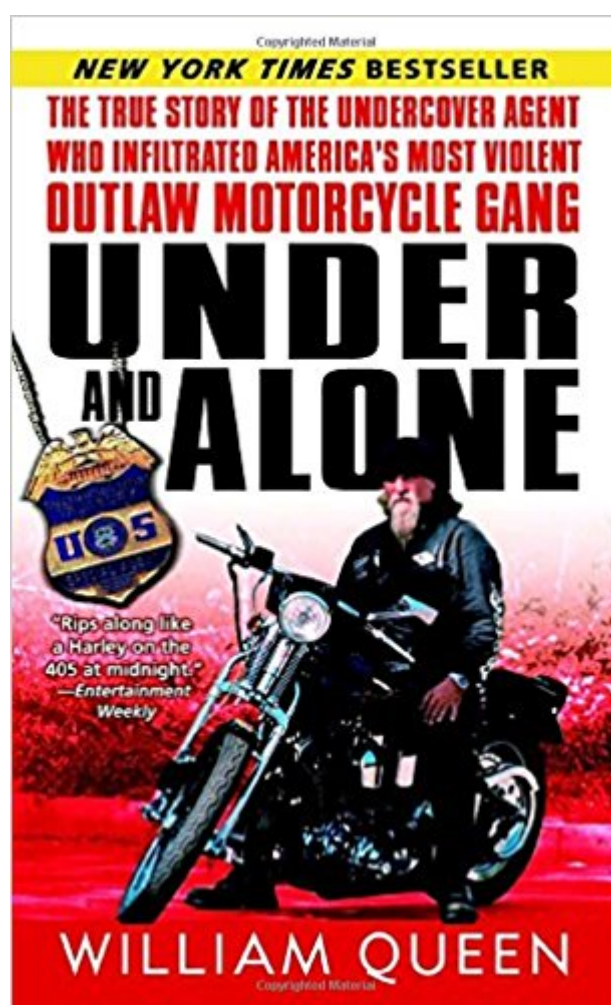


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Under And Alone: The True Story Of The Undercover Agent Who Infiltrated America's Most Violent Outlaw Motorcycle Gang



Synopsis

In 1998, William Queen was a veteran law enforcement agent with a lifelong love of motorcycles and a lack of patience with paperwork. When a confidential informant made contact with his boss at the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, offering to take an agent inside the San Fernando chapter of the Mongols (the scourge of Southern California, and one of the most dangerous gangs in America), Queen jumped at the chance, not realizing that he was kicking-starting the most extensive undercover operation inside an outlaw motorcycle gang in the history of American law enforcement. Nor did Queen suspect that he would penetrate the gang so successfully that he would become a fully patched-in member, eventually rising through their ranks to the office of treasurer, where he had unprecedented access to evidence of their criminal activity. After Queen spent twenty-eight months as Billy St. John, the bearded, beer-swilling, Harley-riding gang-banger, the truth of his identity became blurry, even to himself. During his initial prospecting phase, Queen was at the mercy of crank-fueled criminal psychopaths who sought to have him test his mettle and prove his fealty by any means necessary, from selling (and doing) drugs, to arms trafficking, stealing motorcycles, driving getaway cars, and, in one shocking instance, stitching up the face of a Mongol lady after a particularly brutal beating at the hands of her boyfriend. Yet despite the constant criminality of the gang, for whom planning cop killings and gang rapes were business as usual, Queen also came to see the genuine camaraderie they shared. When his lengthy undercover work totally isolated Queen from family, his friends, and ATF colleagues, the Mongols felt like the only family he had left. He had no doubt these guys genuinely loved Billy St. John and would have laid down their lives for him. But they wouldn't hesitate to murder Billy Queen. From Queen's first sleight of hand with a line of methamphetamine in front of him and a knife at his throat, to the fearsome face-off with their decades-old enemy, the Hell's Angels (a brawl that left three bikers dead), to the heartbreaking scene of a father ostracized at Parents' Night because his deranged-outlaw appearance precluded any interaction with regular citizens, *Under and Alone* is a breathless, adrenaline-charged read that puts you on the street with some of the most dangerous men in America and with the law enforcement agents who risk everything to bring them in. From the Hardcover edition.

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Customer Reviews

Starred Review. This harrowing, turbocharged account of undercover life is reminiscent of Joseph D. Pistone's *Donnie Brasco*. After military service in Vietnam, Queen began his law enforcement career, eventually spending 20 years as an ATF special agent. In 1998, through contact with a "confidential informant," he began to hang with the Mongol Nation, a violent Southern California motorcycle club ("a tight-knit collective of crazies, unpredictable and unrepentant badasses") with 20 chapters in several states and 350 members both in and out of prison. Assuming the role of bearded biker "Billy St. John," Queen entered into a 28-month undercover operation. To gather evidence of homicide, weapons and narcotics violations, he sometimes wore a wire, knowing that its discovery could lead to his murder. Indeed, he was suspected at first of being a cop and forced to prove himself in more than a few dangerous situations. But after months of hazing, he became a trusted member. Queen steers clear of melodrama and captures both sides of his double life; the sadistic characters and criminal camaraderie are contrasted with his own inner turmoil, as he thought of the Mongols as his friends while the investigation escalated. The strength and white-hot intensity of the writing make this read like a movie, and Hollywood is certain to take note. 16 pages of b&w photos not seen by PW. (On sale Apr. 5) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Queen risked his life when he joined the Mongols as bearded biker Billy St. John. His adventures with one of America's most notorious bike gangs, where he explains "murder and mayhem have become simply a lifestyle choice," resulted in the convictions of more than 50 Mongols and earned him an impressive cache of awards. More important, after harrowing trials that included

selling drugs to driving getaway cars, Queen lived to tell all about it. Queen recounts these two years with a straightforward gruffness that captivated critics. His story is tight, suspenseful, and unstoppable—you know he's going to bust the men who became like brothers to him, but it's just a matter of when and how. The movie version starring Mel Gibson is slated for 2006. Copyright © 2004 Phillips & Nelson Media, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

