

Peter Svetina

HOW MR. FELIX ENTERED A BICYCLE RACE

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Illustrated by
Ana Razpotnik Donati





Mr. Felix always wore faded green overalls and worn-out hiking boots. He occasionally cut his hair but never shaved his beard, which he took extra care of, brushing and braiding each morning into neat braids.

When he wasn't reading or listening to music, Mr. Felix visited the college library, where he often sat on the front steps and chatted with students. Mr. Felix knew many wild, wacky facts, and the students loved to quiz him on his knowledge, but they never heard him talk about bicycles or racing.

The TV camera operator turned to focus on Mr. Felix, who to everyone's amazement was alone out in front. The commentator roared into the microphone, making the speakers on viewers' TVs crackle. "He is pedaling at a speed never seen before! He's passed everyone, and he is still gaining speed! If he had wings, he would simply fly off! Unbelievable! Un-be-lie-va-ble!"

More and more people lined the racing course to see the new cycling star.



But then, just when news of an unknown superstar cyclist was announced on TV and radio, Mr. Felix stopped. He parked his bike outside Two Cannon Inn in front of a growing crowd and ordered a lemonade.

“What’s going on?! You’re supposed to be racing, not taking a lemonade break!” the TV commentator shrieked as he jumped out of his car.

Mr. Felix calmly opened his newspaper as the spectators gaped in surprise. The fastest cyclists reached the inn and flew past. Then, the medium fast ones, and finally the slowest. The commentator grumbled as he left to follow the other racers, missing the opportunity to cover a brand-new cycling sensation.

The crowd slowly dispersed, sighing in disappointment.





Mr. Felix took his last sip, folded the newspaper, paid for the lemonade, and stood up. He tucked the newspaper back onto the luggage rack, climbed onto the bike, and pushed off the ground in a mighty stomp.



Soon, he caught up to the slowest and passed them. He caught up to the less slow ones and passed them, too. Then, he caught up to the medium fast, the kind of fast, and the fastest racers. He passed . . . them . . . all.



The pursuers shot past, but the camera stayed with Mr. Felix, the not-to-be grand winner.

Mr. Felix dropped the bicycle into the grass, took off his boots, unbuttoned his overalls, and stripped to his underwear. The viewers watched in shock as Mr. Felix let out a big “whoop!” and dove headfirst into the lake.



What happens when an unknown racer joins the Grand Bicycle Race?

A cycling star is born.

Join Mr. Felix on his bicycling adventure, detailed with colorful illustrations and a playful story. Will he win the ultimate prize? Or, will he discover something just as fun as winning the Grand Bicycle Race?

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