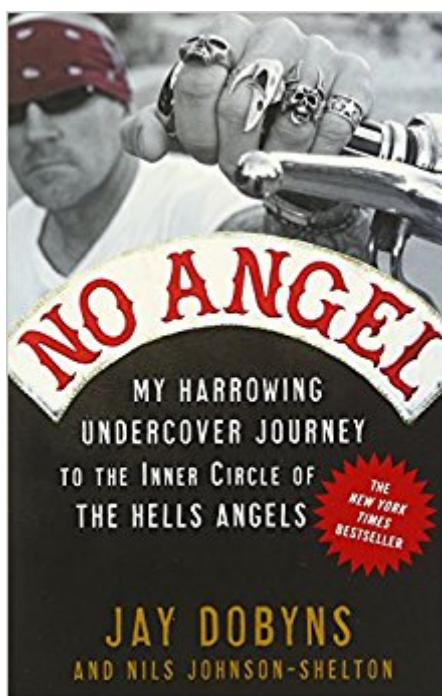


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No Angel: My Harrowing Undercover Journey To The Inner Circle Of The Hells Angels



Synopsis

Here, from Jay Dobyns, the first federal agent to infiltrate the inner circle of the outlaw Hells Angels Motorcycle Club, is the inside story of the twenty-one-month operation that almost cost him his family, his sanity, and his life. Getting shot in the chest as a rookie agent, bartering for machine guns, throttling down the highway at 100 mph, and responding to a full-scale, bloody riot between the Hells Angels and their rivals, the Mongols--these are just a few of the high-adrenaline experiences Dobyns recounts in this action-packed, hard-to-imagine-but-true story. Dobyns leaves no stone of his harrowing journey unturned. At runs and clubhouses, between rides and riots, Dobyns befriends bad-ass bikers, meth-fueled "old ladies," gun fetishists, psycho-killer ex-cons, and even some of the "Filthy Few"--the elite of the Hells Angels who've committed extreme violence on behalf of their club. Eventually, at parties staged behind heavily armed security, he meets legendary club members such as Chuck Zito, Johnny Angel, and the godfather of all bikers, Ralph "Sonny" Barger. To blend in with them, he gets full-arm ink; to win their respect, he vows to prove himself a stone-cold killer. Hardest of all is leading a double life, which has him torn between his devotion to his wife and children, and his pledge to become the first federal agent ever to be "fully patched" into the Angels' near-impregnable ranks. His act is so convincing that he comes within a hairsbreadth of losing himself. Eventually, he realizes that just as he's been infiltrating the Hells Angels, they've been infiltrating him. And just as they're not all bad, he's not all good. Reminiscent of Donnie Brasco's uncovering of the true Mafia, this is an eye-opening portrait of the world of bikers--the most in-depth since Hunter Thompson's seminal work--one that fully describes the seductive lure criminal camaraderie has for men who would otherwise be powerless outsiders. Here is all the nihilism, hate, and intimidation, but also the freedom--and, yes, brotherhood--of the only truly American form of organized crime.

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Customer Reviews

In this white-knuckler, ATF agent Dobyns infiltrates a chapter of the Hells Angels to show that, aside from much of the romance surrounding the group, it is indeed a violent gang. His investigations lead him through a fascinating cast of crystal meth-heads, gun runners, gang rapists and frauds. Dobyns and co-writer Johnson-Shelton tell a bracing story in straightforward prose that doesn't dilute any aspect of the toll his undercover act (a sprawling long-term investigation that penetrated deeper into the gang than any other) took on his life. A family guy who frequently finds himself taking calls from his worried wife while in the middle of an operation, Dobyns is brutally honest about how far his assignment takes him into the dark side and leaves the impression at the end that it's highly unlikely he will ever be able to totally return to undercover work (Hunter S. Thompson was beaten up while writing his 1967 take on the gang in *Hell's Angels*). From the medieval desert clan gatherings to breakneck-paced highway odysseys and high-noon showdowns, this is the real deal from an agent whose knack for the job and ability to transform it into elucidating reading recalls the story of Joe Pistone, aka Donnie Brasco. (Feb.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Preloaded Digital Audio Player edition.

This story of a two-year undercover investigation of the Arizona Hells Angels begins at the end and then backs up to tell the whole story. Dobyns, an officer with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, developed an addiction for the adrenaline rush after being shot and nearly killed during an arrest. In a harrowing first-person account, Dobyns describes his double life as family man and gun trader during the two years he spent undercover investigating the Hells Angels motorcycle gang. As he advanced within the club, eventually earning a "full patch," he became more estranged from his family and more enmeshed in the violence of his persona, "Bird." Feared and respected, the Angels were granted free drinks, sex, and drugs but held to a high level of conformity within the club. Dobyns details the "time, commitment, trust, risk, and money" it took for the ATF to penetrate a highly closed group

populated by violent felons—some, like him, with families and day jobs. A fascinating look at the Hells Angels and the price one man paid for infiltrating the gang. --Vanessa Bush --This text refers to the Preloaded Digital Audio Player edition.

