

 **BETTS, A. J.** *Shutter Speed*
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Dustin is 16 and marking time. He has an uneasy relationship with his father and knows little about his mother whose life and death are not acknowledged. There is little about his life that interests Dustin apart from a desire to own a motorbike. He escapes on his pushbike, riding the streets of Fremantle and seeks refuge in cinemas from school, the job at his father's photo lab and even his two friends, Nugget and Jasmine. Then one afternoon a photo gets stuck in the processor and everything changes. An image of a dark haired woman on a red Ducati piques his curiosity. She represents speed, independence and freedom, the things he covets. He becomes obsessed with his need and his life starts to spiral out of control.

This is a skillfully composed story with poetic imagery and well realised characters. Although I did not find the main character likeable, I could empathise with him. The theme of photography permeates throughout and the author captures the sights and sounds of Fremantle like snapshots. The powerful ending left my stomach aching. For young adult readers. Some coarse language. SS