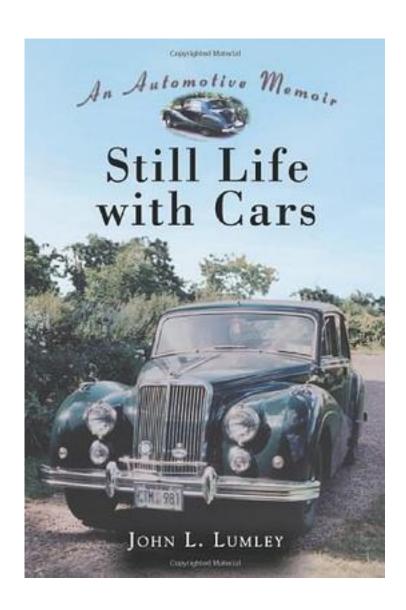
Still Life with Cars



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出版者:

出版时间:2005-7

装帧:

isbn:9780786420537

Most childhood fascinations are a passing fancy, but something about cars tends to capture the imagination forever. Witness the countless backyard weed-wrapped classics, rusted just shy of a shadow, slated one day for a return to glory; cloudy vacation memories of choking exhaust, deafening engines and blinding chrome; countless white-knuckled highway moments as the driver faces backwards to better glimpse some passing oddity spotted four lanes over. Somehow, cars have a way of getting into a kid's blood. Any chronic condition requires a lifetime of maintenance. John Lumley caught the fever early? likely from a midnight blue Hudson? and it's been with him ever since. This automotive memoir follows a life spent nursing an obsession with cars, fitting for a son of Detroit's heyday. With occasional play in the garage of the Ford estate and an excursion to see Buckminster Fuller's three-wheeled Dymaxion among his earliest memories, John Lumley's enduring love of cars is no surprise. From those childhood adventures followed a lifetime spent elbow-deep in engines? Nashes, Hupmobiles, Mercurys, Citro?ns, Spitfires, Volkswagens, Lagondas, Armstrong-Siddeleys, Bentleys and more, many of them pictured. Though his career was devoted to loftier pursuits, the grease beneath his nails perhaps best sums up Lumley's lifelong love. Fifty-eight photographs and an index accompany the text.

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目录:
Still Life with Cars_下载链接1_
标签
评论

Still Life with Cars 下载链接1

书评

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Still Life with Cars_下载链接1_