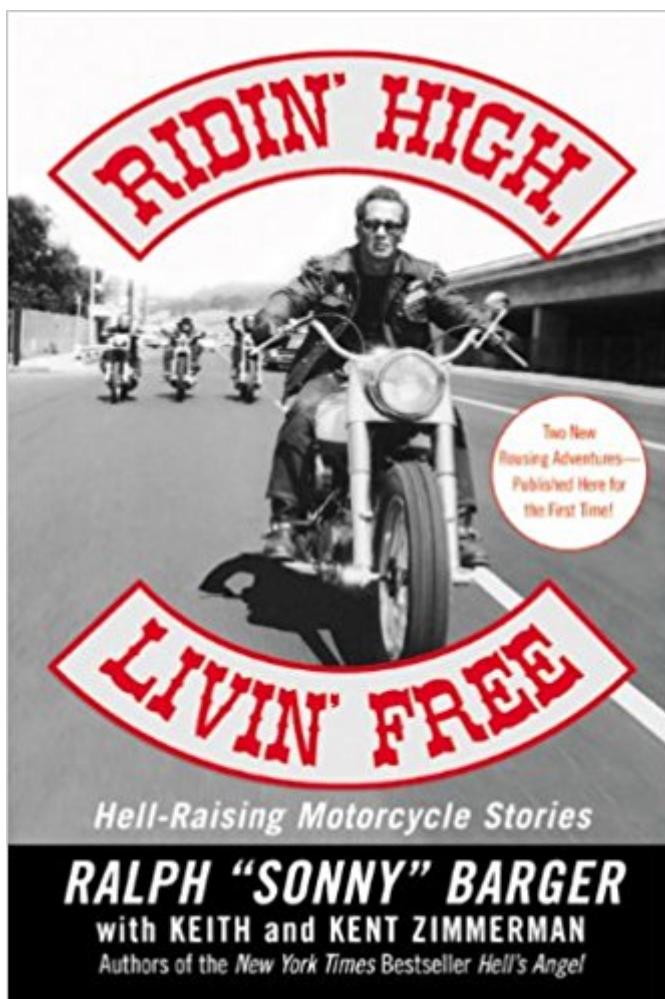


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Ridin' High, Livin' Free: Hell-Raising Motorcycle Stories



Synopsis

An angel spreads his wings. . . . Sonny Barger is the number-one spokesman for the motorcycle experience. His New York Times bestseller, Hell's Angel, was an exhilarating history of his adventures with the world's most notorious motorcycle club. Now he brings us rousing, moving, and wildly entertaining true stories of his renegade brothers and sisters in the relentless pursuit of liberty, individuality, and the "ultimate ride." And what stories he has to tell -- freewheeling, bare-knuckle tales of brawls and battles, brotherhood, breathtaking adventures, crazy quests, and the inevitable classic scrapes with "John Law." The most colorful legends and unforgettable characters of biker lore come alive in this book. In addition, celebrities like Steve McQueen, Johnny Paycheck, and David Crosby thunder through these pages in a sensational collection of rebel tales that runs the gamut from poignant and inspiring to thrilling and utterly outrageous. Whether you ride, have never ridden, or dream of riding, Ridin' High, Livin' Free is a reading experience you won't soon forget -- a fascinating glimpse into a unique culture of freedom that recognizes only one commandment: the code of the road.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The latest literary effort from Hell's Angels chieftain Barger is "a collection of true stories, modern myths, and biker tales" submitted to him by other bikers. As such, few of them actually involve the legendary Barger. Barger selected and rewrote the stories himself (with help from the Zimmermans). He concedes that some are true while others are apocryphal, and it's up to the reader to decide which is which. Depicting fairly unspectacular hell-raisers including characters like

DOA, Loaded Linda, Freewheelin' Freddy and One-Armed Paul most of the 38 tales are too uneventful to be mistaken for myth, leaving one to wonder if Barger is holding back the good stuff or whether he used up most of it in his earlier memoir, Hell's Angel. Some of the stories are engaging and even informative, such as the profile of an African-American motorcycle club and the piece detailing singer David Crosby's biker connections. But most meander toward abrupt endings, closing with a trite moral or clunky shoutout to the story's principal character. Barger illustrates a kinder, gentler rider; his characters are certainly not above wreaking a little havoc, but they're also quick to help a fallen biker or spread the word of God. The book works best when describing the simple pleasure of cruising through the American landscape at sunrise. Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

The sequel to Hell's Angel (2000) is a little less fresh, perhaps, but biker buffs will still find it the true stuff. Barger expounds on legal contretemps, lifestyle options ("always gas up the night before"), and singular persons he has known, his assessments and descriptions of which are priceless. Steve McQueen and David Crosby share the bill with the likes of "virtually deaf" Loaded Linda, whose favorite sound as a teen was "the roar of a pair of Harley-Davidson straight pipes" and who, no longer "the notorious biker chick," is "settled down and doing really well these days." That settling down and doing well gets to be a theme here. Most of Barger's most memorable characters--provided they are still alive--have settled down and become nominally respectable citizens. Sure, a lot of them went to jail for a while, but Sonny wants you to know that bikers are people, too. Don't ask for too many specifics about the past, and there won't be any trouble. Mike TribbyCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Great book

Great Read. I'm not much of a reader but I could not put it down! I highly recommend this to anyone who wants a peek into the biker lifestyle

You would not expect a rogue motorcycle gang leader like Sonny to write so amusingly. So drop your prejudiced stereotypes

Throughout the book, Sonny talks about one of the Oakland Chapters members, who he refers to

as Cincinnati. Now, whether this person is himself or not, I think that this person has imbibed in way too many foreign substances. There's multiple stories of running around and talking to ghosts, taking ghosts for rides on their motorcycles, then hooking the ghost up with ol' ladies in the ghost world, etc. There were other typical Sonny Barger hidden slams about other clubs selling their old ladies in houses of ill repute, when in reality, it's much more believable were it to have been a confession. Either way, I really like the quote from Freewheelin Frank in his own book (a 60's paperback, now out of print) where he Quotes Sonny as saying: "When I make money from the patches on my back, I will no longer be a Hell's Angel". Bravo. And to think, ghosts riding on your motorcycle, eh?

Good biography about Ralph Sonny Barger told first hand. Good reading that will give you an idea about how the other half of the 1%'s live.

So its a work of fiction, mostly. Some of MY motorcycle stories are better... At least he is makin money legit. The paper quality is as cheap as one can make and still call it a book. More a collection of short stories, most don't even involve "Sonny". Can't find a reason to rate it better but (if you are into motorcycle fiction) can't really rate it worse.

This will mark my second book I have read by Sonny Barger in the last 6 months. I really enjoyed this one almost as much as the last one. What really got me hooked were the stories from different areas, different times and different people. It flowed real well. Made me want to ride that much more. Being deployed in Afghanistan, you have to do something to keep your mind off of the things. Riding is one of the things I love to do most when I am not with my family.

arrived exactly as described will definitely by from this seller again

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