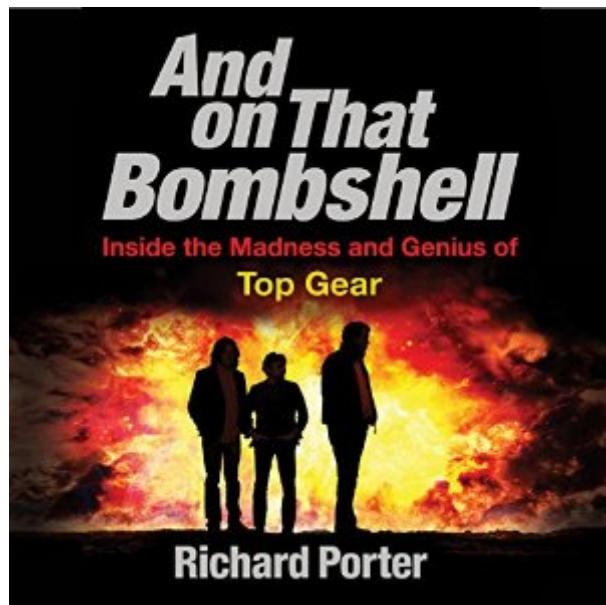


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And On That Bombshell: Inside The Madness And Genius Of TOP GEAR



Synopsis

For 13 years, 22 series and 175 shows, Richard Porter was script editor of *Top Gear*, from the first faltering pilot episode in 2002 until the very last show presented by Jeremy Clarkson, Richard Hammond and James May in 2015. Along the way they destroyed cars, sparked diplomatic incidents, set fire to caravans, almost killed one of the presenters, and somehow transformed *Top Gear* from a shabby BBC Two motoring show into an Emmy-winning, record-breaking, planet-straddling behemoth. And on *That Bombshell* tells stories from behind the scenes of one of the world's most successful television programmes, taking in driving monkeys, broken bones, flying cars, angry rednecks and Jeremy Clarkson's secret nickname. Richard Porter provides a unique insight into how the programmes were made, revealing behind-the-scenes disasters more comical than anything seen on screen and explaining what it was like to work inside the self-professed 'poky motoring show' that accidentally became a global phenomenon. Read by Ben Elliot and with an introduction read by the author.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Not a hard read, at all. The simple and easy manner in which it was written takes nothing away from the content and knee-jerking into your face hilarity. Those of us who love this show for literally everything in it have been craving this book for years and, now it has ended, we have been given our dues. It brings the boys into a bit more clarity and explains much of what made *Top Gear* such an international favorite; that is, much of what we figured. Richard Porter was there for nearly

everything and does a good job of relating TG history without too much bias; impressive since he was involved with it all on some level and to some degree. I do wish more could have been fleshed out for this book. Perhaps what I truly want is someone from the team to make a book going through each episode ever made and giving us little inside jokes and trivia. Top Gear was going to end up in flames, as Porter admits at the end (not his words), and I personally can't let it go. It was there for me in some of the worst parts of my life so far. I watched at least one episode, though usually more, every day, for years. I still do most days. This book helps heal the wound that is left from the calamitous end of TG due to Jeremy's ill-fated date with a bottle of rosé and the events that followed. I think it is important to note that Porter is properly ticked at Jeremy for what happened and isn't making excuses for him. Top Gear was a tight knit team and that comes across exceptionally well. I like that Porter said what he did and how he said it about Jeremy's incident. That said, I love the book, I love Porter's perspective, I love the history, I love the trivia, I love the way the passion and dedication of the whole team came across to me.

Just finished it, and really enjoyed it. Porter captures the highs and lows that made Top Gear such a phenomenal show. I came to the show during its 10th series and kept with it pretty much up until the end. Porter covers most of glory times of those earlier shows and in short easy to digest chapters in a prose that reads much in the same way as Clarkson speaks. My personal favorites were always the road trips to places like Vietnam, Bolivia, and the Second America Trip. Those along with some of the more amusing challenges was always what kept me coming back along with the segments on new cars and whatever ones seem to have caught one of the presenters fancy. Porter seems to have been in the Inner Circle of the show for such a long period and am sure has tons of more stories and anecdotes to offer. I was surprised that the book seemed to end almost too quickly, and would have liked more insight into such things involved in the show. Porter also does his best to cover things that didn't go so well on the show. From segments that didn't work that we know about, for example The dreaded India special that seemed to show cracks in the foundation of the World's Most Watched Show, to the Burma special that I consider to be just un-watchable. He Porter offers his peek behind the curtain into segments that never saw the light of day and as he describes them for all very good reasons. The chapters devoted to the fictional tame racing driver The Stig were my favorites and the chapter singling out Michael Schumacher is touching and done very well and is one of my favorite moments from the show. The final chapter in the book simply titled The End is a bit of a head scratcher for me.

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