An absolute page-turner. This is a story of criminal motorcycle gangs and how they operate. It's no surprise that their members are mired in all kinds of criminal activity, ruthless, and capable of unspeakable acts. The surprising parts are the high degree of organization of the gangs (officers, by-laws, the whole bit), and the camaraderie and loyalty among gang members who otherwise aren't really nice people. Queen's ability not only to infiltrate one of these gangs, but to rise to a high level position, is more than impressive. He had to repeatedly find ways to avoid taking drugs and committing various crimes without arousing suspicion, maintain a charade in the face of a gang who was borderline paranoid about being infiltrated by cops, rely on the ATF to set up a fake identity that would fool the gang, and give up nearly all semblance of any normal life outside of his undercover assignment. Trust me, you will enjoy this story.

This is, I believe, the best book that I have read about outlaw motorcycle clubs, and I have read many. William Queen was an ATF agent who infiltrated the vicious Mongol Motorcycle Club by becoming a full-patched Mongol. This is no mean feat, as the book very carefully and accurately explains. No other book I have read does a comparable job to this book in taking the reader inside one of these clubs (and the Mongols are arguably the worst of the group) and showing what this strange world is really all about. The author reveals that the Mongol M/C is, or at least was in the early 2000s, at its heart a criminal enterprise. According to the author the Mongol life made an orderly work life unlikely, and only a few members of the authors' chapter held regular jobs. Barfights and drugs were the order of the day. Reading this book the reader gains an appreciation for the frightful strain that an undercover agent must undergo. The author was always in danger of summary execution by the Mongols, should they discover his activities. And the ATF itself appeared unappreciative of his sacrifices, as he became isolated from the internal politics of the ATF and perhaps largely forgotten by his peers. Overall, this one is well worth reading. RJB.

This book was kind of a crazy little read. The whole time I'm thinking, no way did this happen... but

you get to the end and realize, yep it all happened! This was an intense read, I can't imagine how it would feel to be immersed in the lifestyle and not come out a totally different person. Leading a life of crime, drugs being around and then have the criminals you hang around with be the only ones to say that they care. I just don't know. This whole story has kind of boggled my brain. How scary this must have been, because really even when he was comfortable he couldn't fully relax. Two years of being on edge. That's just insane. I applaud the men and women who are doing this sort of thing all to make the rest of us safer. This book, I seriously am in awe.

I recently watched the television movie about William Queen's story of his undercover life as Billy St. John, the member in good standing with the Mongol M.C. I bought the book to see if anything was better/worse than the TV movie and surprisingly, they are both terrific examples of the sordid yet loving atmosphere of the brotherhood. I recommend this book with 5 stars to anyone with the curiosity to learn how the true 1# lives their lives. It's gut-wrenching, ugly truths run side by side with the love these brothers have for one another and the struggle of Billy vs William and how it wrecked his true family at the same time wrecking his M.C. family. An honest, gritty view of the importance of the police force and the tough demands it makes of its best members. Read this. You won't be disappointed!

I lived in the neighborhood where this took place and I'm familiar with many of the places mentioned and some of the people. I had a hard time putting the book down. I can't figure out how he was ever able to sleep at night. I was in fear just reading the book.

A compelling read right from the start. Brings awareness to the reader of a violent culture amongst all of us. Queen brings you the horror of the criminal mentality, but also shows why the culture is so strong amongst the members with his testimonials of their brotherhood.

I give mad respect to Mr Queen for risking everything to expose what was definitely something very, very wrong. I am not a biker hater at all, on the contrary most people refer to me by my nickname bequeathed upon me at 8 years old by the President of a outlaw motorcycle gang. Grouping them all together and judging them all by the actions of a few is never a good thing. But it seems like the bad actions of a few, or more than a few make the headlines while the good things that the others do goes unnoticed. I suppose it's that way with most everything though in today's society. I was riveted from start to finish with this book. I can't tell you how many nights I stayed up way late just to finish a

chapter...or just to read the next chapter, then 3 chapters later and 5 am would roll around quicker than I realized. I highly recommend this book to everyone. It is not the romanticized, rose colored glasses version of the biker lifestyle. Its real, gritty, perceptive and captivating.

Certainly worth the read. An inside look at the most ruthless biker gang in the country. I am amazed how grown men can walk thorough life with tunnel vision as to the priorities in their lives. But you cannot fault them for their loyalty to each other as well as the organization. You do not have to be a biker enthusiast to enjoy this book. I tip my hat though to Billy Queen for sticking with it and not follow the boys over the horizon into hell. I can see how his emotions were mixed in the end. I have read several books written by former and current Mongols and his stories sound much more truthful than theirs.

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