



THE JAPANESE SPEAKING CURTAIN MAKER

SPENCER JAMES CONWAY

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The Japanese Speaking Curtain Maker? What the hell does this title have to do with riding a motorcycle around Africa and becoming the first person to do so?

Strange title, you could argue that Spencer Conway is a strange bloke. In his unique way Spencer tells a tale of becoming the first person to circumnavigate Africa by motorcycle.

With wit and good humour Spencer rides the outer rim of the African continent exploring, the many and varied peoples, cultures and environments while also discovering a lot more about himself and other travellers than many would care to admit.

The Japanese Speaking Curtain Maker at times will have you laughing out loud, cheering in support and perhaps even shedding a tear or two. Spencer is a masterful storyteller who knows how to keep a reader engaged from start to finish despite the at times appalling bad jokes and puns (no, we didn't really say that Spencer).

Chance meetings with local leads to some lovely moments and demonstrate that no matter what you hear about a country or region you yourself must decide; exploration is the best way to discover. Spencer does so and we the reader are much richer for the experience.

Shot at by bandits in Kenya, partying with Nigerian celebrity and even a beer stash hidden in the forest, Spencer takes us on a fast-paced adventure yet slows down enough to experience the real Africa and its people.

The Japanese Speaking Curtain Maker is a book in two parts. The first, the ride down through the east to the south west. The second, the north west. It's the second that feels a little rushed,

perhaps as subconsciously Spencer feels that this area has drained him enough to want out yet as Spencer returns to the UK, he realises that 'normal' isn't for him.

In The Japanese Speaking Curtain Maker Spencer has crafted what is perhaps the outstanding travel biography of 2019, it's well worth a read ... and we wonder, did they ever find a Japanese Speaking Curtain maker?

