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The Mechanic's Tale



Synopsis

Essential reading for anyone interested in life behind-the-scenes at Formula One. Formula One Grand Prix mechanic Steve Matchett takes the reader on a compelling journey through his life in the pit-lane, from his beginnings as a young apprentice, through his time at Ferrari and BMW to his later success with Benetton. He gives eye-witness views of the great drivers, including Michael Schumacher, Nigel Mansell, Alain Prost and Ayrton Senna. He also talks of key Benetton personalities, and explains how the team was transformed into a strong, competitive organisation, winning three World Championships. His determination and frustration in trying - and eventually succeeding - to break into the high-pressure world of Formula One leaps off the page.

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Customer Reviews

A must for the real inside story
FORMULA ONE RACING
Every so often, in the endless stream of biographies churned out by the Formula One book industry, something different emerges. This is it. Recommended for anyone interested in F1 on the inside
MOTORING NEWS
An essential read
AUTOSPORT

In his new book, Formula One Grand Prix mechanic Steve Matchett offers the reader an inside look at his life as a pit crew mechanic, from his beginnings as a young apprentice through his time at Ferrari and BMW, to his later success with Benetton. There are eyewitness accounts of the great drivers, including Michael Schumacher, Nigel Mansell, Alain Prost, and Ayrton Senna. He also talks about key Benetton personalities, revealing how the team was transformed into a strong competitive

organization, winning three World Championships. In this fast-paced moving account, the high-pressure world of Formula One leaps off the page.

I thoroughly enjoyed Mr. Matchett's book, the Mechanic's Tale. Anyone who is a regular fan of Formula 1 racing has surely daydreamed about a life and career working for a globe-trotting F1. Mr. Matchett takes you through his steps into and out of Formula 1 and gives you real insight into what life is like in an F1 team. I wouldn't say it removes the glamour, just details the real work to produce it. I would also recommend Mr. Matchett's other two books, Life in the Fast Lane and the Chariot Makers but this was my favorite of his.

A great look at some F1 history. Matchett, now a color commentator on F1 broadcasts in the USA, Gives a very interesting account of how he progressed as an F1 mechanic, and the teams and drivers he worked with. Want to be an F1 mechanic? see what it takes.

One of the best books I've read so far, it changed my view of Formula 1 and motorsport. I know I won't be able to watch a race as before never again. I've never realized how much work has to be done in a garage and pit lane during race weekend, and what it takes to prepare a car for competition. It was very interesting to learn about people who make it happen. Great work!

I really enjoyed this book. I've read a lot of books on F1, and as Matchett mentions in his book, most center around the drivers and the race action. There's very little very good material that allows one to explore what happens with the rest of the team, especially, the mechanics, those men taking care of the car. I found this book to be an excellent read. Matchett is a rounded individual and quite a well developed personality. These qualities empowered him to write with a very insightful point of view. With a point of view that successfully reaches the heart and minds of non-technical readers. I highly recommend this book for all those with a deep interest in the sport. I'll no longer be looking in the pit garage at the mechanics and the ongoing work around a pitstop in the same way. Much respect is due to the mechanics and the hard work they put into a successful F1 team.

As a formula 1 fan, I found the entire Steve Matchett series of books fascinating. In this book, Steve is able to effectively convey his thoughts and feelings as a mechanic in the Benetton Formula 1 team during the 1994 season. A formula 1 season which will remain etched in my mind as one of the most tragic, but also one that saw a young German F1 driver by the name of Michael

Schumacher win the first of seven world drivers championships. I loved the book, I loved his writing style and I found myself reading the rest of his series as well. If you aren't interested in Formula 1, then I would recommend this book specifically, as Steve doesn't get too geeky.

Though it deals with Formula 1 racing, any racing fan would find this interesting as it talks of auto racing through the eyes of the mechanics who put the car together for a race (and after an accident) and their constant struggle to keep it on the road and competitive. Most F1 fans will recognize Steve Machett as the commentator on NBCsports network (and formerly of SPEED) who covers the tires and technology of the F1 cars. But prior to his stint on TV as a race commentator, he was a race mechanic for Benneton's Formula 1 race team and knew Schumacher as an up-and-comer. This inside look is a welcome addition to racing literature. I have not read his earlier book, or anything else he has written, but intend to at my earliest convenience. Incidentally, that cover photograph is of a mechanic caught in a refueling pit stop fire in an F1 race before they banned refueling in F1.

Just recently came across this title even though it was written some time ago. Matchett's writing style is easy to read and enjoyable. I was not a Formula 1 fan during the time period this book is from, but nonetheless found it immensely interesting and would recommend it to anyone with more than a passing interest in this sport.

Great book. Good read Steve!

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