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Letter from the Editor

BOOK BOMBARDMENT

One cycling book talks common sense

Many things happen to me on a daily basis as editor of *Adventure Cyclist*. Some are pleasant, some aren't — just like life in general. On a nearly daily basis, a package addressed to me arrives with a cycling-related book inside or an email pops into my inbox

about one. (Many times, they're not actually about cycling, and often they're not related to bike travel.) Either way, the request is the same — I'm asked to include a review of the book in *Adventure Cyclist*. If I were to try to meet all of these requests, this magazine would be titled *Cycling*

Book Reviewer. I would soon become the world's foremost authority on all things cycling, and probably the most boring human on the planet. Over a cocktail, I might say something like, "Did you know that the number of chainrings times the number of sprockets in your cluster gives you your gear ratio range?" After deftly dropping this erudite pearl, odds are good that I'd be drinking alone, and that would be sad. Even sadder is that I probably wouldn't be able to stop speaking of such things because my brain, an organ that had once been brimming with many divergent and various notions, would become filled only with thoughts about bicycles and bicycling.

I don't want to give the impression that all cycling books are written to be insanely boring or targeted at a small audience of fetishist cyclists, because that statement, overall, is not true. Quite a few books have arrived that I like and some have appeared in our Waypoints column, and there will be more to come. But a recent arrival stood out. Written by Grant Petersen of Rivendell Bicycle Works, it's titled *Just Ride: A Radically*



Practical Guide to Riding Your Bike. Radically practical? Is this how goofy we've become that practicality is now radical? Anyway, as the title suggests, it's a book that implies there's too much baloney being thrown about by the cycling industry as a whole and maybe people who

just like riding bikes could use a dose of advice that the establishment probably doesn't want them to hear. The book consists of 212 pages broken up into eight sections with a total of 89 chapters, and it contains some great lines. One of my favorites is from the Suiting Up section and reads "If you're riding in bell-bottoms, don't ...". The chapter this line comes from ends with "Wardrobe overview: When you don't race, almost every shirt, sweater, jacket, or coat you own is a cycling garment. You can dress for the weather and your own sense of style, just like you do off the bike. You won't look like a racer, and that's just another benefit." And there's plenty more where that came from, so do yourself a favor and get a copy.

Just Ride is published by Workman Press and can be purchased at workman.com for \$13.95 or at rivbike.com for \$14. See? Even Grant's price is radically practical.

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