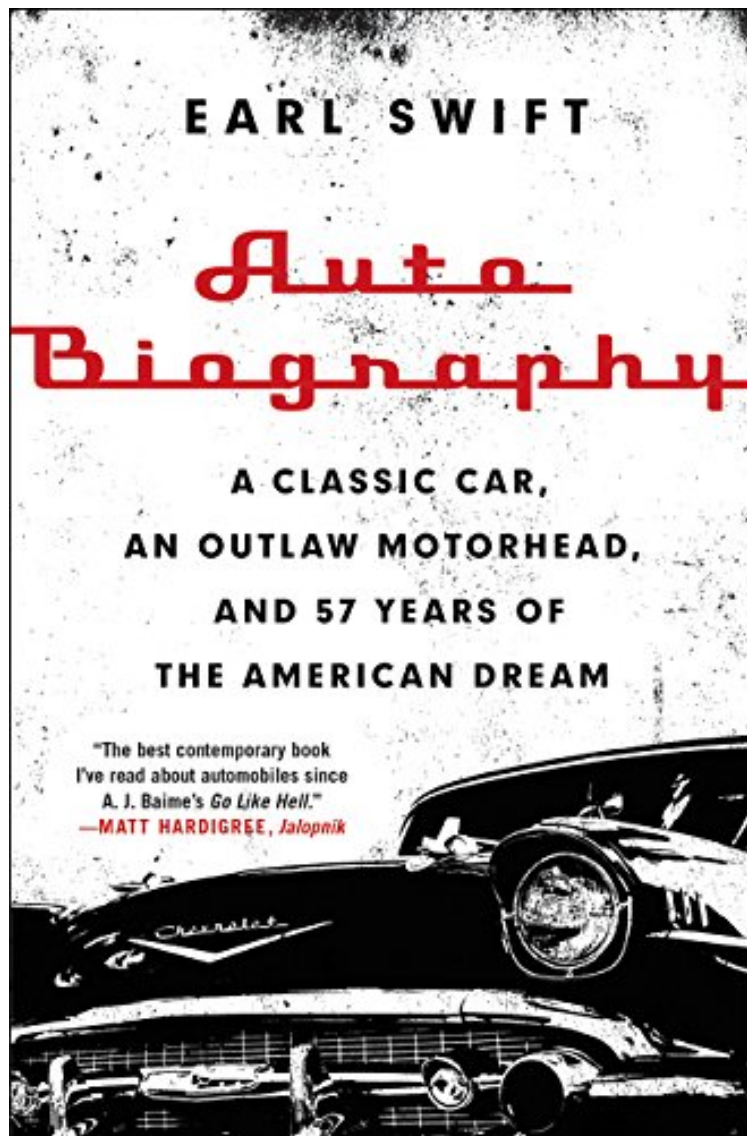


[Free download] Auto Biography: A Classic Car, an Outlaw Motorhead, and 57 Years of the American Dream

Auto Biography: A Classic Car, an Outlaw Motorhead, and 57 Years of the American Dream

Earl Swift

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#414105 in Books 2015-03-17 2015-03-17Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.00 x .83 x 5.311, .0 #File Name: 0062282689368 pages | File size: 42.Mb

Earl Swift : Auto Biography: A Classic Car, an Outlaw Motorhead, and 57 Years of the American Dream before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Auto Biography: A Classic Car, an Outlaw Motorhead, and 57 Years of the American Dream:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Recommended to people with many interests
By Kindle Customer
This book is for somebody who's a car person. Or, someone interested in post world War two American history. Or wants some context on how our fast economy and focus on marketing gave the Japanese a window to enter the market with quality. Or tangentially, how the automobile has helped shape American communities. Or for someone interested anecdotally in how cars can both reflect and influence who at are at times. interwoven with a story of a misfit is a tale about the various people who've possessed a car throughout generations, and how they are at once unique and united through a common love. I'm an easy target to be honest, I love cars and am interested in the other things I listed above. In fact, even before I heard of the book I've felt the particular model of car the story follows is the most beautiful in the world. But trying to be objective, the writer does a great job interweaving American stories that probably will stand as a great piece of journalism even if you don't care at all about cars.
1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. One of the best Tidewater VA/NC books ever. Loved it!
By Denny
If you are a car person or even interested in old cars, Earl Swift had written a masterpiece. Dealing with both the restoration of a '57 Chevy wagon, Earl traces the history of the car through 16 owners. This book has special meaning to me as it is centered around Norfolk and discusses many local establishments, primarily Moyock Muscle. As I live in the area and have actually been to Moyock Muscle a few times, this was special. Perhaps the most interesting portion is the portrayal of Tommy Arney, a Norfolk legend. Should you be one of those people who are offended by cussing and such, this is NOT the book for you. VBD3
3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A good read for car nuts
By Dagfinn Fjelddalen
This book is based on a really interesting idea, tracing the history of several People through the history of a car they all have owned or been involved with. It provides a lot of insight into cars, which is great for us car nuts, but also into the social history of the middle class as well as how people overcome or don't overcome the events of their lives. However it does go on a bit as one personal mini-biography follows another, it feels as if the writer is maybe sticking too much to a formula in order to stay authentic, so I started skipping some paragraphs after a while. However anyone who's got their hands dirty on old cars will enjoy this read, recognize a lot and also learn something new.

