

M.C. I Am My Brother's Keeper Book Reviews

5-STAR – A Dark and Impressive Achievement

This is a brutal and unforgiving book, holding nothing back and not sugar-coating what is certainly an intense world of motorcycle gangs. I've never been a part of one, nor have I known anyone personally that has, but they have always fascinated me (and not just because of Sons of Anarchy). The West Coast has that rebel spirit, and Jake Coleman certainly fits in with that description. I was riveted from the start, and the fact that this is a debut book was never far from my mind, because it has the tone and timbre of a much more experienced writer. I was repeatedly impressed by McShane's ability to bring a reader into the gritty scene, painting such a vivid picture that it was almost impossible not to hear the crunch of bone and the cracking of knuckles.

I don't support the kind of violence that is so customary in those groups, but it's a different world, where loyalty and brotherhood is beyond the scope of the law, and problems have to get solved somehow, even if they're horrific. It's one of those pull back the curtain books that will fascinate you from the very first page, and the rich character development from the author makes you an accomplice, a conspirator, and a member of an MC like no other book has done before. Superbly written.

John J Staughton

5 – STAR - A Brutal and Beautiful Brotherhood

I've been a huge fan of motorcycle clubs ever since reading Hunter S. Thompson's Hell's Angels novel many years ago, and have since watched Sons of Anarchy and occasionally searched around online for more stories and anecdotes from these strange groups of "brothers". This novel was obviously on my list, therefore, and I was immediately sucked in to yet another strange and seedy world. Jake doesn't immediately strike a reader as a biker gang member, but I think the avenue he took to get in - protecting and saving a major player in Los Patrons - made him a unique figure in the biker world. He sacrificed his own safety and was repaid in kind,

just like the Patrons do - repay. Watching him move up through the biker gang, it reminded me of other stories I'd read, where the brutal reality of being in the gang is gradually revealed. It can be difficult, to say the least, but Jake didn't seem to suffer very much. He had a scale of morality in his mind, but the call of kinship and brotherly devotion was so powerful in that gang that he was able to put a filter on his conscience. The psychology of clubs, groups, and friendships is fascinating, and this in-depth and intense study of a newly risen "star" of a biker gang reveals a great deal about who we are as people, the boundaries we can be pushed to before we lose ourselves, and the ultimate prices that we pay for happiness. A riveting and painfully honest story that should not be skipped.

Veritas Vincit "Bill"

5 – STAR – More Exciting Than Sons of Anarchy

This is a fascinating book from the very first page, which opens up with an explanation of the term "1%er" and what it means to protagonist Jack Coleman. This isn't a reference to the type of "1%er" you may have heard about during the Occupy Wall Street movement, but rather to outlaw motorcycle gangs. The author explains that they stand for love, loyalty, and respect above all else. But, if you've read even so much as the book description, then you are already aware of the shocking lengths to which some of them, Coleman included, will go in order to prove their appreciation of these principles.

We are then presented with a gruesome piece of imagery dated to March 2013, followed by the story proper which begins in May 2011. So we know right off the bat that the story will span at least two years. And once it gets started, it really gets started. The action begins straight away with the fight that earns Jack Coleman entrance into the Los Patrons MC. As he earns his colors and becomes a tried and true member of the club, Coleman finds himself entrenched in a world with all the violence and daring that made Sons of Anarchy such a smash hit among fans.

But this book has something that the aforementioned TV show doesn't. Namely, while there's a great deal of drama and over-the-top violence, something about the text gives the story an air of authenticity unrivalled by

most cinematic portrayals of the biker lifestyle. This is rendered even more amazing when you consider that this is the first published work by author C.J. McShane. This may be his debut novel, but he comes across as anything but an amateur. He knows something about the world of MCs, and he knows how to write about them in an exciting and interesting way. Anyone who has an interest in this subject will certainly enjoy reading his book.

Kieran Hair

5-STAR – Hard Core and In Your Face – A Must Read

As human beings, we instinctively search for our niche, somewhere to belong. Former army sharpshooter, Jake Coleman, was at loose ends one summer night in Texas when he got on his motorcycle and drove to a biker bar where he instinctively went to the rescue of a guy getting beaten out back and sorely outnumbered, three to one. The man he saved was Diego Santiago, Vice President of the Houston-based Los Patrons motorcycle club. Suddenly, Jake has found his "niche", his brotherhood. M.C. I am My Brother's Keeper exposes the violent and bloody world of the Los Patrons, whose members have their own code of honor, thinking nothing of executing another man or loaning out their 'ole ladies' as temporary gifts, all for the sake of the exalted brotherhood. If you have an aversion to brutal violence and bloodshed, don't read this book. However, you will be missing a very good read. Put aside your moral compass and rev your hog. The author, McShane, has written a hard-core, in-your-face and utterly nauseating book that is both entertaining and provides, what I suspect, a first-hand glimpse into the tatted, cloistered and rough-and-tumble world of one motorcycle club.

Marta Tandori