycling that you would never have dreamed of not even in your worst nightmare An essential read for all MAMILs middle aged men in Lycra and fans of sports writing and smart thinking **You Don't Know Me, But . . .** Clarke Carlisle,2013-09-12 In the summer of 2012 Clarke Carlisle after 15 years as a professional footballer was without a contract and wondering if he still had a future in the game With a growing media profile thanks to his appearances on Question Time and an acclaimed documentary on racism in football there were plenty of other opportunities but he was determined to give it another go Initially signing for York City before moving to Northampton Town Carlisle was soon back in the thick of the action As the events of the year unfolded Carlisle looked back at his career from his early days playing for England Under 21s through career threatening injuries and a battle with alcohol problems to a late arrival at the top level with Burnley As chairman of the PFA Carlisle is a much respected figure in the game his raw honesty and penetrating insights will make readers view the game and those who play it in a whole new light *Reckless* Alasdair Fotheringham,2014-05-08 This is the first ever biography in English of the Spanish Merckx who remains one of the most fascinating Tour de France champions Luis Oca a seemed doomed to live in the shadow of cycling s greatest ever rider Eddy Merckx The Cannibal Their rivalry defined Oca a s entire career yet he was the one rider capable of beating the all conquering Merckx in his prime After an impoverished upbringing he flourished at the sport he loved and in 1970 secured his biggest victory on home soil winning the Vuelta a Espa a and confirming his status as a Grand Tour challenger But it was in the 1971 Tour de France that the battle between Merckx and Oca a reached its peak when at the Orci res Merlette stage he inflicted on Merckx the worst defeat he would suffer in a major Tour with an astonishing 120 kilometre solo breakaway through the Alps But then came one of most gut wrenching crashes in Tour de France history when Oca a fell heavily on a Pyrenean descent losing his leader s jersey and with it his best chance of destroying Merckx s reputation of invincibility In the midst of a torrential downpour with minimal visibility rider after rider crashed into the injured rider as he lay prone The following day Merckx refused to wear the leader s jersey out of respect It was only when Merckx was missing from the start line in 1973 that Oca a became Spain s second ever Tour de France winner If Merckx had been present Oca a s chances of success would have been far slimmer Further triumphs amassed before his swansong in 1976 but Oca a s decline in later life reflects the immense struggle he embraced during the height of his career An enigmatic outsider to both the Spanish and French throughout his career never truly

accepted in either country he died in mysterious circumstances aged just 48 A fascinating complicated character both on and off his bike Oca a s fierce determination impetuosity and some would say recklessness created some of the most beautiful and gripping episodes in the history of the sport

The Hardmen The Velominati,2017-11-07 Embrace and revel in the stories of the toughest cyclists of all time told by The Velominati originators of The Rules Read and get ready to ride In cycling suffering brings glory a rider s value can be judged by their results but also by their panache and heroism Prepared to be awed and inspired by Chris Froome riding on at the Tour de France with a broken wrist or Geraint Thomas finishing it with a broken pelvis In The Hardmen the writers behind cycling superblog Velominati com and The Rules will tell the stories and illuminate the myths of not just the greatest cyclists ever but the toughest From Eddy Merckx to Beryl Burton and from Marianne Vos to Edwig Van Hooydonk the book will lay bare the secrets of their extraordinary and inspirational endurance in the face of pain danger and disaster After all suffering is one of the joys of being a cyclist Embrace climbs relish the descents and get ready to harden up

Climbers Peter Cossins,2022-06-23 When during the Pyrenean stages of the 1998 Tour de France a journalist asked Marco Pantani why he rode so fast in the mountains the elfin Italian unmistakeable in the bandanna and hooped ear rings that played up to his Pirate nickname replied To shorten my agony Drawing on the fervour for these men of the mountains Climbers looks at what sets these athletes apart within the world of bike racing about why we love and cherish them how they make cycling beautiful and how they see themselves and the feats they achieve Working chronologically Peter Cossins explores the evolution of mountain climbing He offers a comprehensive view of the sport combining contemporary reports with fresh one to one interviews with high profile riders from the last 50 years such as Cyrille Guimard Hennie Kuiper and Andy Schleck And unlike many other cycling books Climbers also includes the stories of female racers across the world from Ashleigh Moolman Pasio and Annemiek van Vleuten to Fabiana Luperini and Amanda Spratt Climbers analyses the personalities of these racers highlighting the individuality of climbing as an exercise and the fundamental fact that it s a solitary challenge undertaken in relentlessly unforgiving terrain that requires unrelenting effort Captivating and iconic Climbers is the ultimate cycling book to understand what it takes both physically and mentally to take on the sport s hardest stages

Unveiling the Magic of Words: A Review of "**Merckx Half Man Half Bike**"

In a global defined by information and interconnectivity, the enchanting power of words has acquired unparalleled significance. Their power to kindle emotions, provoke contemplation, and ignite transformative change is truly awe-inspiring. Enter the realm of "**Merckx Half Man Half Bike**," a mesmerizing literary masterpiece penned by way of a distinguished author, guiding readers on a profound journey to unravel the secrets and potential hidden within every word. In this critique, we shall delve into the book's central themes, examine its distinctive writing style, and assess its profound impact on the souls of its readers.

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