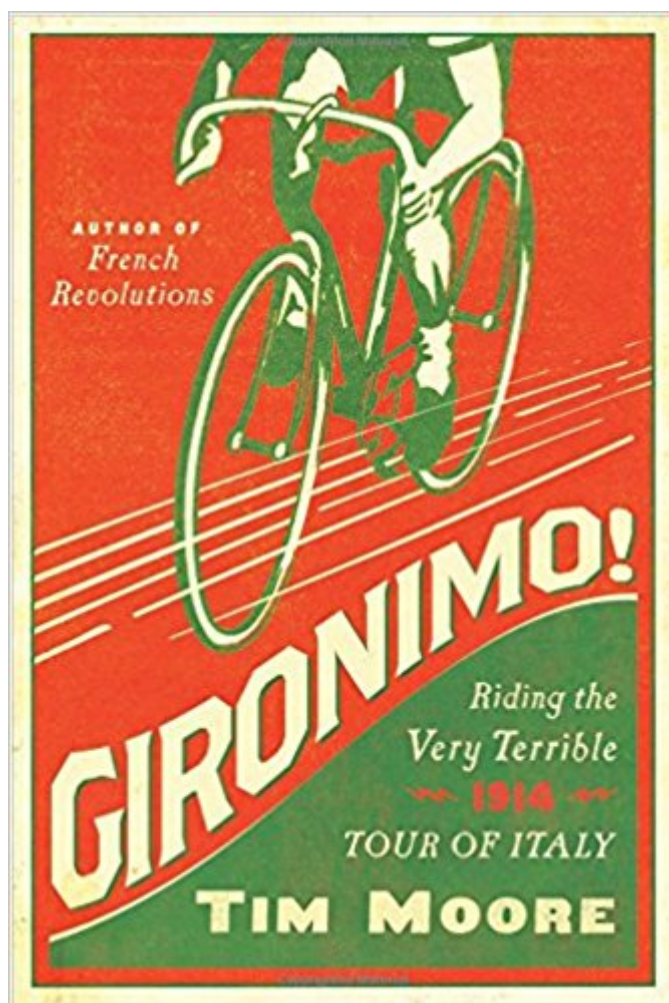


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Gironimo!: Riding The Very Terrible 1914 Tour Of Italy



Synopsis

The 1914 Giro d'Italia: The hardest bike race in history. Eighty-one riders started and only eight finished after enduring cataclysmic storms, roads strewn with nails, and even the loss of an eye by one competitor. And now Tim Moore is going to ride it. And he's committed to total authenticity. . . Twelve years after Tim Moore toiled around the route of the Tour de France, he senses his achievement being undermined by the truth about 'Horrid Lance'. His rash response is to take on a fearsome challenge from an age of untarnished heroes: the notorious 1914 Giro d'Italia. History's most appalling bike race was an ordeal of 400-kilometer stages, filled with cataclysmic storms, roads strewn with nails, and even the loss of an eye by one competitor – and it was all on a diet of raw eggs and red wine. Of the eighty-one riders who rolled out of Milan, only eight made it back. To truly capture the essence of what these riders endured a century ago, Tim acquires the ruined husk of a gear-less, wooden-wheeled 1914 road bike, some maps, and an alarming period outfit topped off with a pair of blue-lensed welding goggles. As Moore rides up and over the Alps and then down to the Adriatic (with only wine corks for brakes) *Gironimo!* is an adventure that is by turns recklessly incompetent, bold, beautiful and madly inspiring.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

“You don't have to be into cycling to reap the benefits of *Gironimo!* An entertaining and jauntily written travelogue that at times made me laugh out loud. With Moore as your guide, you may want to hurry over to Italy on the next flight out.” – The New York Times Book

Review “In this funny and fascinating tale of cycling, writer Tim Moore takes the reader on a

journey few will ever attempt, let alone finish: a 3,162-kilometer route over the Italian mountains that was once the setting of a notoriously difficult bicycle race. On a mission that could easily veer into preachiness, Moore is too humorous a narrator to let the story go off track. Hilarious. — Minneapolis Star Tribune — “Disgusted by the Lance Armstrong scandal and disappointed in the dispassionate, technology-driven cycling world, British humorist Moore challenges himself to ride the route of the 1914 Giro d’Italia. His journey is peppered with self-deprecating humor, and his interactions with the people he encounters and charming towns he visits are very entertaining. Moore’s patented combination of humor and travelogue proves thoroughly engaging. — Booklist (starred review) — “Moore’s adventures are perfect for adventure readers, cyclists, and sports fans alike. — Midwest Book Review — “A superbly funny read. — Cycling Weekly — “One of the funniest books about sport ever written. — The Sunday Times

Tim Moore’s writing has appeared in the Daily Telegraph, the Observer, The Sunday Times and Esquire. He is the author of *French Revolutions* and *Geronimo!* in addition to four other books. He lives in London.

Just finished this book yesterday. Moore’s account of his ride is very enjoyable, as the text balances his personal experiences with those who took part in the 1914 race. His humor is pleasant, although an occasional British term or reference went right by me. Nevertheless, this was rare and gave me the chance to look up some terms. Back to the book itself. I’d recommend it for those who enjoy an author with daring and wit, and for serious cyclists (I haven’t been on a bike for years and was never into the sport), and for anyone looking for something new and novel to read about.

Fighting his ancient and disintegrating bike over the route of the toughest Giro ever, Tim Moore again delights in recalling his own misfortunes and marvels, with a keen eye for both Italy’s beauty and the raw pain of competitive cycling in any era.

Fun book, but for cycling wonks only. Wacky Brit decides to not only ride the insane route, but "builds" a period authentic bike, wears authentic period clothes, takes off in Italy’s August heat, alone, and nearly completely clueless. He makes it a fun read, once he gets the bloody gear assembled and actually takes off a quarter through the book, but britishisms abound. He’s clearly ridden distances before, but it’s hard to understand why he insists on one ridiculous woolen outfit

(OK, it's authentic) has almost no mechanical aptitude, spare parts or tools (not authentic), has no support car following (not authentic) has no food plan beyond pizza, and a mostly one star hotel budget, when he can find one (insanely not Authentic--30 days on the road, vs the original 8). By the end you understand his 70ish mother's sentiment: I'm glad he's still alive, but it's a miracle and a mystery as to exactly how or why.

An entertaining, light read. Not a classic by any stretch but an amusing book if you're interested in cycling and enjoy this particular type of very English humorous writing: the kind that gets most of its laughs from the author poking self-deprecating fun at himself, as well as from descriptions of the 'eccentric foreigners' he encounters along his way. In that sense, it seems a bit quaint, but it's genuinely funny in parts and in a sense the dated style goes perfectly with the subject matter.

If you love cycling or Italy, this is a wonderfully fun read. An antique bike on an unforgettable journey. Even over his 30+ days v the 8 days of the 1914 Giro, it's quite the adventure. And I love his in-joke commentary from Phil and Paul.

Great book. Had done a bike tour to the Tuscan hills and this brought back some of the sights. Would not like to recreate the ride of the giro on an old fashioned bike with wooden rims.

This is a fun read. I bought it for my husband who is a tour de France fanatic but I ended up reading it too.

BRAVO! I enjoyed Moore's French Revolutions very much and thought this would be even funnier and more entertaining given my interest and familiarity with Italy combined with that uniquely British love/hate relationship they have for La Bella Paese. Has a bit more British-style colloquialisms than I care for, but nonetheless enjoyable for anyone with interests in the Giro d'Italia and cycling in general.

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