

Media Reviews 'Flat Out Flat Broke' Perry McCarthy's Autobiography

The Independent on Sunday

- 'Perry McCarthy does for Formula One what Bill Bryson did for travel writing. But beneath the black humour and wisecracks – funny enough to make you laugh out loud in public – lies an inspiring and at times poignant tale of that rarest kind of racer: one who never gave up and was, literally, prepared to die trying.'

'Motor Sport magazine

- Perry McCarthy has always been excellent at describing his career in a series of memorable anecdotes, and here they are, strung together in book form. The reader is frequently left racked with sympathy at the author's outrageous misfortune, or in convulsive sobs of laughter. This is an utterly fantastic read.'

F1 Magazine

- 'Sometimes books, like cigarette packets, should come with a surgeons health warning. Flat Out Flat Broke is a case in point, not just because it contains photographs of the author in the long forgotten days of his early childhood, but because it will make your stomach ache from laughing.'

The London Evening Standard(book of the week)

- '... A fantastic funny story

Scottish Sunday Express

- 'His engaging story of a less-than-smooth life in motor racing exudes his own cockney energy and enthusiasm and is a charming feel good tale that shows you can get what you want if you want it badly enough'

Daily Express

- 'The James Hunt impressions, the Ayrton Senna pizza delivery, the Rat Pack stories - the laughs come thick and fast in Perry McCarthy's fantastic new book, Flat Out Flat Broke ...'

Autosport

- Some of the stuff in this book is hilarious ... I would recommend this book to anyone with even a passing interest in the sport. There's an element of the old carcrash syndrome in *Flat Out, Flat Broke*, whereby you can't resist reading on to find out the next misfortune to befall our hero

Atlas F1

- Any racing fan with a pulse will get a kick out of this book. It's as funny as it is endearing, and tells the tale of the eternal underdog better than any other title that I can think of.

- **Amazon Customers**

Fantastic, Mr. J. W. Wood (Grimsby, UK)

- A truly enlightening look into the life of a talented motor racer and the struggles that these everyday people face to follow their dreams. Very inspiring to say the least, a must read for all enthusiasts alike.

Brilliant! By True Reader "Brock" (London, England)

- I knew before reading the book that Perry tried to qualify for F1 races in the Andrea Moda. At that time, I just thought he was one of those drivers without any talent who tried to make it in the F1 without any success.

The book however gave a total different view of Perry. I'm not sure if he had the talent to become one of the top F1 drivers, but he definitely had determination to make it into F1.

Despite all the setbacks, Perry never lost one thing: humour! And that makes the book a very good read

Readable, By Jeremy (England)

- I did enjoy this - I ended up sharing the frustration of Perry fighting his way through a struggle to race. I ended up admiring him despite having hated him when he was a commentator on Bernie's pay per view F1 digital channel. It was very readable and even non racing fans would probably enjoy it, though may get lost through some of the technicalities of racing. I also ended up pitying those Perry pestered in his bulldozer approach to getting into motor racing.

Fantastic very funny!, By S. Shepherd (UK)

- Brilliant! I'd never heard of Perry but i am a big F1 fan, i must i read the reviews before buying this book and was curious. When it arrived i took it to work and BAM! couldn't put the damn thing down, very funny tell it like it is books with some very funny and really great stories from personality's you only ever heard of and not what they was like. I'd recommend this book to anybody F1 lover or not, its a book about a bloke giving it balls out to try to get the top in the motor racing world. I hope in the future he writes another

Brilliant, By Trevor Waldock (Maldon, Essex United Kingdom)

- I'm not usually much of a book reader but as most parts of my life revolve around motor sport I thought id give it a try. really amazing book which show just how hard it is to get in and stay in formula 1

Flat out, Flat Great, By C. M. Killa "Cat1984" (Llanelli, South Wales)

- This has to be one of the funniest books i have ever read. A great read which can make you laugh and cry and sometimes at the same time; i would suggest it to anyone. Great for the F1 fan, and a great book even for people who might not normally like motor sports.

superb read, By **MR PAVS** (United Kingdom)

- This book is an amazing story of how much someone is prepared to put themselves through to achieve their dream of becoming an F1 driver. Some of his stories are great and heart breaking at the same time. A great book.

Superbly Entertaining, By **M. McCall "otto-mate"**

- I didn't know anything about Perry until I popped onto Amazon to buy his book after he mentioned it on ITV's "Speed Sunday". Wow, what an entertaining read. This guy has had some life; you have to admire his spirit. It had me laughing out loud countless times. Highly recommended. Hope Perry (who was Top Gear's "Stig") stays with Audi and earns a fortune!

Just for five minutes By **A Customer**

- My wife bought me this book last Christmas because I like motor sport. I knew very little of Perry McCarthy, it was just a name I knew and on Boxing day I thought I would have a quick five minute read just to see what it was like. I didn't put it down until I had finished it. It was a riveting read. Perry takes you through highs and lows, then even lower. Parts of the book had me laughing out loud, parts had my in tears and parts had me wishing I had his drive, determination and blind faith that it would be alright in the end. The best book I have ever read!

