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“Part stock car racing primer, part Southern-fried travelogue, a compelling and often hilarious account of a full-blown conversion into the religion known as NASCAR.”

—Andrew Giangola, author of *The Weekend Starts on Wednesday*

Magnolias, Sweet Tea, and Exhaust
One Woman’s Journey to Understanding the
Phenomenon of NASCAR
By Carole Townsend

“*Magnolias, Sweet Tea, and Exhaust* is a highly entertaining account of a ‘properly raised’ Southern lady’s indoctrination into the high-speed arena of fast cars, racetrack culture, and the extremely interesting people who participate and those who come to watch. . . . This is a must-read for those who may have been hesitant to personally experience what the buzz about NASCAR is all about.”

—Ed Clark, president and general manager, Atlanta Motor Speedway

“The book is a great read for any die-hard fan, or the new fan with an interest in NASCAR.”

—David Ragan, winner, Aaron’s 499 at Talladega Superspeedway, 2013

“Townsend’s venture into the male-dominated sport of NASCAR is immensely entertaining and informative.” —Gregg Loomis, former race car driver and author of the Lang Reilly thrillers

What happens when a fifty-something suburban mom (who’s afraid of speed) ventures into the insular netherworld that is NASCAR? “I may as well have packed my suitcase to visit Mars, because I had no idea what I was getting myself into,” **Carole Townsend** writes in ***Magnolias, Sweet Tea, and Exhaust: One Woman’s Journey to Understanding the Phenomenon of NASCAR*** (Sports Publishing, July 2014, agent: Chris Fortunato, Chris Fortunato Literary Agency). Immersion journalism at its best, her memoir will take readers from multimillion-dollar North Carolina garages

run by PhDs to the exclusive Atlanta Motor Speedway Labor Day party to the coveted spot every NASCAR fan dreams about: the jump seat.

To immerse herself in the sport, Townsend traveled from one Southern race track to the next. Along the way she spoke with NASCAR's rising stars, legends, team owners, pit crews, and fans including:

- NASCAR Hall of Fame nominee Rex White (1960 NASCAR Grand National Champion)
- David Ragan (winner of the 2013 Talladega May Race)
- Ragan's pit crew chief, Jay Guy
- Twenty-year-old Nationwide Series phenomenon Johanna Long
- Team owner Michael Waltrip
- Sixteen-year-old rising star Mason Massey

From her desperate prayer that her knees will bend far enough to climb through the car window, to the fearful realization that her mom jeans are not flame retardant, Townsend probes the sweeping phenomenon that is NASCAR with aplomb and humor. Much like the races themselves, her account is attention-grabbing, precise, and colorful. She also paints in broad strokes, digging into the sport's "good old boy" history that emerged with Prohibition and the rise of bootlegging. An all-access, intimate look at NASCAR, *Magnolias*, *Sweet Tea*, and *Exhaust* will delight fans of the sport and make a convert out of everyone else.

About the Author

Carole Townsend is a reporter and columnist for the *Gwinnett Daily Post* newspaper in Georgia and has been published in *Ladies' Home Journal*. She has appeared on national news and talk shows. When she started writing this book, Townsend began accepting invitations to be a guest on various NASCAR racing radio shows. As a journalist and advocate for the health and well-being of women and children, she also tours throughout the Southeast and speaks on the topics of becoming an author, making career changes, and living in the South.

To request a review copy of *Magnolias, Sweet Tea, and Exhaust* or to arrange an interview with the author, please contact:
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One Woman's Journey to Understanding the Phenomenon of NASCAR

By Carole Townsend

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