



Flying Scotsman: The Extraordinary Story of the World's Most Famous Train

Andrew Roden

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Think of the Golden Age of Steam and one train leaps to mind above all others: the Flying Scotsman, Nigel Gresley's elegant masterpiece of a locomotive, which broke the world speed record in 1934 and has enthralled millions with her beauty and power. And, uniquely, her postwar career has been even more varied and exciting than her early triumphs. Now Andrew Roden tells the Scotsman's remarkable story, from her construction and the glory days between the wars through the decline of steam and her rollercoaster fortunes in the subsequent years: nearly abandoned on a tour of the United States after the money ran out, crossing the Australian interior, put up for sale yet again when the company that owned her went bankrupt in 2003. A massive public campaign saved her for the nation, and she is currently being restored at the National Railway Museum, due to steam again in 2008. Now, with the aid of numerous interviews with those involved with the Scotsman over the years, Roden brings alive her story, and those of all who have owned her and worked on her. Above all, he asks: why do grown men risk their life savings to own her? Why do thousands of people still line the trackside when she's due to race past? Just what is the eternal appeal of the Flying Scotsman?

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