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Martin Easdown

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Martin Easdown : Amusement Park Rides (Shire Library) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Amusement Park Rides (Shire Library):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. It was a good read but it was too short By Teddy L. Boulden It was a good read but it was too short. It mainly focuses on parks in the United Kingdom with some references to U.S. parks. It did best with the early rides but was just a teaser to a huge history. The book discussed the early coasters with enough detail that it gave an idea as to their invention and evolution. That was the good part--the part that made it a worthwhile read, but it should have stayed with the history. The final chapter, Modern Rides, was just a gloss-over almost like the author didn't know that detail or had lost interest. This is a point where the historian simply gives you a bunch of encyclopedic details. If the first chapter would have been written like the last chapter, I would have never got

into the book. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. I LOVED this book, but only wish it was longer
By Harold Huwe
This was a very quick read- wish it was longer. It does give a background on most of the common rides you see in Amusement parks.

A ride on a thrill rollercoaster is the highlight of any visit to an amusement or theme park. Today's rides are at the cutting edge of technology and engineering, but they are but the latest of a long line of rides with humble roots in Russian ice slides and wooden sleigh rides. Seaside historian Martin Easdown describes the great age of these fascinating structures, from the first mass produced rollercoaster, the Switchback Railway, through to the giant wooden coasters of the inter-war period, using historic postcards and photographs to chart their development. The fullest expression of the popularity of rollercoasters was to be found at the great British seaside and popular amusement parks, such as Blackpool Pleasure Beach, Southend Kursaal and Margate Dreamland, which were created around the rides. The author also goes beyond rollercoasters to other amusement rides, such as revolving towers, aerial rides, Ferris wheels and water chutes that were produced from the late Victorian era in all manner of fascinating forms. This book is a celebration of how rollercoaster and other amusements enthralled and thrilled and became a much-loved feature of our leisure industry.

About the Author
Martin Easdown is a seaside historian and Archivist of the National Piers Society who is an acknowledged expert on the history of piers and other seaside amusements and architecture. He is a published author of over thirty books on piers, seaside and local history and has regularly contributed to television and radio programmes.