

Formula 1 Encyclopaedia 1998

The exciting world of **F1 racing**, reduced to pedestrian level.

Koch Media has been responsible for some of the most unintentionally hilarious software ever to have found its way into the PCW office, with "The Worst Disasters" being particularly prominent. Formula 1 is the latest in this proud line,

and Koch has achieved quite a coup in its presentation: it has managed to make the subject of flying around a race track at

180mph seem almost impossibly dull. The interface is

relatively basic: simply click on the racing helmet for driver data, miniature track icon or racing-track history, and the like. This is where,

apart from the rather cheap-and-nasty look and sound of the software, the main flaw of this CD-ROM

▲ **DYNAMIC VIDEO FOOTAGE. NOT!**

◀ **THE F1 ENCYCLOPAEDIA INTERFACE IS QUITE BASIC**



PCW DETAILS



Price £19.99

Contact 01256 707767

System Requirements IBM-compatible PC, Pentium processor, 8Mb RAM, MPC-compatible CD-ROM drive, SVGA, 30Mb free hard-drive space.

is glaringly apparent. The presentation of every facet of the sport is presented in nearly the same way, with lists of facts and figures. A comprehensive list of drivers is accompanied by rather awkward prose that is at its clumsiest when describing the death of Ayrton Senna, where the author seems to have totally lost the grasp of his tenses.

Despite the boast of 30 minutes of "dynamic" video footage, all this reviewer could find was a series of rather rough-looking full-screen scans of drivers and cars. Avoid at all costs.

PAUL TRUEMAN

A Taste of France

Vive la France, in particular its **splendid cuisine**. Bon appetit!

Billing itself as "a food and wine extravaganza", Taste of France features French recipes from *Thuriers* magazine, a gourmet guide as important to the French as garlic. Choosing from courses or menus you can sift through a variety of appetisers, first and main courses, and some delicious desserts. As well as recipes, prospective "chefs de cuisine" are given an idea of what kitchen tools and utensils they may need.

Four options are available from the menu bar: recipes, regional tour, images of France, and trivia. Recipes and menus aside, there is not much to keep you really enthralled. Who cares how many cups of

chocolate Voltaire put away over the course of a day? The regional tour splits

France into four regions and concentrates on a fairly general overview of each, plus several slides to keep you interested.

"Images of France" is a slight misnomer, as it actually includes a spot of vocabulary, information on wine, and a singularly useless section called "table etiquette".

Overall, if you cut out some of the floss, the recipes and menus are interesting and at the price it is *pas très cher*.

JIM HARYOTT



▲▲ **THE SLIDE SHOW OF DIFFERENT REGIONS IS NICE TO WATCH**
▲ **THERE ARE MANY ENTICING FRENCH RECIPES TO CHOOSE FROM**

PCW DETAILS



Price £19.99

Contact Euopress 01625 855060

www.euopress.co.uk

System Requirements 486 or faster, 4Mb RAM, 256 colours, mouse, sound card, Windows 3.1/95.

Tender Loving Care

How this story ends **depends on your answers** and your psyche.

Based around the story of a family who have lost their only daughter in a car accident, Tender Loving Care is an enticing exploration of the human psyche. The actor John Hurt leads the player through this computer fantasy, playing a psychiatrist who has a close involvement with the family. He explains that something strange happened to the household following the appearance of a

nurse who came to assist the grieving mother. The player is asked to become a "fly on the wall" and observe the story from beginning to end. Meanwhile, the software is assessing the player. The format is split into three parts: video clips of the story, exploration scenes where you can snoop around the house



▲ **WATCH AND SEE HOW THE STORY UNFOLDS**
◀ **THE PLAYER IS ASKED PERSONAL QUESTIONS**

PCW DETAILS

★★★★★

Price £34.99

Contact Funsoft www.funsoft-online.com

System Requirements Windows 95, P60, 8Mb RAM, DirectX 2.0 supported.

looking for clues, and Thematic Apperception Test sessions which consist of deeply personal questions for the player to answer. As the story unfolds, it

becomes clear that this is a tale of lust and deception, featuring scenes suitable for adults only. The answers to the questions actually determine

the way the story ends and features a psychological profile of the player.

This is a unique and gripping piece of software for adults who have 50 hours to spare — that's how long it lasts — and who want to discover their hidden self.

ETELKA CLARK

IBM World Book 1998 Speech Ed.

If you want to know, ask: **no keyboard**, just your voice will do.

IBM's World Book encyclopaedia is nothing new and neither is its ViaVoice dictation software, so it was inevitable that the two would be combined. The result is an extensive research book that can be navigated without the keyboard, which is great for kids, the elderly and those who suffer from RSI.

The content is impressive, successfully matching a result for each of our searches. We could then ask for the text to be read to us, which makes this package great for users with impaired vision. The sticky-notes function allowed



▲ **THE CONTENT IS IMPRESSIVE**
◀ **YOU CAN NAVIGATE WITHOUT NEEDING TO TOUCH THE KEYBOARD**

PCW DETAILS

★★★★★

Price £79.99

Contact IBM 0800 214887

www.worldbook.com

System Requirements Windows 95, Pentium 150MHz processor, 32Mb RAM, 95Mb free hard-drive space, SVGA monitor, SoundBlaster 16 or 100% compatible sound card, double-speed CD-ROM drive, mouse.

us to dictate memos and short reminders to save us making paper-based notes while browsing the encyclopaedia. A version of the standard Windows Notepad is included and integrated with the added functionality of voice recognition to allow the dictation of this review; although the results were fairly accurate, extensive editing was necessary. Even on a fairly

fast PC, though, it would have been quicker to have typed it instead. To keep the encyclopaedia up to date, an online section will allow users to download new information to their local hard drive and receive day-by-day news from around the world. And for those using the software in education, there are homework tips or curriculum pointers for teachers.

NIK RAWLINSON