

Lost Summers and Half-Forgotten Afternoons



Details

By: Jo Burt
 Publisher: Isola Press
 Price: £35
 ISBN: 9781739126766

Lost Summers and Half-Forgotten Afternoons brings Jo Burt's much-loved mountain biking sheep cartoons together for the first time in a single book – a significant milestone for a comic strip that has been in print for more than three decades.

As someone who grew up reading Mint Sauce, opening this book feels like bumping into an old friend: familiar, reassuring and ready with a knowing smile and a story you've half forgotten. Jo Burt's world, where sheep ride bikes, memories glow warmer than reality and summer appears as a capricious goddess, remains as entertaining as ever.

The collection includes the very first appearance of Mint and mixes iconic cartoons from across the years with

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new artwork, all delivered with Burt's trademark artistic style. His gentle teasing of cycling culture is spot on: the love of cake, the endless hunt for the next 'essential' upgrade and the industry's occasional tendency to take itself a little too seriously. Riders will recognise the affectionate humour instantly.

What elevates the book beyond a simple anthology is Jo Burt's accompanying narrative, which offers insight into the origins and evolution of Mint Sauce. His reflections reveal how a simple cartoon sheep became an enduring icon of British mountain biking culture – capturing not only the sport but the friendships, freedoms and those perfect summer rides that define it.

Beautifully presented and rich with nostalgia, Lost Summers and Half-Forgotten Afternoons is a delightful addition to any coffee table, and an ideal gift for any cyclist who appreciates artistic humour and reflections on life on (and occasionally off) two wheels.

Paul Howard



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Highway Cello

By: Kenneth Wilson
 Publisher: City Village Books
 Price: £10.95
 ISBN: 9781739318208

Recent letters in Cycle have featured members carrying musical instruments by bike. Former vicar Kenneth Wilson ups the ante by transporting his cello from Cumbria to Rome via the Alps on a trailer attached to his 50-year-old Dawes Galaxy. He busks and plays formal concerts as he goes. He enjoys memorable encounters and stunning scenery along the way. It's an entertaining read for anyone interested in music, cycling or spirituality.

Julie Rand



Handcrafted Bicycles

By: Christine Elliot & David Jablonka
 Publisher: Schiffer
 Price: £45.99
 ISBN: 9780764369742

Trade, profession, artistry, craftsmanship or fabrication: what does it take to handcraft a bicycle? After reading and studying the fabulous photography of some stunning bikes, you get a great insight into 32 independent bike builders all doing things their own unique way. It's a breath of fresh air in an ever-growing digital landscape. Maybe the next book can include a few more UK-based frame builders?

Jordan Matthews



Gravel Rides Loch Lomond & the Trossachs

By: Markus Stitz
 Publisher: Vertebrate
 Price: £15.95
 ISBN: 9781839812781

Markus has created and described 16 gravel rides in this region, ranging from easy forays up to challenging day rides. There's some useful information on how to use the book; responsible access; conditions you may face; plus bike and kit advice. Each route has a downloadable GPX file, a map, information on surface grading and how to get there – and more. It's a great pocket-sized guide to some of the UK's amazing gravel riding.

Ross Adams