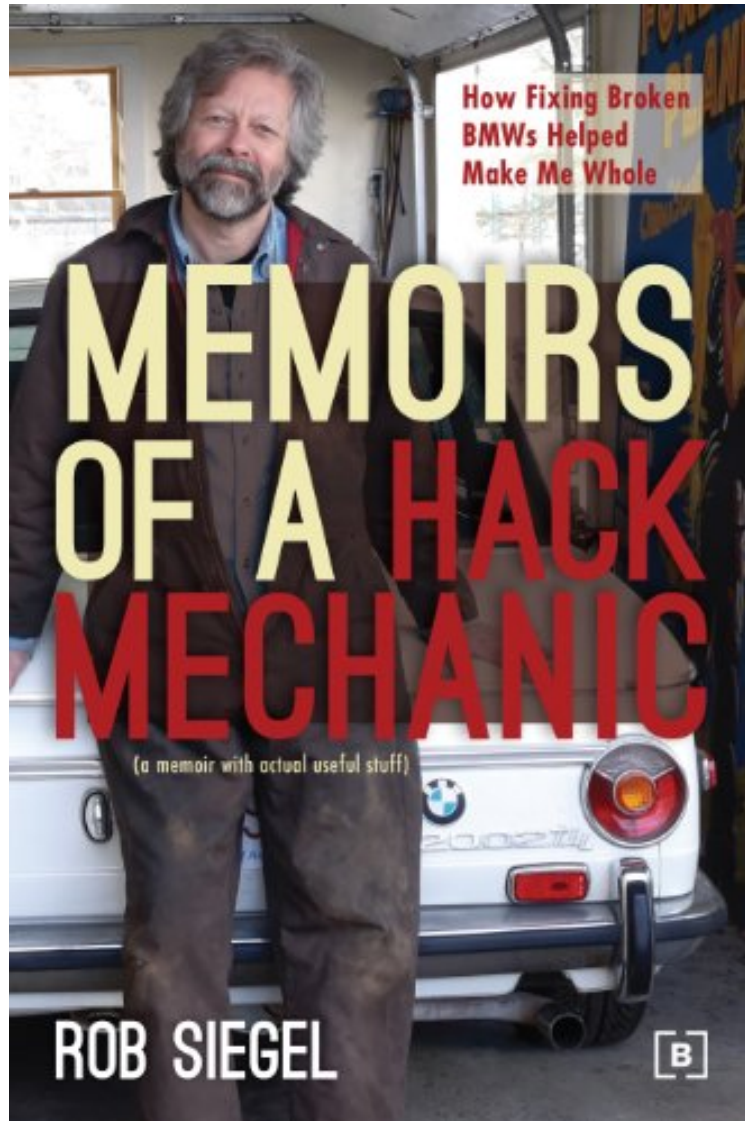


Memoirs of a Hack Mechanic

Rob Siegel

*audiobook / *ebooks / Download PDF / ePub / DOC*



DOWNLOAD



+

READ ONLINE

#134059 in Books Bentley Publishers 2013-06-03 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.00 x 1.00 x 6.00L, 1.50 #File Name: 0837617200432 pages | File size: 63.Mb

Rob Siegel : Memoirs of a Hack Mechanic before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Memoirs of a Hack Mechanic:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A Car Guy's Must Read! By Walter Scott This book is so good on so many levels that it is challenging to specify exactly why and how it resonates with any guy who has ever voluntarily, willfully, and gleefully put a wrench on a car. If you see cars as merely a means to get from point A to point B, then you will NOT "get" this book, so don't get this book. If you see cars as works of art (no matter how old, beat-up and

troublesome they may be), if you feel cars in your gut when you see one that has "imprinted" you, as Rob would say, if you get lost in time and forget to eat, sleep, or take out the trash when you are wrenching away, THEN this book is for you! And, as Rob likes to point-out, and as you will no doubt share with your spouse or significant other, Rob makes the rest of us Car Guys look almost frugal, sane, and normal! If you are a Car Guy, with a partner you would like to make a little more like Rob's Maire Anne (and once you read the book, I promise you that you will) then you will take to reading humorous parts of the book to them along with references to her obvious sainthood. The sequel to this book ought to be a "How To" book by Maire Anne, Rob's wife, on successfully loving, living and coping with a Car Guy. I think the advance sales for it would outstrip the ones for this book by a factor of 10 (no offense, Rob, but this is all your fault!) because most Car Guys would read aloud from it daily, and post quotes on the refrigerator. I am not kidding here. The "actual useful stuff" is actually very useful. Siegel's Seven Car Rule ought to be a Federal statute, if not a Law of Nature. His "rhythm of repair" and cars as connectors of humans will finally put in words what we Car Guys have been feeling all our lives. It is nice just to know that there are so many of us out there! Oh yeah, one more thing. Heed Rob's advice about his collector car insurance company. I did, and more than cut my premium in half on a well-kept, but not at all vintage '97 BMW 328iC (more than enough to justify a new car cover for my "baby" - Car Guys will instantly recognize the wisdom of this rationalization!). Thanks, Rob, for the advice and the couch time. It was worth every penny and every minute!

