

Legends of Motorsport

As the effects of the Coronavirus pandemic are still somewhat unpredictable it may be that many of us are staying indoors until we can be assured of safety. With this in mind, we thought we would look at something slightly different and suggest a few great reads for motorsport fans.



Niki Lauder: To Hell and Back

For many people the 1970's was Formula 1's most exciting and captivating decade because it was the dawn of technology in motorsport. The 70s saw changes being made to every aspect of the Formula 1 car from its aerodynamics to its engine and the introduction of turbochargers. With so much technical progress being made there was an air of uncertainty around the capabilities of the cars at this time. Many of the teams took risks and as a result, the 70s was arguably the sport's most dangerous decade. To be an F1 driver in the 1970s one had to be both skillful and fiercely courageous. Nobody encapsulates these two attributes more than Niki Lauder. Lauder's autobiography, *To Hell and Back* is a refreshingly matter-of-fact account of his time in F1, giving an unparalleled insight into his famous 1976 Nürburgring crash, and his decision to return to racing just 42 days after the ordeal. Lauder's crash at the

Nürburgring was horrific and it left him without eyelids and with various shocking burns. Any driver who has the determination to return to F1 so promptly after something like that, and to enjoy the success that he did, truly deserves to be known as a legend of the sport and this book is well worth a read.

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Ayrton Senna: Portrait of a Racing Legend

Over the past 20 years Ayrton Senna has taken on an almost mythical status among motorsport fans. As the winner of three world titles and someone who has achieved 41 grand prix victories, Ayrton Senna quickly made a name for himself as the most daring F1 driver of the 80s. Some of Formula 1's most exciting races were centred around the burning rivalry between Ayrton Senna and Alain Prost. In 1989 and 1990 the Japanese Grand Prix decided the F1 champion and on both occasions collisions between Senna and Prost determined the winner of the race. Senna was famed for seemingly risking his life at the wheel and having a supreme ability to succeed in adverse driving conditions. *Portrait of a Racing Legend* is a wonderfully emotive portrayal of Senna's 10 year racing career. Bruce Jones' words coupled with various carefully selected images really help to transport readers to a great era in racing history. The book dedicates one

chapter to Senna's early karting career and then it moves on to assign a single chapter to each year of Senna's career from 1984 to 1994.



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Colin McRae: **McRae, Just Colin**

Colin McRae captivated audiences throughout his racing career and his name is synonymous with rallying. Much like Senna, McRae had an 'all or nothing' approach to motorsport. The autobiography *McRae, Just Colin* was written by David Evans and Colin McMaster. The latter was a close friend of McRae's and a very gifted motorsport photographer. Because of this the book blends fantastic insights into McRae's personal and professional life, including his unbelievable success in New Zealand's Motu rally stage, with some captivating pictures which were taken by McMaster himself. McRae, *Just Colin* details McRae's rise through the world of rallying on a year by year basis covering his 1995 World Rally Championship win. One of the key components to this book is the frank honesty provided by various rallying

professionals who raced both with and against Colin. World class rallying professionals Carlos Sainz and David Richards have both made contributions to this book, along with McRae's most prominent co-drivers, Derek Ringer and Nicky Grist. These two individuals were able to provide readers with a round-by-

round account of McRae's emotionally charged WRC campaigns from the perspective of being inside his car. If you read this book cover to cover it will leave a lasting impression of an uncompromising driver who, at times, it seemed, would rather risk destroying his car than settle for a lower placed finish.



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Nigel Mansell: **Staying on Track**

Nigel Mansell is undeniably one of Britain's most accomplished Formula1 drivers with 31 race victories among his fellow countrymen, he is second only to Lewis Hamilton. On his way to winning the Driver's Championship in 1992 Mansell put his trademark grit and determination on full display living up to his status as the people's champion. Mansell's career spanned 15 years from 1980 to 1995. In this book, written by Mansell himself, the F1 legend offers his theories on what makes a driver successful, a retrospective look at his career, various humorous stories and comparisons between the F1 of the 90s and today. In the final third of this book Nigel covers his life post-retirement and provides a fantastic insight into his personal life and memories of Le Mans 2010.

There have been various books written about Nigel Mansell's racing career over the years including Nigel's 1995 autobiography which he co-wrote with James Allen. This book is viewed as a much more factual work which focuses entirely on Mansell's rise in the sport.

The book is simply called 'Nigel Mansell' and both this book and *Staying on Track* are fantastic editions to any motorsport fan's collection, particularly those who happen to be fans of Nigel Mansell.



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