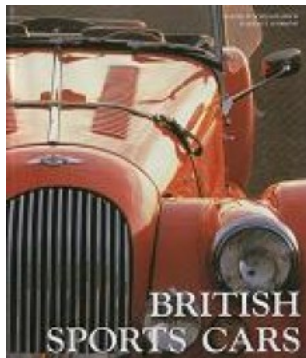


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Lovingly captured here in large color photographs and enthusiastic text, the realm of the British sports car is not so much explained as revealed in. Quirky, oddly charming, or sensuously beautiful, the British sports car, as the author has it, reflects the class structures and contradictions of British society: there are true aristocrats, such as the Bentley 4 1/2 liter supercharged model of the late 1920s or the Aston Martin Vanquish of today. At the other end of the four-wheel social scale are the purveyors of sporty mobility for the masses, the MG TC or the Austin-Healy Sprite-cars often cobbled together from off-the-shelf engines, axles, and other parts and wrapped in the bare minimum of bodywork. Somewhere in between are makers like Jaguar boss William Lyons, who literally made it his mission to make his fine creations accessible, even to people who could not really afford them. Among the 100 marques and models portrayed here are vehicles from AC, Allard, Caterham, Daimler, Frazer Nash, Jensen, Lotus, Marcos, McLaren, Morgan, Sunbeam, Triumph, and TVR.