



Once Around the Track

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New York Times-bestselling author McCrumb's sweet, laugh-out-loud funny novel, one of her most appealing yet, begins with an irresistible premise--an all-female NASCAR team. All-female except for its driver, who is a sexy bad boy who loves women, cigarettes, and fast cars.

Once Around the Track Details

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Author : Sharyn McCrumb

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From Reader Review Once Around the Track for online ebook

Arlene says

Interesting peek inside Nascar teams, with lots of interesting characters, many of whom are introduced and then dropped, but I liked it.

Tammy says

Well I finally finished this book. Let me begin by saying I adore Sharyn McCrumb's writing. This NASCAR jaunt is just not for me though. I simply could not get into it...as you can see by the fact it took me so long to finish it! I'll be happy to go back to her regular books.

Lance says

Being a relatively new NASCAR fan, I looked at this book as a social statement when I downloaded it onto my Kindle with a NASCAR theme. I was completely wrong as this gave great insight into many aspects of the sport that new and casual fans don't otherwise see, such as the careful marketing and profiling of the drivers, the intricate tasks of each pit crew members and how each team is marketed.

The characters are well developed and believable. Everyone from the "evil" personal manager to Taran (the engineer hopelessly in love with the driver) to Tuggle (the crusty but kind-hearted crew chief) to Badger himself, who seems naive and kind, but also is savvy enough to not only handle the car at 180 mph but also to handle his adoring female fans and pit crew. At times, you forget that this female pit crew is supposed to be a novelty item and you really feel that you are following the adventures of a well-experienced NASCAR team. The only negative that I can take from it is that the ending was quite predictable, but the rest of the book overcomes this flaw. Ms. McCrumb has a new reader and I can't wait for her next NASCAR story.

Christi says

my thoughts at page 86:

There are just way too many characters that require an indepth chapter of introduction in this book. I'm finding it very plodding and overly methodical.

I don't need so much bland background on these women to later be in a position to better understand them. Perhaps once this racing team is assembled and they start actually working together it will pick up speed?

my thoughts after finishing this book:

well two things I've learned from this book

- 1) the race car driver may look tough/sexy/heroic but "he's not a jerk" (seriously this is mentioned by every single female character at least 3 times)
- 2) the chief engineer went to Virginia Tech, hence the play on the sponsor's name Vargenya Tech - again mentioned everytime the plot takes place in that part of the race car shop

Toni Osborne says

“Once Around the Track“ is an interesting fiction based around the NASCAR auto racing circuit and the people that bring each race to life.

This is a sweet story, somewhat funny at times and quite appealing. It begins with a group of female investors financed by “Vagenya” (v i agra for women) who put together an all female Nascar team. The only male is the “wheel man”, a charming and unassuming man with the ability to compete at a high level, his good looks are a definite asset to the sponsor. The women’s job is to keep both the car and the driver competitive and in one piece. The reader spends one year in their life while they are racing around the country in a quest for the all mighty chequered flag.....

I loved this story for its originality and its collection of colourful characters, a group that teamed up for various reasons. The plot moves at a slow but steady pace and is peppered with a detailed description of the politics and the inner workings of how management and the pit crew function. All seems very realistic, thanks to the author’s extensive research and the help of NASCAR driver, Ward Burton. Whether you are a fan or not of NASCAR, its an interesting look into a close knit world. I found this novel very entertaining and a change of pace

Carol Stanley-Snow says

First. I've been to one Nascar race, just to have the experience. Second. I will not go to another. Not saying its a bad thing...just not my thing.

So, when i read the synopsis, i wasn't quite sure i'd enjoy this read....i was wrong!

Sharyn McCrumb has brought these characters to life and you don't even realize your learning something about Nascar....like it or not!

I found myself 'seeing and feeling' these folks. A fine story about life....

Please read.

Barb says

This was the selection for my book group for this month, and even though I am not going to attend, I used this as a "discipline" exercise...OMG...this was not a fun read...it was not even an interesting survey of the racing world. There was no plot, the people had no personalities, there was no conflict, no love angle (well, a SMALL one, if you stuck with it to the end!) I actually found myself hoping the guy would crash!!!!!!!!!!!!

