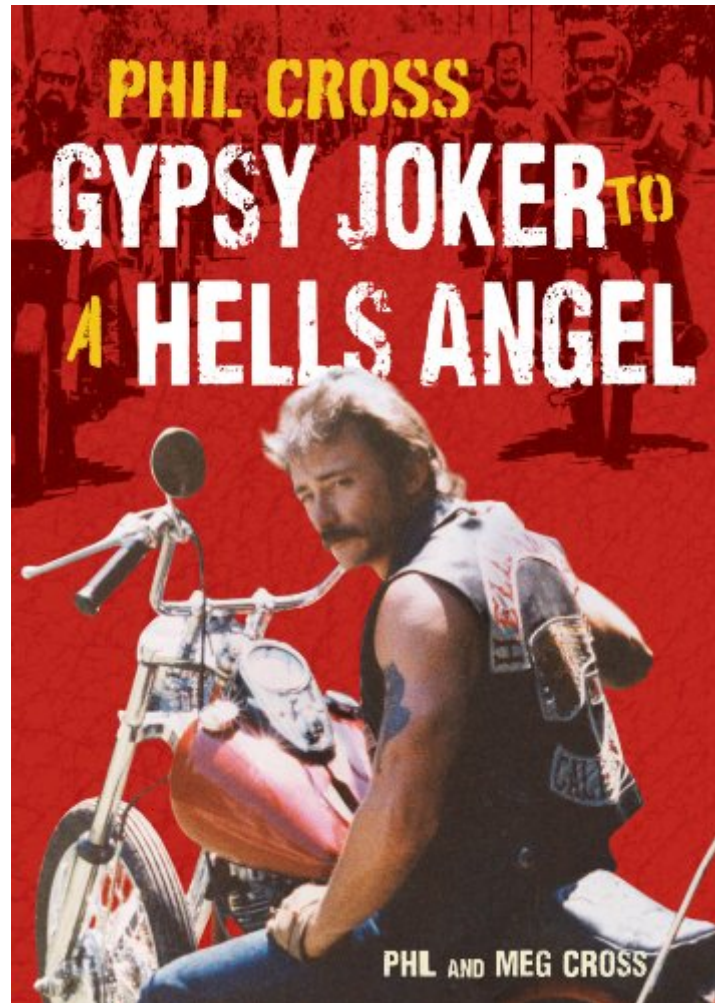


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Phil Cross: Gypsy Joker To A Hells Angel: From A Joker To An Angel



Synopsis

"Phil's new book *Gypsy Joker To A Hells Angel* is based on 44 years as a Hells Angel. Photos & stories are a must read for all motorcycle riders" - Sonny Barger

In the early 1960s, a young Navy vet, motorcyclist, amateur photographer, and rebel named Phil Cross joined a motorcycle club called the Hells Angels. It turned out to be a bogus chapter of the club that would soon find infamy, so he switched to another club called the Night Riders. Like the bogus chapter of the Hells Angels, this turned out to be a club whose brotherhood was run by a man Mr. Cross describes as "a complete asshole."

One day, Mr. Cross stuffed the leader in a ringer-type washing machine and joined a club called the Gypsy Jokers. He started a San Jose chapter of the Jokers and embarked on the most action-packed years of his life. The Jokers were in the midst of a shooting war with the real Hells Angels. The fighting became so intense that the Jokers posted snipers atop their clubhouse. This was a rough time, but it was also the height of the free-love hippie era, and as a young man, Phil enjoyed himself to the fullest. He never let anything as minor as a little jail time stop his fun. Once, while serving time for fighting and fleeing an officer, Phil broke out of jail, entered his bike in a bike show, won the bike show, and broke back into jail before anyone discovered he was missing. Though Phil was tough "he was a certified martial arts instructor" the Angels proved a tough foe. After multiple beating-induced emergency room visits, Mr. Cross decided that if you can't beat 'em, join 'em, so he and most of his club brothers patched over to become the San Jose chapter of the Hells Angels.

This book chronicles the life and wild times of Mr. Cross in words and photos.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I am a sucker for any book about outlaw motorcycle club culture and the individuals who roam within them. As a blue blooded 81 supporter, I definitely gravitate towards books about Hells Angels; whether it's Sonny or Chuck's autobiographies, Hunter Thompson's gonzo trials and tribulations within the club in the 60s, Freewheelin' Frank's bizarre tome about the MC, or the dozens of so-called true-crime books written by 'experts' about infiltrating the club, the canadian MC wars, or whatever they can whip up to cash in on the biker culture... I read it all. Outlaws, Pagans, Bandidos, Satans Choice, whatever... I read em all. So it was obvious that when the book "Phil Cross: Gypsy Joker to a Hells Angel" came out I'd be the first in line to grab it. On every level, this book is an absolute must have, no matter where your so-called club allegiances lie. Every aspect of this book is perfection. The hardcover version is slightly oversized with an incredible full color dust jacket that pulls your eyes right out of your head. And as MC culture evolves (or devolves, depending on who you ask) it's always refreshing to grab a book written by one of the old school players. Phil Cross is one such player. Phil Cross is one tough bastard. In the military he got into loads of trouble thanks to his willingness to let his fists do the talking. After the military he got heavily involved in west coast MC culture in the 60s, still taking care of business with those fists. As a Gypsy Joker he had his fair share of scrapes with the Hells Angels, eventually being patched over. From there, the rest is history. Phil's writing style is remarkably succinct. With the help of copious amounts of images, Phil lets us in on some of his many adventures, but without over-doing it with flowery elaboration.

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