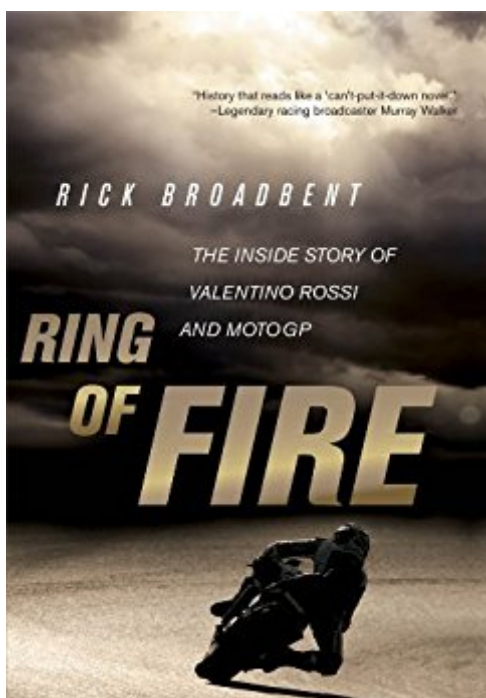


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# Ring Of Fire: The Inside Story Of Valentino Rossi And MotoGP



## Synopsis

Ring of Fire is an insider's account of the acclaim, heroism and pressures of being a MotoGP racer. This is a world where manufacturers invest millions, and where a rider will emerge from a coma with shattered bones to get back on his bike to save his job and race again for the checkered flag. This covers the whole of the modern MotoGP era, at the center of which is the phenomenal Valentino Rossi. Ring of Fire charts his rise, fall and rebirth, detailing the dark side of his infamous rivalries with Max Biaggi and Sete Gibernau as well as his battles with the tax man and the media. This warts-and-all tale offers an insightful, behind-the-scenes look at what makes these riders tick, from double World Superbike champion James Toseland to warring Spanish heroes Jorge Lorenzo and Dani Pedrosa. Rick Broadbent introduces us, not just to the stars, but also to the officials, parents, doctors, team owners and fans who make up this white-knuckle sport. By turns funny, sad, shocking and uplifting, Ring of Fire brings us face to face with all those who are bonded by a shared love of risking it all at 200 mph.

## Book Information

File Size: 887 KB

Print Length: 354 pages

Publisher: Motorbooks; First edition (September 6, 2010)

Publication Date: September 6, 2010

Language: English

ASIN: B004GJVXJI

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #434,500 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #18

in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Engineering & Transportation > Automotive > Motorcycles >

History #41 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Engineering & Transportation > Automotive >

History #58 in Books > Sports & Outdoors > Miscellaneous > Motorcycle Racing

## Customer Reviews

I'll give this review a spontaneous 5 Stars right off the start. I've never read a motorcycle race book

that gives such an in-depth look at the men who ride these machines. Most books of a similar topic come across as a complementary PR exercise and seem to overlook the demons and shortcomings of the riders - they are just as human as the rest of us, albeit with skills beyond our imagination. The rivalry of these men, their vices, their fears, their personalities are all here and make for a great "can't put it down read". 'Ring of Fire' follows the rise of Valentino Rossi in MotoGP with a parallel record of Mike Hailwoods historical comeback at the '78 IOM TT. Although the book centers largely around Rossi and Hailwood, it also gives the reader a fresh insight to their competitors and the relationship(s) they shared - Casey Stoner, Loris Capirossi, Troy Bayliss, James Toseland, Nicky Hayden and (of course) Max Biaggi. Equal attention is given to Hailwoods compatriots during his era - Agostini, Phil Read, John Surtees all feature a prominent place in the book and gives the reader a fresh view-point of their greatness and personal lives. The accounts of the races are thrilling and the staccato sentence structure reads almost like a running commentary. Broadbent has done a fantastic job and has obviously taken good notes while he followed the MotoGP circus as a journalist - many of his anecdotes come from personal interaction with these stars, and are thus unsantized by corporate PR polish. It is a fantastic book and worthy of a place on the shelves of any racing enthusiast.

This is the most interesting books about Moto GP and riders I've read. I've read all the autobiographies, except Casey Stoner as I prefer real books and don't own a kindle. That Near Death Thing by Broadbent is also good, but I'll reread Ring of Fire !! Thank you, Rick Broadbent !

This book gives a comprehensive look into the world of MotoGP. Rather than merely focus on the show that is MotoGP, it goes deep inside to give an insider's view of the world that surrounds MotoGP. While the lens of the book is focused on the amazing Valentino Rossi and legendary Mike Hailwood, the wide angle of the lens picks up much of the surrounding story. There is a feel as though the reader were inside the paddock. Everything is covered from the races to contract negotiations to life during and after the races. There are many good books on MotoGP. This is a great book that will change the way you see the races.

