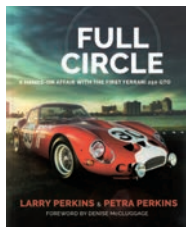


YOUR SHELF WILL THANK YOU

# Book Reviews

Tim Kemmis



**FULL CIRCLE**  
A HANDS-ON AFFAIR WITH THE  
FIRST FERRARI 250 GTO

BY Larry and Petra Perkins

Hardcover and paperback

Text in English

73 color with 26 black  
and white images

7.5 x 9.25IN, 230 pages

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fullcircleferrarigto.com



WILLIAM SMAAT

WE KNOW, AS CAR LOVERS, THAT EVERY CAR HAS a story, and this book is about a special one. But more than that, it is also first-class literature that anyone would enjoy, car nut or not.

The storylines are sensational, of course. **FULL CIRCLE** revolves primarily around the life of Larry Perkins, NASA contract scientist (Apollo and Viking projects), accomplished sailor, skilled sculptor, and one-time owner and race driver of the very first 250 GTO built, chassis

3223GT, and, in Larry's capable hands, the last GTO to win a significant FIA racing trophy.

But the book delivers much more than that, like the experience and emotion of racing a GTO, the fascinating personalities revolving around the car, both when Larry raced the GTO at Daytona and Sebring from 1964 to 1966, and decades later when Larry contributed vital information on in-period racing originality as the car was restored at Motion Products for Scuderia di Bari, and then Larry's elation when given the honor of driving his GTO up the ramp at Pebble Beach, with ace restorer Wayne Oby riding shotgun, to accept the trophy for the 250 GTO class' *first prize*, and then up the ramp a

second time, Ferrari historian Marcel Massini now beside him, to receive the *Strother McMinn Most Elegant Sports Car* award.

But those are just the main storylines. What distinguishes this book is how Petra Perkins, Larry's wife, tells the stories. It only takes a couple of paragraphs to understand why she's a multiple award-winning author and why this is more than a *car book*. It's first-class literature. You can go to the publisher's website, [FULLCIRCLEFERRARIGTO.COM](http://FULLCIRCLEFERRARIGTO.COM), where a sample chapter demonstrates her engaging writing style, so I'll only quote a brief excerpt from the book here:

"Larry had never seen a GTO. He would never forget this first glimpse of his GTO in a gloomy corner of Pit Stop Garage. The car was up at a crazy angle on jack stands, was streaked with grime and seemed to have been gutted. The motor hung forlornly from a cherry-picker over the engine bay, and the rest of the drive train lay scattered on the floor. The iconic GTO shift lever stuck straight up like a flower stem from a bouquet of bolts, nuts, washers, strap hangers, shafts, gaskets, and hand tools."

By the end of book, you might wonder what makes this an outstanding book, the story or the writing? Then you'd pause, think, and conclude that's an inane question: they're both important.

**FULL CIRCLE - A HAND'S-ON AFFAIR WITH THE FIRST FERRARI 250 GTO** is one of those special books that would be a favorite in anyone's library. **PH**



WILLIAM SMAAT