

IS IT REALLY ABOUT SEX?

Report from Margaret Zings

A female review of 'on the road' a book described as driving adventures, pleasures and discoveries by Peter Schindler.

Why ask me? I know very little about cars except that I drive one, want it to get me from A to B quickly and safely and cause me as little trouble as possible. When cars come up as the topic of conversation around my table I set time limits. However I have also been the passenger and navigator for many miles over some of the roads mentioned in this book and therefore might qualify.

The author tells us in the introduction that driving is a very sensual experience for him, allowing him to feel free, liberated and to develop relationships with other people and cultures. This book has allowed him to express his emotions and sensations in a very descriptive way complemented by beautiful illustrations.

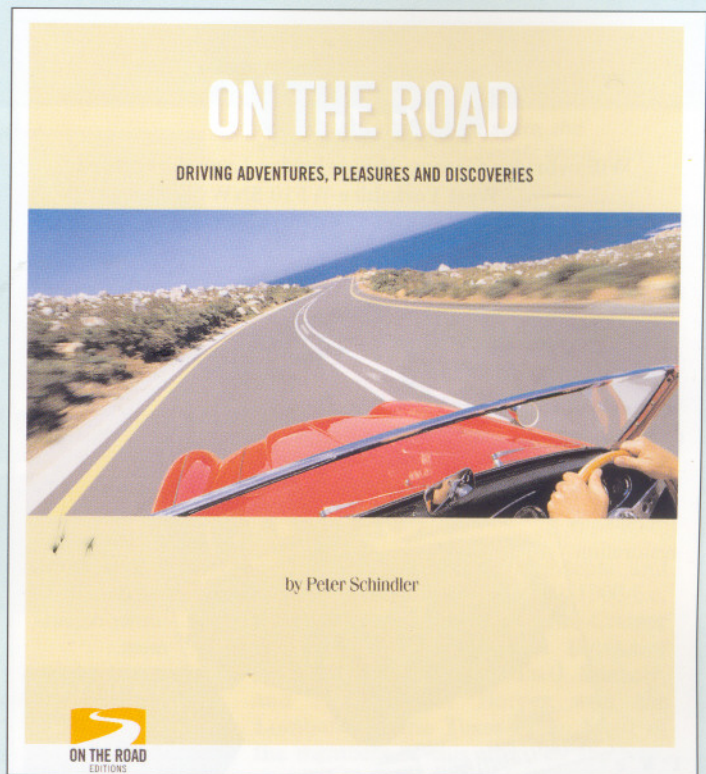
What has this got to do with driving? I hear you say and where is the sex? The answer is read it for yourself and find out. Man's relationship with the motorcar is a complex one. This story takes you on a journey through the relationship of one man with cars and driving. I believe the intention was to provide a book that looked beyond the engine, nuts and bolts. It certainly does this.

The sense of liberation that the car and driving provides for the author is apparent from the start. As a reader there is no feeling of arrogance and power that so often accompany the writing about the humble motorcar. There is no real sense of larger, bigger and better. However the allusions to the smaller 'inferior' cars when duelling with the bigger more 'superior' cars gives us some idea of the perceptions that we develop while driving when we see others challenge our space and speed on the road. I also enjoyed references to the diversity and commonality of cultures when it comes to 'rules'.

A journey in southwest Australia epitomises what is expressed throughout the book. The pleasure of driving on the open road, the sense of oneness with the car and the environment allows us to reflect on personal experiences. Beautiful photographs, that are strategically placed to illustrate the

descriptive text makes this book perfect for the coffee table and the guest bedroom after you have enjoyed it yourself. It will make you want to go on that journey, drive those bends and perhaps reflect on the pleasures of driving that go beyond the engine and the performance. This would be a good stocking filler for Christmas for the companion/partner. It allows us to see that there is another side to driving literature.

P.S. There are no prizes for spotting the Healeys in the illustrations!



IN ENGLAND WITH AUSTIN

Produced for the Austin Centenary year, by Midland Centre member John Reed, this book with numerous colour pictures and maps, locates and illustrates many of the places used for Austin and Austin Healey publicity photographs.

Covering Longbridge production of the post war period, up to the mid fifties, both the Austin Healey 100 and 100/6 are featured along with the names and personalities behind these fascinating scenes.

Priced at just £9.95 + £1.50 post and packing this publication could be just the thing for your Christmas stocking list!

To obtain your copy send a cheque made payable to the Austin Counties Car Club, at The Old Barn, Perrystone Hill, Ross on Wye, Herefordshire, HR9 7QX.

Produced by John Reed
for The Austin Counties Car Club