I absolutely enjoyed reading this book. To my eternal regret, I began actively following MotoGP & superbikes about 3 years ago and this book helped me better understand the current paddock intrigues and under currents and how they developed. Richard gives a great straightforward "outsider" perspective of riders & teams without trying to psychoanalyse his observations while still

capturing the essence and colorful nature of the main players. After reading this I was inspired to buy the fast & faster DVD series to watch some of the battles & races Richard so aptly described. It's a must read for any MotoGP enthusiast.

Ring of Fire After reading a lot of the newer books on MotoGP, ranging from Performance Riding Techniques (2nd edition), to MotoGP Technology (2nd edition), and Rossi's autobiography, I naturally was interested in Ring of Fire since it was advertised as telling the inside story of Rossi and MotoGP. In sum, it met my expectations. There are some tales about Mike Hailwood stuff in between the chapters related to more modern 500cc and 2002-up MotoGP. I never really followed the pre-Rossi motorcycle Grand Prix racing, so I wasn't as interested in the stories about Mike. Towards the middle of the book, I found myself just skipping the chapters that pertained to Mike and the Isle of Man TT, understanding that those were still very important parts of motorcycle regalia and lore. I just wanted to read more about the riders and teams I knew. At first, I thought Broadbent's writing was disorganized like Rossi's autobiography until I saw the method to his madness. I did not quite like the fictional accounts of the events at the track, but it did help with the flow of the book. For example, how would Broadbent know what was going through Stoner or Rossi's mind at a certain track and lap during the actual race? This would be accepted as artistic license if it were a fictional account of two fictional riders, but it just seemed more like fluff thrown in to sensationalize the event. As I read the book, it was apparent that a lot of the "knife sharpening" and rivalries were mainly created by the press, including the author. Broadbent mentioned how Bayliss was angry about how he was described in an article. Stoner and Ducati PR also said the same thing. By the time I finished the book, I came out with several key concepts based on the events that had transpired. As a rider interested in the championship, don't get injured, don't play into mind games, avoid the press, don't complain publically or join in the finger pointing, act like a robot. Of course this is impossible since we are humans that are deeply affected by emotions and reputation. I can totally understand how an entourage could escalate events, and how mind games (exacerbated by the press) can undermine a team/rider's strategy. I was also surprised at the lack of team work among the teams. Understandably there can only be 1 MotoGP champion in the year, but NASCAR and other motorsports are examples of where teams actually try to help one another out in the races. Granted, NASCAR is a far more profitable event where Formula 1 drivers see as an easy retirement opportunity. Formula 1, WRC, and MotoGP seem far more competitive and cut throat and rightly so, it is cutting edge technology paired with skill. Most of the top riders seem like high school drop outs that had a strong foundation in the trades or perhaps relied on family

donations to get into racing. Their hard earned money and fortunes are the result of their riding and racing skills. Without the ability to win the championship, their morale drops, and the future comes into question. Injuries in sports can be difficult to heal, and as Ring of Fire demonstrated, many of the top riders were thrown off their game because of injuries. Rossi was easily dominating in the earlier years of MotoGP, but Broadbent seemed to depict that Rossi relied on mind games and the mistakes of others for victories in the recent years. That seemed apropos as his podium finish in Le Mans was due to several riders losing positions not because Rossi was faster or better. Broadbent does offer a rather objective view on the publicity side of MotoGP. I never realized how many of the manufacturers required so many promotional events. Rossi was turned off by Ducati's requirement of 60 promotional days a year, and he appeared to not attend many of the Yamaha events. There was a lot of information on Rossi's life, but nothing that one couldn't find on Google, but Broadbent manages to incorporate that into the book in a streamlined manner. There are many instances where riding incidents occur between Rossi and other riders. If it was Rossi's fault, he would generally attribute it to "racing" and "it happens", while if someone else did it, The Doctor would be quick to blame them and start a campaign of mind games or fan-based propaganda to destroy the other rider. This was apparent at Jerez where Rossi took out Stoner early on, and claims it was a mistake and it was racing. Had Stoner done that, the gloves would be off. Broadbent covers how MotoGP ran into financial issues around 2005-2006, and how they focused primarily on the UK and German markets due to less demand elsewhere. I know for a fact that in the US, NASCAR and Indy Car racing is about the only types of racing known to many people. SCCA, GT racing, WRC, MotoGP, Superbike, and other leagues are only known to a few groups, and followed by even less people. In the US, "sports" are primarily baseball, basketball, football, hockey, and tennis. It was a very enjoyable read, if not a bit long. I would highly recommend it to anyone interested in MotoGP and motorcycle racing as it does present an objective view (at least as objective as possible for someone in the media) into motorcycle racing. Overall: 4/5 stars

First off, much of this book outlines events, situations and anecdotes that most serious racing fans have heard or seen in the various movies about MotoGP. However, it is very well written and researched and the flashbacks to different eras and old legends are well done and nicely interspersed. This is a solid book about MotoGP and presents Rossi as a real person and not from some fanboy perspective.

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