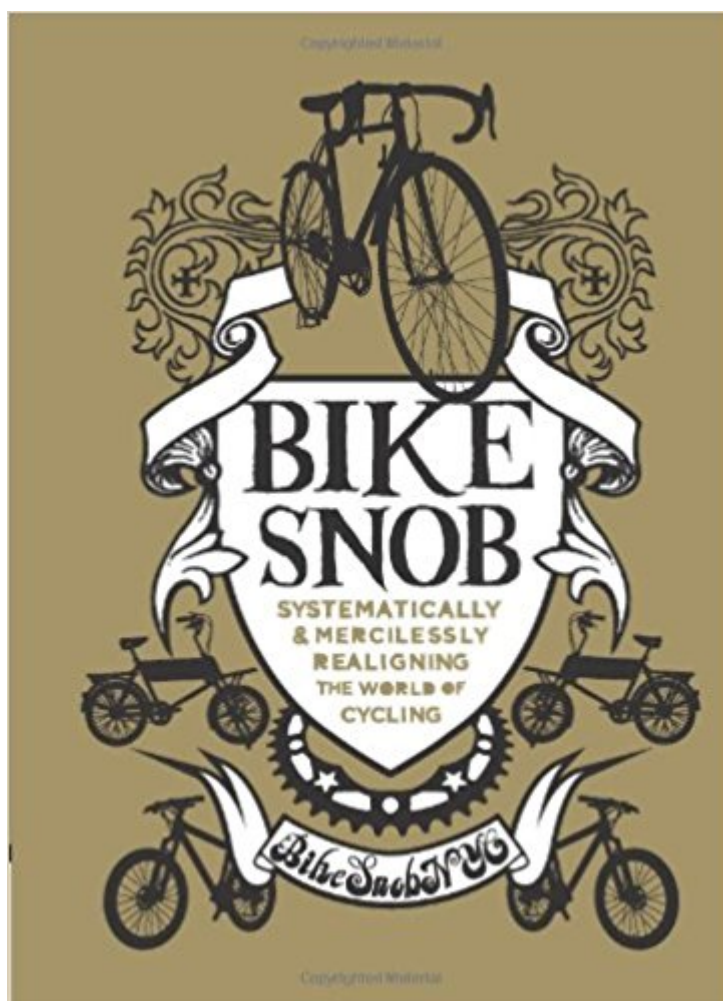


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Bike Snob: Systematically & Mercilessly Realigning The World Of Cycling



Synopsis

Cycling is exploding in a good way. Urbanites everywhere, from ironic hipsters to earth-conscious commuters, are taking to the bike like aquatic mammals to water. BikeSnobNYC cycling's most prolific, well-known, hilarious, and anonymous blogger brings a fresh and humorous perspective to the most important vehicle to hit personal transportation since the horse. Bike Snob treats readers to a laugh-out-loud rant and rave about the world of bikes and their riders, and offers a unique look at the ins and outs of cycling, from its history and hallmarks to its wide range of bizarre practitioners. Throughout, the author lampoons the missteps, pretensions, and absurdities of bike culture while maintaining a contagious enthusiasm for cycling itself. Bike Snob is an essential volume for anyone who knows, is, or wants to become a cyclist.

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Customer Reviews

BILL STRICKLAND, EDITOR-AT-LARGE OF BICYCLINGBike Snob should be lovingly gifted to all new cyclers - and forcefully smacked against the heads of all the jaded know-it-alls who take the sport way too seriously.CHRISTIAN LANDER, AUTHOR OF STUFF WHITE PEOPLE LIKEAfter reading Bike Snob I put a brake on my fixie, started wearing a helmet, then punched myself in the stomach for spending so much time as a stupid hipster. This is a social manual that should be bundled with every bike shipped in America.ROBERT LANHAM, AUTHOR OF THE HIPSTER HANDBOOKAs any avid biker will attest, cycling isn't just a form of transportation. It's a complicated culture with its own slang, taxonomy, and preferred tat styles. If you haven't read Bike Snob, you should consider reattaching those training wheels to your overpriced fixie.LANCE ARMSTRONGI

like to think I know a thing or two (or three) about being ruthless and relentless - either trying to win the Tour or fighting cancer. The Snob knows it too. Keeping us dorks in line is tough work. I take pleasure in getting picked on by the Snob, slightly more pleasure in reading his writing, but take the most pleasure punishing his ass (my payback) on the bike either in Central Park or on 9W/River Road. Long live the Snob. ELDEN "FATTY" NELSON, FATCYCLIST.COM First you'll think the Snob is funny. Then you'll think he's smart. Eventually you'll probably think that he's seen far too many movies for his own good. At some point during this book, however, you're going to say to yourself: Holy crap. He is right. Believe me, that is one disconcerting moment.

BikeSnobNYC is a frequent racer, daily commuter, and former bike messenger himself. He has been published and profiled in numerous publications, including the New York Times, Outside, and Bicycling Magazine.

