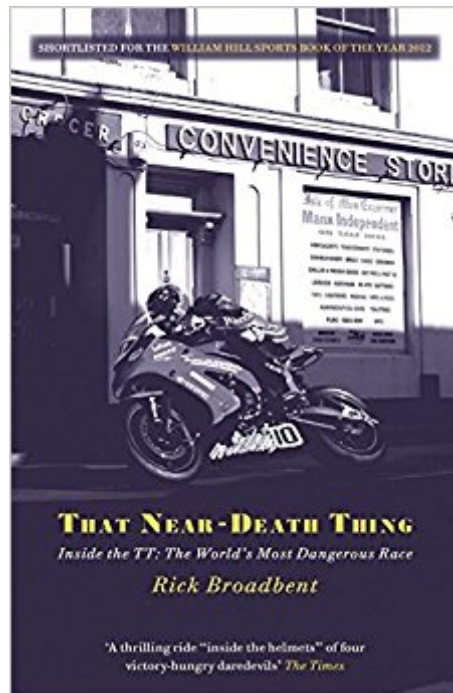




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# That Near Death Thing: Inside The Most Dangerous Race In The World



## Synopsis

The Isle of Man TT - the world's most dangerous race - as seen through the eyes of Cummins, Martin, McGuinness and Dunlop. THAT NEAR DEATH THING is a life-affirming journey to the heart of the world's most dangerous race. The Isle of Man TT is a throwback to a maverick era that existed before PR platitudes and PC attitudes. WILLIAM HILL SPORTS BOOK OF THE YEAR-shortlisted author Rick Broadbent gets inside the helmets of four leading motorcycle racers as they battle fear, fire and family tragedy for a gritty sort of glory. Guy Martin is a tea-drinking truck mechanic and TV eccentric who 'sucks the rabbits out of hedges', but must now deal with the flipside of fame; Conor Cummins is the local hero facing a race against time as he battles depression and a broken body after falling down the mountain; John McGuinness is the living legend fending off the ravages of middle-age for one last hurrah; Michael Dunlop is the wild child living with one of the most remarkable legacies in sport. They tell their astonishing stories in a book that provides the most rounded, intimate, behind-the-scenes account yet of the last great race. Rick Broadbent has delivered the final word on the Isle of Man TT, one that really gets to grips with an event that continually pulls unsung riders and fans back year after year to witness That Near Death Thing.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

A compelling story that often moved this cynical reader to tears  
You can smell the grease and burning rubber  
Stunning

Rick Broadbent is a sports writer at The Times, and the author of books on boxing and football as well as the MotoGP Motorcycle World Championship -- Ring of Fire being shortlisted for the William Hill Sports Book of the Year in 2009. Follow Rick Broadbent on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/ricktimes>

If you're a fan of the Isle of Man TT, and if the names Guy, John, Connor, Robert, Michael, Bruce and, of course, Joey, mean anything to you without having to know their last names, then this book is a must-read. For those who love the TT, and have read, watched and heard every detail of this amazing event, the author has provided one more very important piece of the complex puzzle regarding the Isle of Man Tourist Trophy race weeks, as well as road-racing in general. In fact, it will probably change your opinion about what the term "road-racing" actually means, since we usually lump circuit-racing, such as MotoGP, and road-racing together when discussing motorcycle competition. This book shows the very clear distinction between those two very different racing disciplines, as it follows the involvement of the handful of TT racers who specialize in this one series of races, using their own words and experiences to try to understand what this event is about, and why it has such a magical attraction for every motorcycle racer, whether they dare to ride the TT or not. In fact, the very long list of those otherwise fearless top-level motorcycle racers who would never dare race the TT is the best way to gauge the importance of the TT, as well as the talent and courage ... and madness? ... of those who do. This book gives us an insightful and even-handed glimpse into the heads of those few men and women who take that risk, while loving, and in some ways, needing every second of it. The IOM TT is an addiction for those spotlighted in this book, and the author has done an excellent job allowing those with the addiction to try to explain it, warts and all. When I finally reached the end, I wished it could go on and on. That's the sign of a very good read.

Inside the Isle of Man TT. The who and why of the select few who can actually ride a motorcycle at 200mph on a two lane road and have reflexes that no other human can imagine. If you ask why? There may not be an answer. "It's my job" is as close as it gets. Cuts past the glitter into the human side. The price some of these men pay to ride year after year is quite astounding. Moto Grand Prix is NOTHING like the Island. No place like it on earth. Many are well into middle age and still racing.

Whether a fan, or critic, of the Isle of Man Tourist Trophy races, "That Near Death Thing", by Rick Broadbent is a must read experience. The chapter organization takes the reader for a lap on "the pencil line" around the island circuit and the writing is Pulitzer Prize quality and as fast paced as the

races. I found my pulse rate rising rapidly, only to come to a near full and sudden stop when confronted with unforeseen events; very much like riding a motorcycle fast in unfamiliar conditions and territory. And that is exactly where Rick Broadbent takes the reader; new territory and constant change. You may have read about the TT, you may think you actually know something regarding it. Perhaps, but, you will learn much more, maybe more than you want to know, at the end of "That Near-Death Thing". This is the gritty world of motorcycling's "hard men", not the posh glamour of Moto GP. This is the story of risking death racing mostly for personal honor and regional notoriety. The alleged "prize money" is so shockingly low the organizers should be ashamed to post it. I have been riding motorcycles since I was an Army PFC in 1968 and have been amazed and enthralled by the Isle of Man TT since I first became aware of it at about the same time. I have read other books detailing the history and the personalities, the triumphs ( no pun intended ) and the tragedies. However, this book made me stop and question why I ride, especially at 67 years of age and why do I still find the Isle of Man TT so fascinating. There is no logical, or rational reason for either riding a motorcycle, or, for the Tourist Trophy races. To be honest, I still don't know why I ride. The experience is unique to each person and is probably best internalized in silence. However, after reading "That Near-Death Thing", despite misgivings and concerns, my admiration for the riders and gratitude to the hundreds of volunteers who make the TT possible and to the citizens of the Isle of Man for allowing the event remains firm.

The book description stated that the book was an attempt to get inside the head of four of the top riders. As far as that goes it's a solid effort. There are just two issues. One - I get the feeling trying to describe what in the psyche motivates these guys is an interesting question but one that is very difficult to answer. Rick writing is a valiant attempt but it seems a bit like asking a fish why it swims? Two - focus is fairly narrowly on the four riders (and their families). There are mentions of other riders like Anstey, the history of the race, the isle itself, the teams and the way they work etc, but not really enough to build a wider context to house the story? Not a problem for those who are well versed in the sport but for casual readers it would have been an aid. Still, a really interesting book with some genuine moments of both sadness and humour.

OK, I admit it. I grew up with the TT at my doorstep, so maybe I'm just a teeny bit biased, but this is a book which gives a very genuine feel of what it's like to try to thread the needle round nearly 60km of narrow country roads at an average speed of more than 130mph. Think about that. The fastest course on the Moto GP tour has an average lap speed of about 110mph - and it has run off areas

and gravel traps, neither of which are present at the TT! The guys who ride the TT are a different breed, and that comes across well in this book. There are a few minor typos and errors that a good editor should have picked up, but overall, this is one of the best books on the TT I have read, and should be a "must buy" for keen fans of the sport. Since I first reviewed the book, the price has dropped. Even more reason to buy it.....

Boyfriend loved it. Finished it in a few days. I read the first few pages and now want to read it entirely. Very interesting

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