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Expand your understanding

By Bernice Siegel
This book was a most pleasant surprise. I had bought it as a present and leafed through it when it arrived. It was so engaging and so well written that I continued to read it -- first randomly skipping from one chapter to another and then finally sitting down and reading it cover to cover. Although I must admit that I did skip some of the "useful stuff," I smiled, laughed, nodded my head in agreement, and thoroughly enjoyed reading the rest of the book. I am not a judge of his knowledge of BMWs or the numerous other vehicles he has "lusted" after, but, as a result of his clear and beautifully expressed view of an obsession with cars, I have a much greater understanding of the mind and thinking of not only a hack mechanic, but anyone who is deeply involved in a hobby, a collection, or a passion of any kind. If you want to not only understand your mate, a friend, whoever, but even participate in many of the joys and woes of that person's passion, read *Memoirs of a Hack Mechanic*. It will open your mind in a most delightful way.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Should be Required Reading

By Pizza Guy
I can't begin to say enough good things about this book. Wish there was room for another star. Despite all the great reviews about how this book is about family, this book really is about cars. Oh yes, there are several times in the book when his family plays a part in his stories, but there is always a car involved. Where this book goes in a different direction from most car books is that this is *mostly* a collection of car anecdotes, similar in style (IMO) to Peter Egan but (again, IMO) funnier. Most of the anecdotes are about car repair and Siegel works to help the reader connect with cars. For example, have you ever driven around for a summer (or two, or three) because your air conditioner is not working (I have) and you were afraid to have it repaired because of how much it might cost (I have). The chapter on Air Conditioning is worth the price of the book. He builds the reader's confidence to take on the job himself by breaking the diagnosis and repair into small and logical steps. Perhaps my favorite chapters are, "Why I Don't Fix Cars for Other People" (Parts I, II, III and IV). Says Siegel, "I love to work on cars. I have the knowledge. I have the tools. I have Zen-like experiences... You might think it would be natural for me to do it... at least as a favor to friends. But you would be wrong." This book should be mandatory reading in high school, or at least about half the chapters. From what I can tell the current generation of 16-year-olds - on average - has far, far less car knowledge than a 16-year-old of a generation ago. Forced to read this in high school (isn't forcing you to do stuff that you otherwise wouldn't do really what school is about?) the reader/student would realize that there is more to auto maintenance than scheduling an appointment at the dealership every time a warning light pops up on the dash of the SUV. Among other things the reader of this book would learn how to buy a car, how to sell a car, what the different noises mean and how to keep your car running for a long time with very little money. But what they will also get out of the book would likely surprise them - it is an interesting and fun read.

In *Memoirs of a Hack Mechanic*, Rob Siegel shares his secrets to buying, fixing, and driving cool cars without risking the kids' tuition money or destroying his marriage. And that's something to brag about considering the dozens of cars, including twenty-five BMW 2002s, that have passed through his garage over the past three decades. A geophysicist by day and self-professed car junkie in his free time, Siegel explores his passion for cars with unflinching honesty and offers a unique window into the Car Guy mind. For over 25 years, Rob has written a monthly column called "The Hack Mechanic" for the BMW Car Club of America's magazine *Roundel*. Along the way he reflects on the genesis of his fascination with boxy little German sedans, the miserable Triumph GT6+ he owned in college, rebuilding the engine of his wife's VW bus in the kitchen of their first apartment, how cars affect family dynamics, and why men really love cars. And in showing how cars have repeatedly been the conduit for deep human connections in his life, Siegel reveals his controversial theory that beyond their greasy fingernails, gearheads are actually intimate, caring creatures. Siegel also explains why, in a world over which we have so little control, the act of diagnosing and painstakingly fixing broken cars can be immensely therapeutic. Just don't ask him to fix other people's cars! With a

steady dose of irreverent humor, *Memoirs of a Hack Mechanic* blends car stories, DIY advice, and cautionary tales in a way that will resonate with the car-obsessed (and the people who love them).

One of the best auto memoirs I've read in a long time...If your dad happens to be a car guy, Siegel's memoir would be a great Father's Day present. --The Boston Globe'*Memoirs of a Hack Mechanic*' reminds me of summertime Saturdays when I was a boy and Dad and his buddies would park their rides - Mercs, Caddys, Chevys - in our broad dirt dooryard and make out with them...Rob Siegel, a writer with permanent grease under his nails, would've totally been into it. And this funny, frisky book tells why. --The New York TimesInspired by John Muir's *VW 'Idiot Book'* (aren't we all), Rob Siegel spins a fab mix of Zen and 20w50 ... the wealth of advice and humorous stories will strike a chord with any classic car nut. --Classic Motoring