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Portraits Of American Bikers: Inside Looking Out (The Flash Collection)



Synopsis

Introduction (portion of): It's been a long time since the mainstream media first discovered the motorcycle club culture and its seductive appeal. That particular journey has seen our lifestyle creatively populated by villains, clowns, cutthroats, buffoons, deviants, sadists, criminals, badasses, and everything in between. But no matter what characters or images the writers, reporters, producers, and directors have devised to represent our lifestyle, the bottom line is that people love it. They fear it. And deep down in those trembling, vicarious bones they would give anything to be a part of it. Anything, for just one ride in an endless pack, hammer-down in the screamer lane of some interstate. Anything, to walk proudly into a bar or an event with a set of colors on recognized colors that are not given, but earned, through serious effort, blood, and brotherhood. Anything, to be able to call a brother at any hour of the day or night when they needed help with anything, and to know that their back is covered. Anything, to be intimate with the powerful family life that is truly enjoyed and unapologetically embraced by so few. But envied or not, this way of life often comes at a high price. A patch on one's back can translate into a titillating target for law enforcement, as well as media. For a variety of reasons commercial gain, high-profile PR, and political pandering among them both have dipped to sordid lows in their pursuit of the biker essence. Those clowns and buffoons of the old B biker movies have increasingly given way to the cutthroats and the criminals. Entire television networks use shows about the presumed inside of the motorcycle clubs as their commercial anchors. Dozens of books and productions glorify the dirt-digging adventures of undercover law enforcement infiltrators, turncoats, and snitches...

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Inside Looking Out: Portraits of American Bikers, the Flash Collection II is the second in an eventual three-book series unveiling the priceless vintage photographs of Jim "Flash" Miteff. As in the first book, Portraits of American Bikers in the 1960s, the photos in Inside Looking Out center on the Outlaws Motorcycle Club. But the images in both books go far beyond a single subject. The stark black-and-white, large-format photographs dissect an entire era the era: the 60s. They grab you with a grip that was much tighter back then, when it comes to the pure abandon and wildness of the motorcycle culture. Inside Looking Out differs from the first book in its inclusion of some current photos of the OMC. Especially compelling are the then and now images of members who have given decades of their lives to the club. These pictures alone speak much more than a thousand words about the strength and longevity of this brotherhood. Respectfully compiled by Miteff's daughter, Beverly Roberts, the photos presented are brilliant in their composition, in their intensity, and most importantly in that they are real! --Bill Hayes; Thunder Press Magazine

I first came across this book at a friends barbershop and loved it! I dig old choppers. Greasy, hand built, death machines and this book captures some great inspiration. I bought this as a gift for a friend. He loves it! What I love about this book is it captures not just the bikes, but the culture of the time. This is back before "do rags" and plastic aftermarket skulls, flames, and all that other crap. When dudes built their bikes to be what they wanted them to be. Blood, sweat, and tears. The culture was more of close knit brotherhood instead of a loose association or spirit of brotherhood; you hung with your bros and their families and that was your family. No social media, no internet, no distractions aside from work or your responsibilities. I highly recommend this book if you love old bikes and biker culture.

I bought the original photo book on the Outlaws mc, " The Bike Riders" by Danny Lyons when it came out in 1968. It was a big influence in one way, for it started the thought process that eventually led me to turn my drawing ability into a tattooing career, even though the tattoos depicted were, for the most part, rotten work. The two volumes of this book take the photographic narrative of the Outlaws AT THIS TIME to a more revealing level. All of the pics were taken by a member (Lyons was a member too) and stored for posterity by his daughter. The Chicago Outlaws were a

homegrown midwest organization until they they fell under the influence of California outlaw bikers, though they are now loath to admit it, their now sworn enemys, the Hells Angels. Through the three books (Four including the photo book on modern day Outlaws, "One Percent"), you can see the transition--- from embroidered movie cowboy shirts with the Outlaws emblem on the back to denim cutoffs with a one piece Outlaws patch, to the now three piece patch on leather vests. From dressers to choppers, and how strange (to me, at least) back to dressers in the outlaw biker world at large. Both books are a fascinating look into a particular time and place in the Biker world. The photography is clear and sharp, the shots well composed. These books (Volumes 1 & 2) will also appeal to photography enthusiasts and people interested in sub cultures in general. To a biker historian, they are no less than fascinating.

I ordered this book along with the companion collection, Portraits of American Bikers: Life in the 1960's. I found them both very interesting and well done. I love the vintage feel of the black and white pictures and the candid shots are so telling. I read one review in which the individual was upset about the pictures where men are kissing each other. If you know anything about outlaw biker culture, especially during these years, those photos should make you laugh. If you are looking at them as an outsider, then you are giving the bikers the response that they want to get from kissing each other; that of shock and repulsion. Outlaw bikers in the 1960's used this behavior frequently in order to affirm their individuality and separate themselves from "citizen society". Love the pictures and the overall feel of this book! If you want a candid look into everyday outlaw biker culture during the beginnings of its origin, this will not disappoint you.

Great vintage bikers photo's This book has some great older pics of bikers and bikes of 60s 70s. I would recommend this book if your into the biker life it's must have for the table.

Great pictures of bygone days. Great reference to get some insperation for that vintage Chopper you wanna build! Good stuff

Everything I expected.

Great book. Amazing photos. A book done by those who really lived the life. A must have book for those interested in motorcycle clubs. Sarah.

As a child of a Club Member I enjoyed seeing the photos of the Outlaw Club members as well as the bikes I grew up around and loved. I would buy this book as a gift and would recommend it to someone with an interest in motorcycles. I love it and can't wait to share it with friends and family.

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