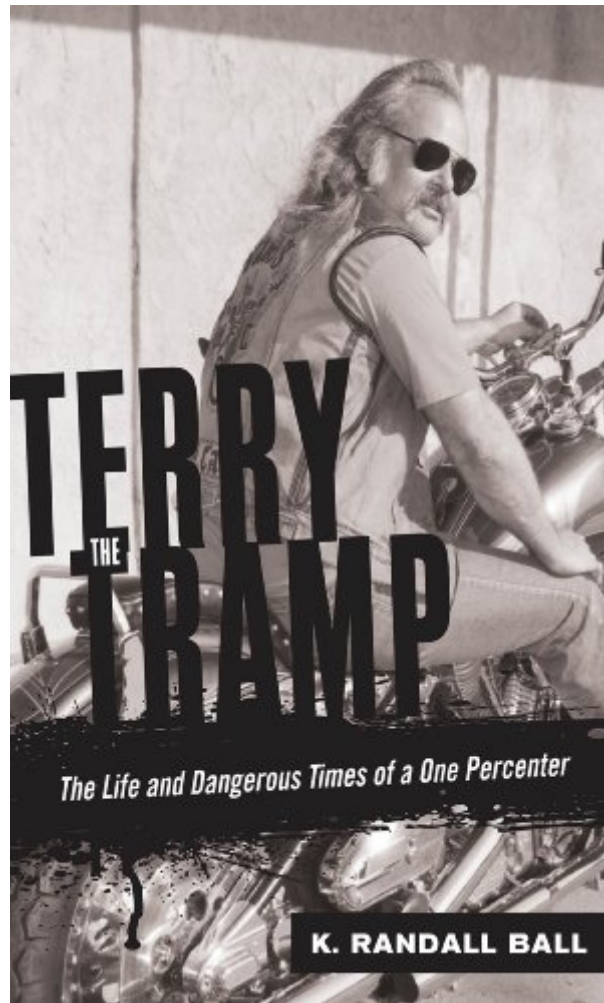


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Terry The Tramp: The Life And Dangerous Times Of A One Percenter



Synopsis

Some folks find their way to the bright white side of the tracks, but there's a small percentage who run through the dark alleys of life. Even a smaller portion of those survive. Terry the Tramp, born in 1947 to a broken middle-class home in Alhambra, California, grew up with a violent chip on his shoulder. Terry became the international president of one of the most notorious one-percenter motorcycle clubs in southern California, the Vagos MC, and remained in office through upheaval, indictments, drugs, and gang wars for 26 years, until he was unceremoniously extricated. He is still a member after 42 years and never went to prison until 2010. This book takes the reader on a turbulent ride through Terry's notorious life, each page sizzling with violent tales wrapped in a razor-sharp edge. Through it all, we come to learn what propelled this stout, unassuming man into a leadership role lasting over two decades.

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Customer Reviews

The name Terry the Tramp as made famous by John Terrance Tracy, an original member of Hellbent For Glory MC in Sacramento, CA who transferred to the Hells Angels MC in Oakland, CA along with the rest of Hellbent For Glory. He was made famous by Hunter S. Thompson in the book

Hell's Angels: The Strange and Terrible Saga Of The Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs. He became even more famous for his major role in the B grade biker film Hell's Angels 69'. This book seems like a play off that name and attempt to boost sales by creating the assumption that the book is actually about John "Terry the Tramp" Tracy, which I and several others thought the book was about, who is a well known character also mentioned in Sonny Barger's book. IT IS NOT. If you're interested in the Vagos MC and the outlaw/1% culture you might find this book interesting however there are other books out there that explore the MC culture in much better ways.

I've had an interest in motorcycle gangs for a few years now... interested in what makes them tick, why these loners and misfits come together in a good ol' boys club. This book had some interesting background about Terry the Tramp and how he rose to become the president of "Green Nation". From what I've read before this, however, Terry took a pretty hard fall from the Vagos leadership under some pretty shady circumstances. That said, I thought the book was informative... although the author patted his subject's back pretty damn hard. Poor Terry must've been bruised.

Most 1%'er Motorcycle Club books are written by law enforcement types who have infiltrated clubs in order to make arrests and take those criminals down, by God! Other 1%'er books are written by club insiders by themselves with the help of a ghost writer. Terry The Tramp: The Life and Dangerous Times of a One Percenter falls into the latter with a twist. This 1%'er book is crafted by none other than all around motorcycle expert K. Randall Ball, otherwise known as Bandit of Bikernet.com. The preface alone is worth the price of admission and tells the history of the modern motorcycle industry that began after WW2 and its effect on society. Ball chronicles the story of Terry "The Tramp" Orendorf and the Vagos Motorcycle Club in a gripping and realistic manner. Terry the Tramp is a great rollercoaster ride of a book based on the true life adventures of Terry Orendorf of the Vagos M/C as told to someone who lived the life and also survived the ride.

Terry the Tramp: The Life and Dangerous Times of a One Percenter takes the reader on a stroll down memory lane... back to where the Biker culture began, racing forward, slowing only briefly, at important places and events in time, only to downshift, grab another handful of throttle and race forward toward the next topic. Terry the Tramp: The Life and Dangerous Times of a One Percenter, through author K. Randall Ball, is surprisingly relatable. When I first cracked open the cover, I could hardly put it down. Informative, yet not "wordy", I finished it in two sittings.

When I had initially ordered this book, I thought that it was going to be about Terry the Tramp, the charismatic Hells Angel who was quite popular during the 1960's in San Francisco. Imagine my surprise when I realized my mistake! However, I read the book anyway; K. Randall Ball has written several books about bikers and/or the biker culture, so I was familiar with him. The story of Terry's life is interesting and the author (as well as the subject, I'm sure) tried to convey a man who, although "bad", tried to keep his integrity and honesty throughout his life, not only for himself but for his club. Ball is a basic kind of writer and while the story was interesting, there wasn't much more to it; no great insight or revelations to let you see more deeply into Terry's heart, mind and soul.

Thanks for finally writing a book that holds my attention.. Not an easy thing to do. As a child I lived with my Father in the same complex as Terry and I am friends with his son to this day.. For someone to come from such a hard life, Terry sure turned out to be a better man than most others would have...or did. I am not a biker I live a pretty quiet life.. I bought this book because of my history with Terry & his son.. But you don't have to have any knowledge of this family or club to enjoy the crazy ride this book takes you on..

I enjoyed this book, but finished a bit let down--- I expected more because of the author's background, but then again, precisely because of that, I SHOULD have expected exactly what was there... Confused? Keith "Bandit" Ball was the editor and frequent writer for EASYRIDERS magazine in the 70's--- my favorite mag at the time (can't stand it now) He made that mag extremely entertaining, mostly because he really lived the life he wrote about--- he built bike after bike, from show worthy customs to far out RATS (the rats were way cool). He also held a patch in the Hells Angels MC for a period of time so he's no outsider to the one percenter lifestyle... Which is why, methinks, this book is a bit (or a lot) whitewashed--- the real criminal stuff is glossed over, never really detailed. In other "true" biker expose' books, the author goes way out of their way to make outlaws look as bad as possible, including outright lying... the opposite is the case here and it makes the book kinda...milktoasty...just an opinion.

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