

Book Review

A Review of "Slummin, Boozin and Cheatin Death"

Craig Stoll author of the unpublished manuscript "Slummin, Boozin and Cheatin Death" a fluid on-the-road account of the 2004 Rudderville Run, claims he's not a writer. But he can sling phraseology like some men slam shots. He rides his Harley hard, writes with reckless abandon and the details of his trip from "coal town to Chi town" emerge from the paper like morning mist on wet pavement.

At first glance, it appears to be a comprehensive daily log, a journal chronicling distances traveled, roads taken, times and temperature. However, that quickly dissipates with his first reflection of a blonde babe passenger in a passing truck pressing her flesh into the wind. The story unfolds quickly, dreamlike, almost surreal, but accurate and honestly inspired.



Jay is closeup with the sideburns....Craig is riding on the bike in background

Rudderville and Craig ponders interesting possibilities as to the origins of that euphemism.

The 2004 goal was to hit every dive-ass biker bar and Harley shop between New Jersey and Chicago. Places like Smiling Moose in Pittsburg, PA. The Shingle Inn in Glouster. The Smiling Skull Saloon in Athens, OH operated by a dude named Detroit. In Chicago, the Twisted Spoke on Ogden and Exit on North. As an avid fan and aspiring aficionado of biker bars, I had to meet Craig and Jason at the Bucktown Pub in Sweet Home just to see what they were up to. We hit several more joints like the infamous Weeds on Weeds and Wise Fools Pub on Lincoln, just to make sure I had a thorough understanding of their endeavor, to taste the full flavor.

What Craig does with his writing is very unique. It's honest, to the point and from the heart. For instance, they made it a point to stop at as many Harley shops as possible to pick up dealer pins for Jason's dad. Most were great, but Craig points out the one exception



Detroit, the owner of the smiling Skull Saloon, along with Donnie, our buddy in Ohio

and includes the following epithets in one brief paragraph "douchebag, dickhead and dumbass" in describing a particularly inept, condescending salesman.

See, that's what makes Craig's writing so valuable. I wouldn't call a dealer a dumbass although I have met at least three who qualify for the triple-D appellation that Craig bequeaths them because I have to consider each dealer as a potential advertiser. It's not libelous ponderings, he's just telling it the way it went down. That is why "Slummin, Boozin and Cheatin Death" is so intriguingly real. If Craig says it's cool, you'd better believe it. And if he says it sucks, it probably does. He rides free and it shows in his verse.

This is underground writing at its finest – worthy of a review in Free Rider's

Press. The manuscript, complete with photos, may be harder to find because I'm not sure Craig wants his email address published or not. However, requests could be made through bikerbars@yahoo.com and I will forward it to Craig.

Kenn Hartmann
www.chicagobikerbars.com

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Part 2 of "The Struggle"

By Gracie (By The Grace of God M/M, Illinois)

We need to let God lead us to the truth, no matter how hard that truth is, and that requires struggle. The truth is, we don't want to see ourselves in truth, we don't want to know the reasons why, because it demands an answer, and that answer demands an action. The pseudo wall of protection we've made is hand made, imperfect, and does not protect us! It actually usurps God's protection from us, because we insist on taking things into our own hands. There are many costs we are paying to stay where we are. The truth is, that no matter what road we choose, it will deeply wound us, and will deeply cost us! It comes down to which cost are you willing to pay? God gave us the ability to choose. Of course, only God's road, has a cost that reaps eternal value in us and eventually through us! I pray that we let that revelation get us so deeply, that it drives us into repentance!!! Not just confession, but repentance that breaks us AND the bondage we find ourselves in! Praise God, that He is loving, tender, just and merciful! And let's not forget long-suffering!

Hebrews 12:1-4 "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily hinders our progress. And let us run with endurance the race that God has set before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, on whom our faith depends from start to finish. He was willing to die a shameful death on the cross because of the joy he knew would be his afterward. Now he is seated in the place of highest honor beside God's throne in heaven. Think about all he endured when sinful people did such terrible things to him, so that you don't become weary and give up. After all you have not yet given your lives (to the pointing of shedding blood) in your struggle against sin

We truly only have 2 options, we either fight or flee. If we flee, we will again, be victims of a trap we have set and built for ourselves and do not really want to be in, and the process of pain will begin again. Remember, we all must reach our bottom. If we chose to fight, we become engaged in the struggle for clarity, reaching for that point, where we get it. And the getting it, moves us to action, and action leads us to healing, deliverance and victory! So the question, we must answer is, do we flee the truth about ourselves or do we engage in the fight, the process of growth God is calling us each to?

For, we each MUST "...choose this day whom you will serve" (Joshua 24:15) 2 Corinthians 6:2 "For God says, "At just the right time, I heard you. On the day of salvation, I helped you." Indeed, God is ready to help you right now. Today is the day of salvation."

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