Third undercover MC book that I've read. I'm about half way through and it is taking longer than the other two (Under and Alone: The True Story of the Undercover Agent Who Infiltrated America's Most Violent Outlaw Motorcycle Gang & Vagos, Mongols, and Outlaws: My Infiltration of America's Deadliest Biker Gangs). It's not as well written as the other two, but I've read worse.

Jay Dobyns wrote a very open, honest and sincere account of life in law enforcement and in the true, selfless manner I have experienced while working as a major crimes detective, he demonstrated his love for our country and his community by making deeply personal life-long sacrifices making this case. It was detailed enough that I believe the criminal justice system clearly failed our country yet again by not aggressively prosecuted all involved suspects, yet succinct enough for me to read in one sitting. Outstanding work by Jay Dobyns!

My Review:I'm not a big non-fiction reader just because I tend to get bored with it and don't finish the books, no matter how well they are written. This was not that type of book. I read this book for research since the next book I plan to write delves into the undercover motorcycle club world. But I found myself completely riveted by "Bird's" account of this undercover operation, Black Biscuit, which consumed two years of his life and had a hard time putting this book down. This book is an account of this two year operation. For the most part, the book felt very honest. Jay is right up front saying when and where he screwed up and there at the end of this operation that happened a lot as Jay lost sight of himself. To Bird (Jay's MC name), everything about the operation would fall into place once he and his boys became full Hell's Angels and he became obsessed with that happening...to the detriment of his goals, his physical condition, his wife, his kids, and his boss. And he states that very clearly in the text of the book as you read, giving the reader a bit of foreshadowing throughout with leading sentences so you know that things are about to go to a bad place. Overall, the operation was not a success. A few guys got a little bit of jail time, but with the depth of crimes being allegedly committed by these guys, even Jay admits, it was a failure. But the book does give a great view into the world of the Hell's Angels and the protocols for the motorcycle clubs. But it gave an even better view of the price that undercovers pay to help keep us safe. It's hard, dangerous, dirty work with long hours and so much stress. Jay was undercover for two years

and readily admits that he lost the good part of himself during that time to "Bird", his undercover persona. Before that time, Jay wasn't even really a motorcycle rider (and he wasn't one after the fact, either), but he became obsessed during that time with the club and the lifestyle. He could have so easily lost everything and at that point in time, he would have been okay with that. The book is hard to read in that respect because you can feel his regret and remorse for those he hurt along the way. I feel for his wife and kids. I can't imagine living like that and watching your husband become this stranger that you only get to see for moments and not knowing from one day to the next if he's even alive or dead. I've always respected what these guys do for a living, but even more so after reading this book. Keeping our country safe is not an easy thing to do and there are guys out there doing what Jay Dobyms did every day. He paid a high price with very little outcome for two years worth of work. I can't imagine how difficult that is to face. But I appreciate him so much for writing this book. It's a great testament and record of what he and his whole team did during that time.

UC work is an interesting profession and in this case more of lifestyle. Jay / Bird had to sacrifice and commit and did so with a passion. I was disappointed with the end results. Not the agents or the operation but the entities behind them. I won't drop any spoilers but after such commitment from all the people on the front lines it's too bad. The UC's should have done a mud check on the higher ups.

Excellent read. Gives you a whole new outlook on what it takes to be an undercover operative in law enforcement in order to do the right things. The sacrifice they have to go through personally and their families is and can be devastating. Jay Dobyms is a heroic and brave man. I personally have a mutual friend of his and know of his story.

This book kept my attention and was a fairly fast read. I appreciate the fact that Dobyms didn't write his version of these events in a way that is meant to make the reader think he is super-cop or never made mistakes. However, as with any book, the events are written from the author's perspective...in this case, from the perspective of an undercover cop, not a biker. I take issue with the statement on the cover, "My Harrowing Undercover Journey to the Inner Circle of the Hells Angels". I wouldn't say he was anywhere near the "inner circle" of the Hells Angels, but if the events he described are accurate, then he gained the trust of 2 or 3 chapters. But like I said, without him being a full-patch member, I don't think (IMHO) that he truly infiltrated the club leadership, so that statement is a bit misleading. Overall an entertaining and fast-paced read. I found myself laughing out loud a few

places, so I have to admit I truly enjoyed it and would recommend this book.

True story from a true warrior. Gives you an inside look from an undercover agent's life, his trials both with the bad guys and the bureaucrats he has to deal with in order to do his job. Both of which add stress to an undercover agent's life.

I enjoyed reading this book. It was interesting to hear about how it was from the undercover agent's side. It's scary to hear about how much criminal behavior happens within some of these 1% motorcycle groups. I can see how they fight and that's scary but the worst, as a woman, was the disrespect towards woman, including the gang rapes, etc.

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