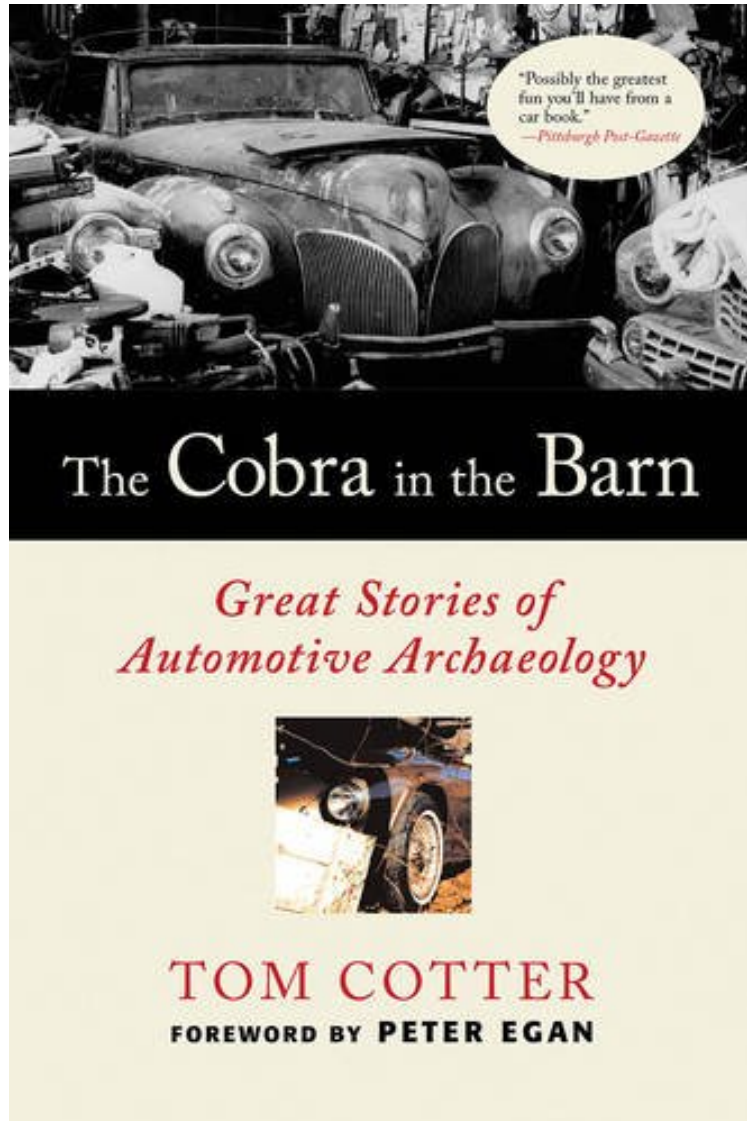


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# The Cobra in the Barn: Great Stories of Automotive Archaeology

Tom Cotter

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#501475 in Books Motorbooks 2010-04-03Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.13 x .75 x 6.001, 1.30 #File Name: 076033661X256 pages | File size: 64.Mb

**Tom Cotter : The Cobra in the Barn: Great Stories of Automotive Archaeology** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Cobra in the Barn: Great Stories of Automotive Archaeology:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Even if you're not a strong reader, you'll turn pages at good pace and enjoy this book.By CustomerA fun book to read for anyone into the search and restoration of anything old. Many stories are very touching. I am not a strong reader and I blew right through the book in a few nights. There are a

variety of cars included in the stories...they are all good stories, the actual type of car didn't affect my attention to the book. Very well written by a very intelligent man. See YouTube series "Barn Find Hunter" for live stories and finds by Tom. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. OK, but not great. By Andy in Washington. The Cobra in the Barn is a collection of stories, mostly from the US, but a few from Europe, about lost classic cars which were rediscovered. The cars range from sports cars, Woodies, one-of-a-kind or special-built vehicles, to luxury touring cars.=== The Good Stuff ===\* The book is a pretty easy read, and I read the book in a day or so. The book is a collection of short stories, mostly less than 5 pages in length, so there are numerous authors, but for the most part the stories are well written and quick moving.\* Many of the stories are almost hard to believe, as cars have literally gone around the world and ended up back with their original owners. Other stories capture a slice of American life, and often the story of the car is also the story of the owners and their families.\* The stories vary in their completeness, but many take the car from almost the builder's shipping dock all the way to their permanent homes with collectors. Along the way we meet professional car "hunters", serious collectors who had a very lucky day, and determined buyers who spent years, and in some cases decades, tracking down and persuading an owner to sell a car.=== The Not-So-Good Stuff ===\* Many of the stories are remarkably similar. Someone discovers a car in an old barn, they spend years persuading the owner to sell it to them, they restore the vehicle and live happily ever after. Quite a few of these stories just sort of blended into one another.\* I am only a casual "car guy", so in quite a few of the tales I really didn't understand the attraction of the vehicle. Indeed, I had never even heard of several of them. Some of the authors are better than others at telling the casual car fan why the car was important, and what was so special about this particular one. More photos, even if they weren't of the exact car in the tale, would have helped.\* Several of the stories end shortly after the found vehicle is purchased by its new owner and some form of restoration begins. It would have been nice if the stories had followed the vehicle to its ultimate configuration. Similarly, it would have been fun to know more about the purchase price (disclosed in roughly 50% of the stories), and especially the final value of the restored vehicle (rarely disclosed).=== Summary ===The book is fine for what tries to do- namely tell the story of people stumbling over a rare vehicle and their efforts to purchase it. I would have preferred fewer stories and more details in each one, but others may appreciate the greater variety. If you are a car buff, or just love the "man finds valuable car" stories, give it a read. I actually enjoyed it, but just wished for more. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Fun read for any of us afflicted with the old car hobby. By Dom Miliano. Tom Cotter is the quintessential car guy. He has been a contributor to RT for over 2 decades, has authored numerous books and even was the PR guy for Charlotte Motor Speedway so he is the real deal. This book is a magic carpet - transporting you to dusty barns, moldy garages and secret hiding places where all of these wonderful old cars were squirreled away. One thing I really liked about the format is that the stories are bite-sized - easily consumed in those quiet moments when you need a car fix. I am reminded of Jeff Goldblum's character in The Big Chill describing the length of stories he wrote for his magazine. Maybe not the most fitting words for a family forum such as this but if you remember the line, it fits here in the most complimentary way. ;-) A good read for a winter evening when the summer driving season is months away and you are looking to recharge your car buzz until the croci bloom.

Now in paperback for the first time, here is the classic version of a car lover's fairy tale: You look into an old abandoned barn or garage or warehouse--and there's the car you've searched for your whole life. Here are the true stories of people who found their dream cars in the most unlikely places: A man finds one of three King Cobras ever built in a junkyard in South Carolina; another discovers a rare Delahaye in a barn in the former Czech Republic; yet another answers an obscurely written ad in a local paper to discover a Triumph TR3 that had run the Daytona 24 Hour race in the early 1960s. The list goes on and on, and the stories never get old. Relive the excitement, glory in the astounding discoveries, and revel in the cars that keep dreams alive.

Car and Driver, September 2006 "Whether you're a serious collector or somebody who simply digs old cars, Tom Cotter's book will delight you for hours."