



Vagos, Mongols, and Outlaws: My Infiltration of America's Deadliest Biker Gangs

Charles Falco , Kerrie Droban

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History Channel miniseries!

The gripping account from an ex-con who went undercover to help the ATF infiltrate three of America's most violent biker gangs

Despite lacking any experience with motorcycle gangs, Charles Falco infiltrated three of America's deadliest biker gangs: the Vagos, Mongols, and Outlaws. In separate investigations that spanned years and coasts, Falco risked his life, suffering a fractured neck and a severely torn shoulder, working deep under cover to bring violent sociopaths to justice.

His dedication was profound; Falco spent almost three years infiltrating the Vagos gang and rose to second in command of the Victorville, California chapter. He even served time in San Bernardino's Murder Unit and endured solitary confinement to protect his cover and the investigations. Falco recorded confessions of gangland-style killings and nearly became a target himself before he sought refuge in the Witness Protection Program. But discontent to remain on the sidelines and motivated by a strong sense of duty, Falco eventually left the Program and volunteer his talents again to infiltrate the Mongols and Outlaws, rising in rank to Vice President of the Petersburg, Virginia Outlaws chapter.

His efforts culminated in sixty two arrests of members for various crimes, including assault and murder. Executing one of this country's most successful RICO prosecutions and effectively crippling the criminal enterprise, Falco's engrossing narrative of the dangers of the biker underworld harkens back to Hunter S. Thompson's classic *Hell's Angels*, vividly recounting a life undercover.

Vagos, Mongols, and Outlaws: My Infiltration of America's Deadliest Biker Gangs Details

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From Reader Review Vagos, Mongols, and Outlaws: My Infiltration of America's Deadliest Biker Gangs for online ebook

Pamela says

This is a gritty read and not for the faint of heart. Any woman that believes that outlaw motorcycle clubs are like those portrayed by romance writers should read this for a reality check.

Chris says

Once again I enjoyed the TV version of this story a lot better.

Harris says

This was something of a mixed bag. On the one hand, I'm fascinated by outlaw MCs and I love reading about them - especially with the contrast between the reality of the gangs versus the decidedly romanticized life of the Sons of Anarchy and the hyped-up versions from movies.

On the other hand, this was written *really* badly. It feels like an "and then..." story, with no real organization or arc. Every event just happens, without much of an impact. It doesn't help that Charles seems to elide over the personalities and interactions with just about everybody he comes in contact with over the course of his time with The Vagos and the Outlaws. I never once get the feeling for the personalities of *anyone* besides Charles, which makes it difficult to really relate to his time or to feel any sense of menace or threat from any of the people he informs on. The closest we get to a real feel for anyone was Claw, who seems more like a cartoon or a character than a person.

I'm not saying that these stories need to conform to the bounds of fiction, with well-rounded characters and complete narrative arcs, just that there's nothing here for me as a reader to latch onto. One of the things that I appreciated about Outlaws and No Angel (books that cover similar ground) was that I had a much better feel for everyone involved - I could understand **why** people would get caught up in the brotherhood of the MC and be willing to fight, even murder, for the club. With Vagos, Mongols and Outlaws, it just felt like a series of interconnected anecdotes that weren't nearly as fascinating as the teller thought they'd be and ultimately went nowhere.

Maureen Hager says

A fascinating look into outlaw biker gangs.

Jim says

A decent, though possibly self-serving, account of an informant who penetrated motorcycle gangs. Although the story was fine, it really lacked in detail it seemed. Of course, people who can do this are a special breed, especially cops and federal agents, who risk not only their lives but often their families as well. With all the paranoia that bikers exhibit, it is amazing not more of these guys/gals aren't revealed. I wondered why more screening and attention was made to catching individuals that penetrate law enforcement, as well as traitors.

Maria says

Interesting subject matter suffers as a result of poor writing

Interesting subject matter but too poorly written to finish. The writing was repetitive in instances when completely unnecessary and even evident in poor paragraph composition where the same two adjectives would be used over and over again within a couple of sentences of each other. There was also a lack of description which would have been welcomed for added interest and clarity's sake due to the vast array of characters to keep straight. At times someone new would pop into the narrative with no explanation as to how they fit into the current situation being recounted let alone the bigger picture of the criminal organization. Didn't even make it through his time with the Vagos before getting fed up.

Cheryl says

I have recently found myself gravitating more towards non fiction novels. Thus the reason that I picked up this book to read it. In addition, that I like to read about subject matters that sound appealing to me, true crimes, and events that I am not familiar with.

First off let me just comment and state that the things that Mr. Falco went through while undercover in these bike gangs is wicked crazy. I can not imagine how desperate you have to be to volunteer to do this type of job. Someone who does this does has to be a little crazy. I mean from what I read in this book about the Vagos, they are one nasty bike gang. As I am sure that with most gangs they probably treat the women the same way. However to actually read about the way the women were treated did make me sick to my stomach. This is even without all of the gory details.

