



## Map Addict: A Tale of Obsession, Fudge and the Ordnance Survey

By Mike Parker

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Map Addict is one of those, rambling, discursive books that educates you about a subject (in a haphazard manner) while mixing in anecdotes from the author's personal life, in the style of Bill Bryson, perhaps. In this case, the subject is maps. There are chapters about Britain and maps, France and maps, Ordnance Survey maps, national borders, politics and maps, religion and maps, erotica and maps (!), women and maps, satnav, and doing without maps. The author focuses mainly on the Ordnance Survey Maps and links history to his personal memories. Mike Parker is also a Rough Guide-writer and thanks to his sense of humour the story of Map Addict never gets dull. See more. Gantois, October 10, 2009. The broadest selection of online bookstores. The links will take you to the Web site's homepage. From there you can navigate to the title you are interested in. Maps are everywhere and they are, according to self proclaimed map-addict Mike Parker, the unsung heroes of life. Here he sings their song, celebrating everything cartographic. With a mix of wry observation and hard fact, the offbeat and the completely pedantic, Parker wages a one-man war against the moronic blandishments of the Sat Nav age. He combines cartographic history and trivia with memoir and oblique observation to create a highly readable exposé of the world of maps. Maps are everywhere and they are, according to self proclaimed map-addict Mike Parker, the unsung heroes of life. Here he sings their song, celebrating everything cartographic. With a mix of wry observation and hard fact, the offbeat and the completely pedantic, Parker wages a one-man war against the moronic blandishments of the Sat Nav age. He combines cartographic history and trivia with memoir and oblique observation to create a highly readable expose of the world of maps. Only here can you find out which area has officially been named by the OS as the most boring square kilometre in the la

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Maps are everywhere and they are, according to self-proclaimed map-addict Mike Parker, the unsung heroes of life. Here he sings their song, celebrating everything cartographic. With a mix of wry observation and hard fact, the offbeat and the completely pedantic, Parker wages a one-man war against the moronic blandishments of the Sat Nav age. He combines cartographic history and trivia with memoir and oblique observation to create a highly readable expose of the world of maps. Only here can you find out which area has officially been named by the OS as the most boring square kilometre in the land. A tale of obsession, fudge & the Ordnance Survey. To Rachel. At last. My name is Mike and I am a map addict. There, it's said. I'm the one in the car with the map in his lap, following its route with rapt concentration and a slowly moving index finger—often at the expense of seeing the actual landscape it depicts rolling past on the other side of the window. I'm the one who, on buying my first house, moved my entire map collection into it and ensured that it was perfectly shelved in its new home before bringing in anything useful, such as a kettle, toaster or teabag. Map Addict mixes wry observation with hard fact and considerable research, unearthing the offbeat, the unusual and the downright pedantic in a celebration of all things maps. In Map Addict, we learn the location of what has officially been named by the OS as the most boring square kilometre in the land; we visit the town fractured into dozens of little parcels of land split between two different countries and trek around many other weird borders of Britain and Europe; we test the theories that the new city of Milton. Combining history, travel, politics, memoir and oblique observation in a highly readable, and often very funny, style, Mike Parker confesses how his own impressive map collection was founded on a virulent teenage shoplifting habit, ponders how a good leftie can be so