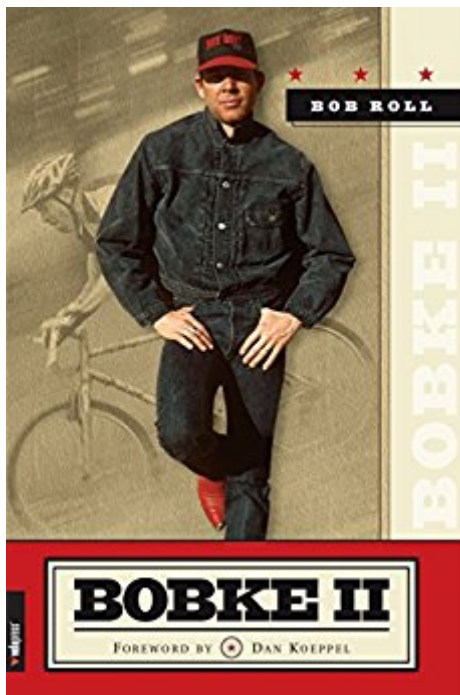


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Bobke II



Synopsis

Bob Roll is a former Tour de France racer, well-known scribe, and race announcer, and he's back to cause a ruckus! Bobke II (correctly pronounced "BOOB-kuh") revisits all of the original journals of Roll's wild rides and crazy tales about cycling's uncensored side. When Bobke retired from competition, his pen continued the crazed poetic commentary, and Roll's newest additions cover both topics held reverent in cycling and also those that are hardly related to the sport. Bobke tips his cap to the classic riders and races, takes us on a grueling week of training with Lance Armstrong, tells the sport as he sees it, and entertains us with plenty of ditties and rants in between. It's a zany, often absurd, yet compelling commotion.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I didn't expect that Bobke II was a compilation of diary entries made by Bob, during his cycling career, and a story or two that followed each. It was an entertaining book, even though the writing format was different. Reading about Bob's adventures in traveling the world as a pro cyclist was interesting and reading about some of his interactions with the other pros he raced with and against,

including Lance and Greg Lemond, was revealing. I would recommend this book to anyone who is interested in cycling, and the past of bike racing, and someone looking for a light read-"no worries".

Out of all the books about professional cycling, Bobke II is probably the one I read most carefully because it contains such an onslaught of stream of consciousness writing, that I dared not skip a single word lest I miss something that actually made sense. If that seems like a criticism, it really isn't. I found that after a while, I was actually thinking the way Bob wrote. Scary. Still, the hilarity that often ensues with each new chapter makes the whole venture worth while. Read it, and you'll see. There are nuggets in here that you will be quoting to your friends on your next group ride. And, since you cannot do them justice, your friends will get very tired of hearing about them. The Bob Roll we know from race television is nothing like the Bobke who unleashes himself upon each page in this book. Good thing, too, or else the censors would be yanking their hair out in large bunches.

Bob Roll is one of the funniest ex-pro athletes I've come across. His commentary during the Tour de France is usually right on the mark and having been on several pro cycling teams, he knows his way around. This is not a prima donna cyclist writing a memoir of how wonderful he was. No, Bob Roll was one of the grunts in the pack that do the hard work day in and day out with little or no glory. This book is from a selection of magazine articles for a cycling magazine and much of the reading is laugh out loud hilarious. Bob Roll is an American cycling treasure.

Bobke II is a satisfying read that offers an inside perspective of both road and mountain bike racing through brief snippets that capture the mood and major events of races and life as a professional bike racer. I hadn't realized that Roll was involved in mountain bike racing to the extent he was. I have enjoyed listening to Bob Roll as a commentator for the Tour de France; the same wit, knowledge and irreverent perspective are readily evident in the book.

I was a bit disappointed in the book/diary. If you're a cycling fan there are some fun parts and interesting insights into the pro peloton of the past. But it's pretty clear this is definitely a different Bobke than you see and hear on the Tour de France coverage these days. I'm glad he outgrew this stage. :)

Hilarious excerpts from cycling legend Bob Roll's diaries during his competitive years in the 80's and 90's, plus a few "literary" extras. Insider's view of the cycling world through a mid(?) -level but

eloquent pro's eyes. Sequel to "Bobke: A Ride on the Wild Side of Cycling." For those of us who've gotten to know Bobke through his years of distinctive TV commentary on the Tour de France, the book is a chance to learn more of the Bobke mystique. You'll read it straight through.

A great read of an intrepid loyal team rider. While Bob Roll did not personally win a lot of races he was always giving support to his team with his sense of humor and grit. I would love to have coffee or a beer with Bobke at a kermis.

A fast read leaving you wanting more. Bob's humor and spirit is infectious. When you find yourself with Clarence Gatemouth Brown's version of Ventilator Blues on your "walkman" on that little gravel road out of town, just ask yourself what would Bobke do. Somewhere Gonzo is smiling and waiting for a cappuccino with Bob.

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