All I could think about how Mr. Falco must have felt day in and day out not knowing if his cover would be blown or he would survive to live another day. It must be like holding a grenade in your hand and pulling the pin and playing chicken.

I am not familiar with any of the bike gangs mentioned in this book other then the Outlaws by name only. My only criticism with this book was that the first about sixteen chapters was focused on the Vagos. The last half of the book felt rushed with the telling of how Mr. Falco helped bring down the Mongols and Outlaws. If you ever wanted to know what it was like to be in a bike gang without actually joining one, then you should check this book out.

Dawn says

I didn't realize, until I read this book, that members of the Vagos MC work as extras on the TV show "Sons of Anarchy." This book is far more realistic than the books written by Sonny Barger.

Hope says

Book Challenge Category: Book By An Author Who Uses A Pseudonym

I am counting this as a book by an author who uses a pseudonym because it is a memoir of an undercover informant. Through the course of the book, he infiltrates two motorcycle gangs-- discussing the culture of violence and criminal behavior. It was interesting to hear him reflect on the psychology of adopting the persona of a biker gang member-- the way in which he started to "become" his character and his sense of disconnect. Parts were disturbing to read-- especially the violence and disregard for the women. This book definitely paints these groups in less endearing terms than fictional accounts in popular culture (e.g., Sons of Anarchy). Like many memoirs with co-authors, this book is not particularly well-written, but certainly cohesive and coherent.

Sean Kelly says

I enjoyed the story and was also horrified (perhaps showing my ignorance) that there are actually people who live unabashedly criminal lives as do many of the bikers Falco describes. One of the most interesting aspects of this true crime autobiography is that Falco, a convicted drug trafficker, chooses to infiltrate one biker gang (the Vagos) then after helping the ATF make arrests, he chooses to forego witness protection to infiltrate ANOTHER biker gang (the Outlaws). The danger associated with these assignments is (or should be) pretty obvious, but despite some style flaws, there is no question Falco relates the depravity and complete lack of conscience in prominent members of both gangs.

What also became apparent is that many of the efforts of law enforcement agencies and lives risked by UC agents must yield frustrating results in numerous cases, due to the vagaries of the justice system, plea bargains, and technicalities on which many of the criminals get their sentences drastically reduced or commuted altogether.

Anyone interested in true crime and the page-turning suspense attached to undercover work will likely enjoy this read.

Greg says

Bad hombres

Omar Cienfuegos says

2.5 stars. I find it morally reprehensible that anybody would snitch, and then just keep snitching just for

money and/or the thrill??? While putting ur whole family in danger?? Ok bro. Get a life. Either everything ur saying is a lie, or ur new family doesn't mean shit to u. The very first story he tells sounds like the biggest lie ever. It just sounds like bullshit to me. His dog Hercules isn't even a real priority

Royce Ratterman says

Having family connections, former friends and coworkers involved with, and employment exposure to this realm of 'club' activities and personnel, I found this work of interest. The book is captivating, and I even laughed from time to time. Read for personal research and pleasure.

I found this book's contents helpful and inspiring - number rating relates to the book's contribution to my needs.

Overall, this work is also a good resource for the researcher and enthusiast.

P.e. lolo says

This book is about a man named Charles Falco who was arrested on drug charges. So the government comes up with a deal to keep him out of prison and that is to become an undercover informant into the Vagos motorcycle biker gang. Never being an informant he did not want to do it at first, but at looking at over 20 years in a federal prison he also figured he had nothing to lose. Not knowing how to ride or even how to get into the gang he must find a way in. the San Bernardino county DA'S office and sheriff's department were looking at making some type of dent into the Vagos, for the area they controlled from Victorville, to chapters all the way into Death Valley is a huge amount of land. There are so many little areas that most people don't even know about them. Having grown up in the area that is what first led me to this book. Knowing the areas that he was talking about was useful when he was describing his story. Parts of the with the Vagos you really get the feel of what he was going through especially when he was arrested and stayed in jail and prison in order to fulfill his role as the undercover. You also get his fear at times with both being left alone by the gang and by the law enforcement agency that wanted him to go undercover in the first place. The first part of the book was good and the second part when he goes into witness protection and then decides to work for money as a C.I. to infiltrate the Outlaws from the East Coast who are just as violent. You are taken through his depression and loneliness and his new marriage as well. That part of the story seemed a little jumbled and not as solid as the first half of the book. Overall not a bad book. I gave this book 4 stars. Follow us at www.1rad-readerreviews.com

Randy says

this book really lost momentum in the middle. the first 50 pages were great and i was stoked, but it became just very repetitive and not all that interesting. 2.5 stars.
