

BOOK REVIEW

by Bill Saunders

Summer is almost here: the trees now have their leaves and the yard needs mowing. Time to sit back and enjoy a book or two.

I bought *The Art of Racing in the Rain*, by Garth Stein last summer, but never made the time to sit down and read it. I think this was because we had listened to *Marley & Me* on tape while driving back from Indiana last June and wasn't sure I could take the emotional strain of another dog story.

So as we were packing for our trip to Costa Rica last month, I knew I would need about 9 days of reading

materials and packed this book, plus a couple of others. I'd give this book two thumbs up. It's funny, sad and insightful. And it's got a dog as the main character. Enzo is a Labrador retriever and the narrator of this story, written from a dogs perspective. His owner is Denny, who works at an independent BMW shop as he tries to get rides in Porsche Cup cars to expand his racing experience.

"Enzo knows he is different from other dogs: a philosopher with a nearly human soul (and an obsession with opposable thumbs), he has educated himself by

watching television extensively, and by listening very closely to the words of his master, Denny Swift, an up-and-coming race car driver."

"Through Denny, Enzo has gained tremendous insight into the human condition, and he sees that life, like racing, isn't simply about going fast. Using the techniques needed on the race track, one can successfully navigate all of life's ordeals."

Add this to your list of summer books, along with the *Heat Exchanger*, *Panorama* and other Porsche magazines.



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