A brilliant blend of Shop Class as Soulcraft and The Orchid Thief, Earl Swift's wise, funny, and captivating Auto Biography follows an outlaw auto dealer as he struggles to save a rusted '57 Chevy—a car that has already passed through twelve pairs of hands before his—while financial ruin, government bureaucrats and the FBI close in on him. Slumped among hundreds of other decrepit hulks on a treeless, windswept moor in eastern North Carolina, the Chevy evokes none of the Jet Age mystique that made it the most beloved car to ever roll off an assembly line. It's open to the rain. Birds nest in its seats. Officials of the surrounding county consider it junk. To Tommy Arney, it's anything but: It's a fossil of the twentieth-century American experience, of a place and a people utterly devoted to the automobile and changed by it in myriad ways. It's a piece of history—especially so because its flaking skin conceals a rare asset: a complete provenance, stretching back more than fifty years. So, hassled by a growing assortment of challengers, the Chevy's thirteenth owner—an orphan, grade-school dropout and rounder, a felon arrested seventy-odd times, and a man who's been written off as a ruin himself—embarks on a mission to save the car and preserve long record of human experience it carries in its steel and upholstery. Written for both gearheads and Sunday drivers, Auto Biography charts the shifting nature of the American Dream and our strange and abiding relationship with the automobile, through an iconic classic and an improbable, unforgettable hero.

From Booklist
This is a fascinating dual biography of Tommy Arney—described as a rough customer, which is putting it mildly—and of a 1957 Chevrolet which is in Arney's possession when the book opens. In addition to owning a North Carolina strip club, Arney runs an auto-junkyard-cum-used-car-lot (neither is quite an adequate description). When not in major legal or financial difficulty, Arney—an informally educated, erratic, but remarkably well-informed individual, articulate both in profane and more standard English—and his remarkable crew perform herculean work (meticulously described here) in restoring automobiles. The author tells Arney's story deftly and with great, often raw, humor, and it rarely loses momentum. The tale of the '57 Chevy's passage from owner to owner until purchased (and laboriously prepared to be sold) by Arney is fittingly contextualized within the central place of the automobile (in particular, this automobile, a classic) in American culture. --Mark Levine "The best contemporary book I've read about automobiles." (Matt Hardigree, Jalopnik) "I've never met Earl Swift, but from the very first page of this book I like him. Auto Biography is exuberant, big-spirited, and more than occasionally profound." (TRACY KIDDER, Pulitzer Prize winning author of Mountains Beyond Mountains) "Earl Swift has done something astonishing. He has let us see the unwinding of the American Dream through the windshield of a single 1957 Chevy and through the stories of every one of its owners. Auto Biography is funny and sad and wise, an ingenious joyride of a book." (BILL MORRIS, author of Motor City Burning) "Fascinating... The author tells Arney's story deftly and with great, often raw, humor, and it rarely loses momentum." (Booklist) "A true tall tale that doubles as a complicated fable, Auto Biography is the wild and woolly saga of a 1957 Chevrolet station wagon, its 13 owners, and Tommy Arney, the appetite-forward, contradictorily honorable character who restores the four-door chariot to a glory even greater than its original." (Christian Science Monitor) "[A] must read ... It's the bromance of the ages: a ruined man and a ruined

'57 Chevy find happiness in each other's arms." (New York Post)"Engrossing and entertaining.... The narrative tactfully unfolds with deeply human stories of struggle, ambition, hopes, dreams.... Swift is a wonderful guide and the stories he relates are engaging in their own right." (Publishers Weekly)"Dazzling. ... Many readers likely will feel the description Swift paints of Arney in the first page and a half of the book is worth the \$26.99 price tag alone." (Daily Progress (Charlottesville, VA))"A good fun read. ... There's rust, havoc, renovation and redemption, for the car and several of its owners. ... The car talk is interesting and accurate; an easy and well written read. Swift is a big name, award-winning writer, and his chops show well here." (Matt Stone, former editor, Motor Trend Classic)"A fresh, personal perspective on America's love affair with the automobile." (Joe Bargmann, of Popular Mechanics, Road Truck, and the wildly popular blog, "Backseat Driver")"Full of crackerjack reporting and fuel-injected mirth... Swift's lengthy step-by-step description of the disassembly and recreation process is as nail-biting as any drugstore action-thriller. It's hard to conceive of a more riveting (or unriveting) work on the subject than Auto Biography." (Atlanta Journal-Constitution)"Swift delivers on the ambitious scope of his subtitle, and will capture the imagination of classic car fans and non-fans alike. Highly recommended." (Jason Fogelson of Forbes)"Entertaining and enlightening." (Fort Worth Star-Telegram)"Swift negotiates a phrase like a car with a tight turning radius." (The Durham Herald Sun)"An entertaining, surprisingly informative and action-packed tale." (Houston Chronicle)"Swift excels at such descriptions of autos and people, as well as observations on society and pop culture." (Dallas Morning News)"A great read, with the cast, dialogue and drama of a novel." (Detroit Free Press)From the Back CoverAn instant classic of automotive literature and a brilliantly unique examination of the modern American experience, Earl Swift's Auto Biography charts the unforgettable odyssey of one iconic 1957 Chevy wagon from gleaming symbol of Jet Age optimism to a rusted hulk—and the car's unlikely savior, a larger-than-life motorhead named Tommy Arney, who embarks on a mission to restore the Chevy to full glory before his own demons—and the FBI—doom him and the car.