Perry you are one in a million!, By **A Customer**

- This is such an hilarious biography, whether you are laughing with or at Perry you just will not be able to put it down. There is no doubt at all Perry is a fantastic driver as he is a storyteller and whether he finally does get a drive again, I can't wait to find out . . . but in the meantime let this book take you on the unique roller coaster of 'Perry World', yes it is a bit like Wayne's World and there must be a movie to be made too! (...)

When's the continuation book coming out?, By **"tcp8"**

Hands up. I'd never heard of Perry McCarthy before. I stumbled over this book whilst searching for something else on Amazon.

It's a stumble I was very happy to make because I simply love his book. It's extremely well written - from the heart.

From the moment I had read the first few pages, I knew I'd have trouble putting it down. It's a terrific tale of one man's desire/dream to succeed in motor racing/F1. Perry will have you gripped on every page. You'll either be laughing, welling up or feeling anxious awaiting the outcome. His one-liners are great. He lets his imagination run wild. I could never in a million years have dreamt up the scams he did. He's a true talent - not only to racing but to writing too. I sincerely hope that he writes a follow up to this one.

Stretch out, relax and enjoy!, By: **Mrs. P. L. England**. (STAFFORD, Staffs. United Kingdom)

- I couldn't put this book down and laughed so much people around me wondered what I was reading! If you want an entertaining and amusing account of how one guy did NOT make a success of his F1 career, then this is it. Perry McCarthy writes in a way which gains your support from the outset. He describes his aspirations and their outcomes with a witty and entertaining honesty. This is an account peppered with famous names and events from the world of F1, which gives an insight into the political machinations necessary to become an F1 driver - not least the need to raise cash!
- McCarthy's style of writing is straightforward and conversational. He successfully pens pictures of the main characters who have figured in his career, the definitive moments in his career and, in addition, includes some colour photographs both from his own personal collection and motor sport collections.
- The acknowledgements are worth reading (which isn't often the case) as well as the book because McCarthy's humour and sense of the ridiculous shines through.
- As well as being a really good read, above all this book testifies to the grit and determination of a man who does not allow anything to deter him in the pursuit of his ambitions. One is left with the impression that despite the fact that he didn't make a great name in F1, this guy will always be in demand as an after-dinner speaker, witty commentator, stand-up comedian, or even occasionally - as a driver!! You won't regret reading this.

Flat Out, Flat Broke - but not Flat..., By Bernard McMinn

- Forget the fact that Perry McCarthy is a racing driver. Think of this as the biography you just have to read. This Essex lad made it to Formula One. But you won't read lots of dreary race reports - especially not about Formula One, as he holds the record for the shortest qualifying attempt in history. Instead, you'll find a man who has a ...comedic flare that has few parallels. This book is both seriously funny and an inspiration. Buy it...

Let's cheer him at Le Mans By "yn0711"

- I learned this book in Nigel Roebuck's column of Autosport web and supposed it interesting while, like other readers, my expectation wasn't that high especially as a Japanese Formula One fan. The fact is, I was completely wrong and the book is mighty fascinating and mega fun to the extent that I burst into laughter to myself in the living room, when reading Perry's bulk of jokes spread over. OK, this is the fun side of this book, but fascinating side is his DIE HARD attitude to motor racing, determination to reach the very top, Formula One, whatsoever it takes. When he finally drove out to the pit lane of Barcelona for his first pre-qualify attempt, I was close to be in tears sharing with the very emotion he had at that time and efforts he had made to get one....but the bloody car couldn't complete a lap! Likewise, the story continues with incredible up and down like roller coaster and you can't put down the book till you finish. Now I am and long will be big fan of Perry's and for sure cheer him in Bentley or whatever at La Sarthe '03, IF he secures any shape of drive. Meanwhile, buy this book, now

Hilarious account of bizarre motorsport career!!, By "jamie@f1rejects.com"

- Dubbed by "The Times" as 'the world's unluckiest racing driver', Perry McCarthy is a racing battler, a maverick who fought tooth and nail to rise through single-seater categories in Britain, overcoming obstacles such as chronic lack of sponsorship, uncompetitive machinery, and the odd wild shunt.
- When he finally made the big time, Formula One, in 1992, he was definitely in the worst house on the best street. His team in F1 was Andrea Moda, an infamously inept team that was a financial, technical, engineering, organisational and PR disaster story. Perry endured a paucity of track time, and incidents both insanely comic and deadly dangerous, until the team folded (the team boss was arrested for fraud) and McCarthy was out of F1.
- Several years racing sports cars for Lotus, Audi and Panoz followed, as Perry gained a reputation for his skill, determination ... and razor sharp wit. This is one of the most hilarious books you will ever read, as Perry tells his succession of heartbreaking anecdotes with a sense of humour matched only by a brilliant and off-beat turn of phrase. If you are a fan of car racing or Formula 1, don't miss this book!

Must Read Memoir

- Everyone has that friend that stuff just happens to — you know, where everything turns into an adventure and a story to tell. Mr. McCarthy is that type of guy. "Flat Out, Flat Broke" is part memoir, part sports book, part screwball comedy, part bar conversation. I remember it took me a day to read, and when I was done I wished Mr. McCarthy had a longer career.