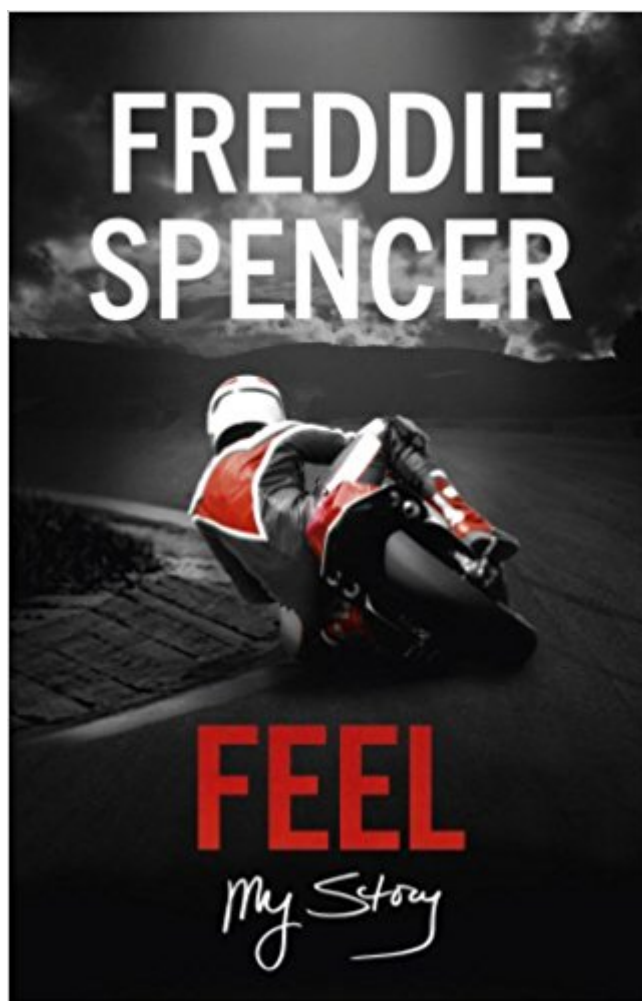


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# Feel: My Story



## Synopsis

Feel is the story of how a small-time boy from humble beginnings in Louisiana rose to the pantheon of greats, to win the 500cc and 250cc GP Championship in the same year - an historic achievement over three decades ago which has never been repeated. Growing up at the time of the assassination of Malcolm X and Martin Luther King, Freddie judged by feel, not by colour. Blind to prejudice and discrimination, he formed dynamic connections with people and events, but only years later during his racing afterlife could Freddie come to understand the true power of the things he learned. Spencer is an articulate and compassionate guide as he describes the thrill and horror of racing in an era when death was a perennial threat. He recalls in pin-sharp detail the frenetic high-octane racing duels with the 'King' Kenny Roberts, but also describes a parallel internal journey as he struggled to make sense of it all. Driven by a search for the personal fulfilment that comes through finding your purpose, Freddie's story is a universal one. In its message of hope, Feel transcends its genre to offer a story for everyone. Part thriller, part philosophical self-exploration, it is a remarkably insightful account of what it is like to have it all, but wonder why. "For the first time I will talk about the traumas of my childhood, the contrast between the leaf fire burns, the mistrust and discomfort and the peace and purpose I felt when riding my bike. I didn't tell my parents about something that happened to me. Why? I felt ashamed, but when I rode I felt connected to everything and the pain in my hand and heart would go away. It gave me the feeling of hope".