The Bike Snob writes a wickedly funny blog poking holes in practically every pretension in the cycling world. His blog careens unexpectedly between the worlds of pro cycling, hipsters, fixed gear bikes, Craigslist ads and the indignity of bike commuting (especially in New York). He never runs out of targets -- the studied poses of various cycling subcultures has given him an unending stream of targets. In print -- both in his columns in Bicycling Magazine, and now in this book -- he's a bit toned down. In order to reach a broader audience, his writing is a little more accessible, with fewer self-referential, super-inside jokes that propel the humor in his blog. In print, the satire is still there, but the very sharpest edges have been softened a bit. What's left is a still-funny survey of the world of bicycling in America -- from a brief history of cycling, to a tour of the various cycling subcultures, to some guidance on how to perform basic bike maintenance tasks. The Snob also addresses the "real world" of urban cycling today: what it's like to try to control your temper when a car nearly kills you in traffic, or how to stay warm and dry in a winter rain. And although The Snob avoids organized "bicycle advocacy" efforts (and explains why in his book), he manages to deliver some solid pro-bicycle messages of his own: "Telling cyclists to get out of the road is like telling women to get out of the voting booth and go back into the kitchen, or telling Japanese-American people to 'Go back to China.' The ignorance inherent in the statement is almost more offensive than the sentiment behind it." While he's at it, he tries to knock some sense into cyclists themselves -- questioning the sanity of riding brakeless track bikes on the street, for example, and poking fun at the marketing-driven compulsion of "roadies" to endlessly upgrade their bikes (especially those that are most likely to get stolen anyway). Some overall themes that emerge are encouraging to the newcomer ("get out and

ride"), while persuading the cycling-obsessed to take themselves (and their bikes) a bit less seriously. (He holds a special disdain for "bicycle fetishists" who are more focused on their gear than on riding: "They keep their bicycles clean all the time, they fear scratches like they're herpes, and they don't ever ride in the rain...so their bikes won't get dirty or rusty. They're like the people who collect toys but don't remove them from the package so as not to diminish their value.")The book is a must-buy for fans of the blog, and great gift for the cyclist in your family.

A light fun look at the multifaceted world of cycling. The larger purpose of the book is to simply ride, regardless of the stripe you embrace. I have been riding a 1970 Bianchi out in the country for decades a rip van winkle of cycling who had no idea how cycling had evolved until I moved to Austin. This book has wittily and hilariously helped clarify the various disciplines and why I get stares from the A team Roadie riders. (I thought sequined tops from vintage evening gowns would make me more visible while in traffic in bike lanes.) I have updated to a Cipollini Seaco era Cannondale down to the yellow tires like his 1998-2000. I am letting my freak flag fly in Austin and no one has used the "L" word to me anyway!! I will be referencing your observations often!!! Witty, fun, and bang on.

If you've ever ridden a bicycle as an adult, especially as a member of a cycling club, group, tour or masse, you'll recognize the characters BikeSnobNYC blogs about. In fact if you've lived with an adult bicyclist member of a cycling club, group, etc., you'll recognize them - the writer has put his finger on the true pulse of recreational cycling in America, and OMG, it's FUNNY!! I would keep it on the shelf with "The Triplets of Belleville" (it has that kind of bizarre-yet-appropos humor), but I got it on the Kindle, so it has to bounce around in the cloud. Yes, the book is a collection of blog entries written over a long range of time (not specified), but it doesn't matter; these vignettes are timeless and true, spot-on descriptions of the people and places you only find on a bike.

The Bike Snob may not be a world-class racer or the owner of a bike shop specializing in custom built frames, but in his survey of the bike world of New York City, he comes across as someone who certainly knows a lot about bikes and the larger cultural context in which which bikes play their (unfortunately too small) role. The Bike Snob is a citizen advocate for cycling, committed to making it a bigger part of American life. He has a visceral disdain for the car-obsessed aspect of American identity. At the same time, the Snob's acerbic wit can be seen as a humbling and refreshing restorative when it's directed at the many deformities and stupidities that arise within the bike world

itself. This book is for anyone who wishes (for some odd reason) to be culturally informed about the American cyclist. The focus on biking in New York City may result in a few distortions or omissions if you're a cyclist from some other region of the US (for example, as a cyclist in Wisconsin, collisions with animals has to be one of the top hazards of biking . . . though it doesn't make the Snob's list), but all in all, this book is treasure for anyone who has a fondness for bicycles . . . or who has some issues with American urban "planning" and the kind of social pathologies it has engendered.

If you know his work and find it entertaining then this book is for you. I am a fan of the man. It is unclear to me what a non cyclist or a non fan would get from this book. I enjoy his blog more. In his blog he gives voice to the reality of being a cyclist today and is one of the few voices crying bulls*** loudly and frequently. Having said that, I encourage you to buy the book so he does not need to erect a paywall on his blog in order to a)feed his 9000 children, b)pay the shipping charges to send back all those demo/test/loaner bikes he has that he never returned, or c)move his family across the pond so he can become an apprentice Chamfeur (sp?) at Brooks.

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