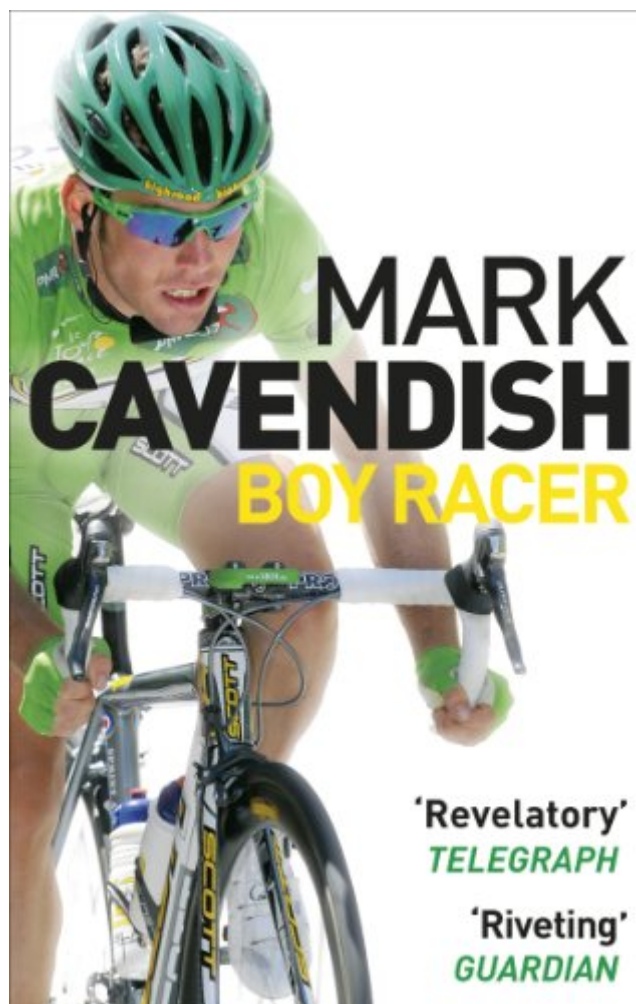


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# Boy Racer



## Synopsis

Boy Racer steps behind the scenes of the Tour de France. It unmaskes the exotic, contradictory, hysterical and brutal world of professional cycling from the compellingly candid viewpoint of someone right in the thick of it. Written off as 'fat' and 'useless' in his youth, Mark Cavendish is now one of cycling's brightest stars and one of Britain's greatest ever cyclists. Some have called him cocky, but to anyone who doesn't like his style, Mark will simply shrug his shoulders and reply, 'I know I'm good. There's no point lying about it.' Peers say that they have never seen anyone with Cavendish's hunger for success and while this fearlessness - both in the saddle and on the record - has at times led to controversy, it has also earned him the respect of ever more fans. In Boy Racer we follow him through the mayhem of the Tour de France in a page-turning journey of pure exhilaration.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I bought this book out of my love of cycling and not in particular a love of Mark Cavendish. I have always admired Cavendish as an outstanding athlete and thought he might have some interesting stories to tell. I love his blunt way of speaking and story telling. I have to say, I am now a Cavendish

fan. As an avid fan of the Tour De France you can't help but notice Mark and his unbelievable ability to sprint. At the end of any race you hear him give all credit to his team when he wins or see the broken heart. He is a true sportsman. While the stories jump around a bit, it is a great inside look of how a sprinter survives the Tour de France and even has the opportunity to win a stage or more. I found it inspiring to hear his stories of people telling him he was fat, and that his numbers indicated he would never make it to the pro tour and how he told the sports scientists to basically "stick it". I encourage any fan of the pro tour to pick up this book and enjoy a few days of new stories and insight into the sport.

Mark Cavendish, one of today's greatest young sports prodigies at just 24, tells his coming of age story in a speed-readingly riveting style. His battles with his opponents, coaches and, most of all himself in a voice very much his own. The story is cleverly weaved through each chapter - which begins with his story of each stage of the 2008 Tour De France and then shifts to a relevant part of his efforts to take himself from youth on the tiny isle of Man to the top of a sport in less than ten years. It might seem absurd for a 24 year old to write an autobiography - but when you read it, you realize that the immediacy and freshness of the experiences make this almost a sportscasting style of biography with a rawness that is not possible if written through the lens of someone at the end of their career. It's a deeply personal story of massive ups and downs - of Cavendish's inner battles with his own volatility and learning how to channel his often dysfunctional almost manic / depressive energy in ways that could be useful. From winning a world championship to sitting alone in a room eating endless bags of chips to joining a pro team to losing when he was expected to win, to his scally(wagish) pranks on his team-mates to their punishment with hours riding. Cavendish is, of course, the brash hero - but he is self deprecating and appreciative of the people that brought him to where he is. Those that didn't help, of course, get a bit of a Manx-style smack-down. Hats off / chapeau, Mr. Cavendish - you can write nearly as well as you ride.

I finished this book relatively quickly, so that speaks for something! A good read, I am glad I picked it up. As a super cycling fan, I felt I had to =). The book is written in first person through Cav's eyes. There were some "laugh out loud" moments, cool facts, and all centered around an interesting story. This book does contain a collection of bad language, so I'll throw that out there as a disclaimer. This book is a few years old; I hope there will be a "sequel", because I think it would be interesting to see the progression from this book (and the start of a career) to another and the end of the Mark Cavendish era. This book ends, of course, at the end of the beginning, leaving a "to be continued"

feel. I would certainly recommend this book to cycling and Cavendish fans as not only a good story, but a great resource.

I had admired Mark Cavendish's achievements before reading this book, but thanks to the media, I also looked at him with a smirk, believing him to be immature, self-centered, etc. I must say, however, during this year's (2011) Tour de France, I had begun to change my mind. This book simply completed the transformation. I believe him to be sincere and honest. I admire him for his attitudes about drugs and cycling. We need more like him. As for his emotional outbursts, it's part of his charm, and so entertaining. :-)

The book is well written and gripping at times. I've watched many of the races he described, and still found myself sitting on the edge of the seat while reading about them in this book. It's well worth the effort for anyone who enjoys professional cycling, and even for those who know little about it. I heartily recommend this as a book club suggestion. If nothing else, it'll open people's eyes to what goes on during some of the world's most popular bicycle races.

It was very interesting to see what a Pro Cyclist does in preparation for races and some of the training they do. It was also very interesting seeing the recap of sprint finishes and the strategy employed - both before the race and in the last 1 km. It always looks like chaos on TV. It was a fast read - and hard to put it down.

Cavendish is forthright, you always know what he is thinking. His background is surprising, he tells it to you in the first person, it not glossed over by some ghost writer. He is a current racer, a young man of our times. Read it before this year's Tour. It will make the viewing more interesting.

I didn't think I'd like this book about Mark Cavendish, from his introduction to riding to the start of his real professional career. However, I was surprised. It's an excellent read warts and all, by a guy who is not afraid to tell it all. With a reputation for having a hot temper, there is a much softer side hidden away. I think I've become a fan now, and while he's described as the fastest man on a bike, he knows he needs to come to terms with most of the mountains along the cycling way. Go Mark!

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