## Book Information

Hardcover: 320 pages

Publisher: Virgin Books (April 20, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0753545616

ISBN-13: 978-0753545614

Product Dimensions: 6.4 x 1.2 x 9.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 6 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #313,753 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #26 in Books > Sports & Outdoors > Miscellaneous > Motorcycle Racing #181 in Books > Sports & Outdoors > Miscellaneous > Motor Sports #1531 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Sports & Outdoors

## Customer Reviews

"It's bloody brilliant ... one of the most interesting autobiographies we've read" \* Motorcycle News \*

Freddie Spencer will go down in history as one of the greatest American motorcycle road racers of all time. In addition to winning three World Championships, he is the only rider ever to win both the 250cc and 500cc/MotoGP Grand Prix World Championships in the same season (1985); the only rider to win three major races during Bike Week at Daytona International Speedway; and the youngest rider to win the 500cc/MotoGP Grand Prix World Championship, until Marc Marquez broke his record 30 years later. Spencer was born 20 December 1961 in Shreveport, Louisiana, and soon became a racing prodigy, learning to ride at the age of four and entering his first races at five. By the time he was eleven, Spencer had already won numerous state and regional dirt track racing championships in Texas and Louisiana. As a teen, Spencer began concentrating on road racing and continued winning by earning national amateur and professional road racing championships. Spencer retired from full-time GP racing in 1988, but made a couple of comebacks in the next few years. He went on to win three more US Superbike nationals, including his memorable final AMA national victory on a rain-soaked Laguna Seca Raceway in 1995, and officially retired later that year. After his racing career was over, Spencer founded a successful motorcycle riding school and businesses in Las Vegas in 1997. He also served as an expert analyst for the SpeedChannel TV network for 12 years to cover motorcycle races until 2008. Then both his professional and personal lives changed dramatically as he began the personal journey of philosophical self-exploration, travelling the world and sharing his experiences with others. Now he can share the story he was always supposed to tell.

Very deep, insightful book. I might even say soulful. Much much more than your typical racer bio, and I loved it. It was difficult to get much information about Spencer because he was a bit reclusive and private. The book also documents that a person, if he or she is willing and is also ready to listen, is continually learning in life, and that miracles really do happen. Some people may argue that these details aren't necessary, but I felt that it really gave me a better idea of Freddie Spencer, the person. Loved the fact that Freddie paid a lot of attention to the spellbinding 1983 season when he battled Kenny Roberts for the 500GP crown in Kenny's last 500 campaign. Back in 1983, racetracks were much more dangerous than today, though racers still die in today's safer environment. Having said that, "The Pass" in Anderstorp Sweden is what it is, and glad that both men are still here to argue about it. Tell the truth, I was very much a Roberts supporter and still am, but have gained respect for Freddie Spencer over the years, and even more so after reading this book. Wishing Fast Freddie well in whatever he chooses to do in life, glad he's made a semblance of peace with KR,

and thank you for writing this beautiful memoir.

Not at all what I expected. This book goes way past just his racing career. I was lucky to have been on the track with him when he was with two brothers in Loudon. I was able to see him first hand slide the front end and use the rear to help steer the bike. No other rider I had ever seen showed the feel he had for a machine. I had talked with him briefly coming out of the bathroom as he was heading for the race. I was amazed at how calm he was. It was at that point I became a fan. Reading this book gave me such a better understanding of how he got to that point and the struggles no one ever knew about. So much more than just racing. Thank you Freddy for this incredible book.

I've been a race fan for decades and always felt that Freddie Spencer was enigmatic at best. I haven't finished it yet, but I'm really enjoying his perspective especially on the 1983 season. Looking forward to learning more about his state of mind near the end of his career and during the various comebacks. The story is every bit as much about putting his whole life together as it is about his racing.

Pretty good book. It gives you insight into who he is and what he did. My opinion is that what got him to the top ambition and hard work burnt him out after his double World Championship. He ran out of Mojo. And then the crashes and the injuries start piling up. And when your Mojo is gone, you are merely very good and not great anymore.

I thoroughly enjoyed Freddie's story and the book tells it well. I did not like the inconclusive ending but a must read. Fast Freddie was one of the greatest in amongst the likes of Sheen, Roberts, Lawson, and the many other greats.

Love it! Always wanted to know about my idol and the book describes many stories that I didn't know.

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