George Reilly says

Badger Jenkins is a shy, unassuming NASCAR driver with chiseled cheekbones and a rabid fanbase. He's recruited to drive for the first otherwise-all-female team. For several months, we follow Badger and several of the women who work in the crew or behind the scenes, as the team coalesces and the season progresses.

This is an entertaining and well-written look at NASCAR racing from the perspective of insiders. We learn a great deal about the sport and what it takes to run a NASCAR team. We also get to see Badger from several viewpoints, ranging from the tongue-tied hero worshipper to the gruff crew chief. Most of the time, he's an irresponsible country boy who just wants to fish on his lake, but when he dons his fire suit, he becomes dangerous, almost irresistible, and wholly focused.

Recommended.

Carolyn says

Liked this book....well told tale but cannot find the next books....and library says they don't have them either.

Bonnie says

A fun, very interesting read. I was never a NASCAR fan before.....maybe now I'll take a little more interest in the races....I surprised my husband when we were out of town recently and he wanted to watch a NASCAR race (Richmond) and I quickly found the channel and took an interest. He can't figure out what I'm up to now. I asked him quite a few questions about the drivers, who he liked and didn't like and why.

This was a good story, well told and believable, it wasn't easy going for the all female NASCAR team. Loved Badger. I'm a fan of Sharyn McCrumb so was glad I'm enjoying these NASCAR books because I didn't think I'd like them.....but happy I was wrong...I was judging a sport I knew absolutely nothing about. As always I enjoyed Sharyn's vivid phrases and descriptions: "she looked like a boiled rabbit." does that say it all or what.

Debbie says

I forced myself to read the entire thing, but that made me know I don't want to read any more books by his author. It was pretty boring all the way through. I'm not a nascar fan so maybe that's part of the reason it was boring to me. I read two other books between reading this one.

Delores says

Easy read but not what I would call a page turner.

suellen says

McCrumb is a wonderful storyteller - car racing (race carring?) is not where I met her, but I trust her ability to draw me in.

And now I know about restrictor plates, and quite a bit more about NASCAR. And her storytelling abilities kept me going through this thin novel.

I wish she would go back to her Appalachian mysteries or the faux-sci-fi.

Sharon says

I wanted to like this book far better than I did. After all, Sharyn McCrumb is a favorite author -- and the person whose novels inspired me to investigate forensic anthropology (now my major as adult college student).

Sadly, "Once Around the Track" was something of a disappointment. It lacked McCrumb's usual humor and style, present in nearly all of her books, and lacked the suspense of all the others I've read. Perhaps it's just that I am not a NASCAR fan, but I never really connected with any of the characters or subplots.

Where McCrumb was *spot-on,* though, was her examination of fandom -- regardless of the milieu. From the people who simply enjoy to the work of their favorite to the creepily obsessed, she looked at the type of people who engage in fannish behaviors. As someone involved in actor's fandom (and who walked away from active involvement because of some of the rather creepy/stalkerish folk there with whom I did not wish to be associated), I have seen this behavior in action.

Really, I would not recommend this book for anyone except NASCAR fans. A disappointment.

Mickie says

Too much information and not enough story.

St. Dale was a much better read. There was more plot.

My husband used to be a photographer for NASCAR and is still involved with the racing world. Therefore, I need to know stuff about racin'. This novel does provide lots of information on how a NASCAR team evolves and works, but Ms. McCrumb used too many words somehow.

I knew it was a bad sign when I quit highlighting memorable phrases or quotes the further I read in the book. All the quotes I liked were in the first 55 pages. Just enough to hook me. Then they disappeared.

Here is what I highlighted in the Large Print edition:

Marengo ...was so small it was only on the map 2 days a week. (pg 12)

Badger is an old-style Cup driver. Southern, fearless, and likable. (pg. 29)

"...skinn boys in firesuits looked like warrior angels. (pg 55)

I actually enjoyed the "Author's Note" better than the book itself.
