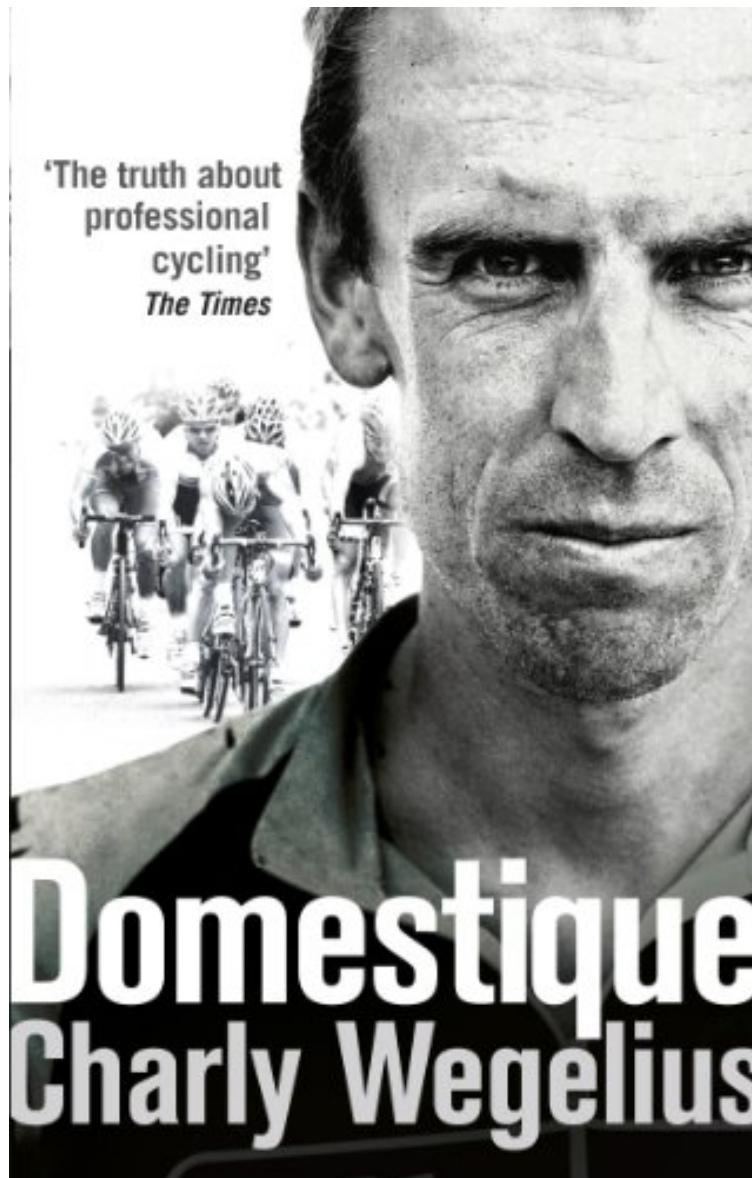


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Domestique: The Real-life Ups and Downs of a Tour Pro

Charly Wegelius

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Charly Wegelius : Domestique: The Real-life Ups and Downs of a Tour Pro before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Domestique: The Real-life Ups and Downs of a Tour Pro:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. He says it as he sees it. By Camp RunamokA friend recommended this book by Charly Wegelius, and he was right. Wegelius was a British pro road rider at a time when that was almost more unusual than being an American rider - before the advent of Team Sky. It's an interesting counterpoint to a book like Phil Gaimon's Pro Cycling on 10 Dollars a Day, as even when Gaimon got to Europe, he was riding for an

American team, whereas Wegelius had to work very hard to effectively integrate himself in to the world of Italian cycling - a country and cycling style that matched well with his talents, but which often still left him feeling like the proverbial odd man out. If you have even the slightest interest in European pro road racing, you really have to read this book. It covers the years 1998 to 2011, when Wegelius retired, so you might expect a lot about doping, but while there is some insight, that's not really the focus of this reflection on a his career as one of the premier domestiques in pro racing. I thought I knew a lot about the inner workings of the pro peloton, but not only did I learn a lot of new subtleties of the sport, I also gained a whole new perspective on what it meant and means to be a cycling pro in Europe. For emphasis, Wegelius makes liberal use of the f-word - right from the get go. There is nothing understated about this book. As the saying goes, he says it as he sees it. 10 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Very enjoyable, but a quick read. By DsheldoGreat book! A little depressing at times, but goes a long way to show that the life of a professional athlete has as many trials and tribulations as anyone else. Especially if you're in the "second tier." I also found this very well written, which isn't always the case for sports books. A little short, though. 22 of 24 people found the following review helpful. Serious study of domestique's life. By ktpCharly Wegelius can be very very funny when he writes, but this book gives a serious view of life as a professional cyclist. There is a lot of information about how racing is done at the professional level, which is kind of unnecessary when you know about cycling, but very informative for those less knowledgeable. The main thing is that the reader can see how very difficult life is in the professional ranks, both on and off the bike. For this man to have succeeded without any "enhancements" is beautiful. He may never have actually won a race, but he is a giant winner when you consider he rode in the era of doping but did so clean - a bigger winner than any of those cheaters who may have crossed the finish line first.

****Winner - Sweetspot Cycling Book of the Year**** For 11 years I was a professional cyclist, competing in the hardest and greatest races on Earth. I was in demand from the world's best teams, a well-paid elite athlete. But I never won a race. I was the hired help. When my mum dropped me off in a small French town aged 17, I was full of determination to be a professional cyclist, but I was completely green. I went from mowing the team manager's lawn to winning every amateur race I entered. Then I turned pro and realised I hated the responsibility and pressure of chasing victory. And that's when I became a domestique. I learned to take that hurt and give it everything I had to give, all for someone else's win. When the order came in to ride I pushed out with the hardest rhythm I could, dragging the group faster and faster, until my whole body screamed with pain. There were times I rode myself to a standstill, clutching the barrier metres from the line, as the lead group shot past. But that's what made me a so good at my job. As my career took off, I started looking at the fans lining the route, cheering us like heroes. The passion for cycling oozed off them, but they couldn't know what it was really like. They didn't see the terrible hotels, the crazy egos or all the shit that goes with great expectations. Well, this is how it ishellip;

"If justice is alive and well in the world, this will be the sports book of the year 2013... a book that is well nigh impossible to put back on the shelf at the end of each chapter." * The Washing Machine Post.net * "Interesting and revealing... the most accurate description of what being a highly-regarded domestique in the modern peloton is really like" * Cycling Weekly * "One of the hardest working domestiques in the sport" * Cycling Weekly * "Couldn't put it down...the best insight into the peloton since Paul Kimmage's Rough Ride" -- William Fotheringham "A must read. Absolutely outstanding" -- Paul Kimmage. About the Author Charly Wegelius was one of Britain's most distinguished and respected professional cyclists. He raced for some of cycling's best teams, including Mapei, the world's most successful ever team. In his 11-year career he competed in a remarkable 14 Grand Tours, including three Tours de France. Charly now works as a directear sportif for the Garmin-Sharp team.