



## **Gods of Mischief: My Undercover Vendetta to Take Down the Vagos Outlaw Motorcycle Gang**

*George Rowe*

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## **Gods of Mischief: My Undercover Vendetta to Take Down the Vagos Outlaw Motorcycle Gang** George Rowe

This is the high-octane, no-holds-barred, true story of a bad guy turned good who busted open one of the most violent outlaw motorcycle gangs in history. George Rowe's gritty and harrowing story offers not only a glimpse into the violent world of the motorcycle outlaw, but a gripping tale of self-sacrifice and human redemption that would be the stuff of great fiction—if it weren't all true. Rowe had been a drug dealer, crystal meth addict, barroom brawler, and convicted felon, but when he witnessed the Vagos brutally and senselessly beat his friend over a pool game, everything changed.

Rowe decided to pay back his Southern California hometown for the sins of his past by taking down the gang that was terrorizing it. He volunteered himself as an undercover informant for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives and vowed to dismantle the brotherhood from the inside out, becoming history's first private citizen to voluntarily infiltrate an outlaw motorcycle gang for the U.S. government.

As “Big George,” a full-patched member of the Vagos, Rowe spent three brutal years juggling a double life—riding, fighting, and nearly dying alongside the brothers who he secretly hoped to put away for good. During this time, Rowe also became entwined in a tumultuous relationship with a struggling addict named Jenna, never once revealing that he was actually working for the Feds. The road to redemption was not an easy ride. Rowe lost everything: his family, his business, his home—even his identity.

To this day, under protection by the U.S. government, Rowe still looks over his shoulder, keeping watch for the brothers he put behind bars. They've vowed to search for him until the day they die.

## **Gods of Mischief: My Undercover Vendetta to Take Down the Vagos Outlaw Motorcycle Gang Details**

Date : Published April 2nd 2013 by Touchstone (first published February 1st 2013)

ISBN : 9781451667349

Author : George Rowe

Format : Hardcover 352 pages

Genre : Nonfiction, Crime, True Crime



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## **From Reader Review Gods of Mischief: My Undercover Vendetta to Take Down the Vagos Outlaw Motorcycle Gang for online ebook**

### **Maureen Timerman says**

Didn't quite know what to expect from the title of this book and the verbage on the back. First it is "R" rated for Language, Sex and Violence.

My Mom used to live in Fresno CA, now I have the feeling that I was sharing the road with these people. One never knows, and Mr Rowe doesn't pull any punches, he says it just like it is!

You wonder why there are so many problems with people today, well look at these people who are raising them. The drug use is so rampant that I wanted to go and get that poor 2 year old. George is the bad guy, turn good guy? Well kind of!

We ride along with these misfits, and low lives and they really made me sick! The disregard for human life is so terrible, don't look at someone wrong. When one of George's friends, a new father to be, ends up missing forever. He finally decides he want to help clean up Hemet CA.

He enters into a very dangerous world of infiltrating the Vagos Motorcycle Gang. Being a snitch is a perilous position, but he is finally willing to put his life on the line.

Will George ever make it out alive? Does he ever clear his name with the gang and get out of the probation period? Let me say this is a good mystery, and unfortunately very true. So scary!! Once you start, there is no putting this read down!

I received this book from the Publisher Simon & Schuster, and was not required to give a positive review.

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### **Charlotte Lynn says**

George Rowe is tired of the way the motorcycle gang, the Vagos, is treating the residents of his town. He decides to do something about it and joins forces with the ATF, becoming an informant. He spends three years with the brothers of the Vagos and is ready to get out.

On top of dealing with the ATF and the gang, he also has to deal with a drug addict, pregnant fiancée, Jenna. When he tells Jenna the truth, he realizes he has lived a total lie for the last three years and has lost everything, his business, his home, his family, and even himself.

Gods of Mischief is not the typical story that I would pick up and read, but I was totally enthralled with it. George Rowe puts it all out there. He digs deep and tells exactly what being in a motorcycle gang entails, not sugar coating any of it. The life of a 1%-er is not easy but as a tough bad-ass gang member you can make it.

This is a true story told by the man who lived it. I found this novel full of adventure and fear. It was heart wrenching and moving. George is a hero, putting his own well being at risk to help the town and people he calls friends. Do not hesitate to pick up this novel, you will not be sorry.

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### **Betty says**

I lead such a sheltered life. Thousands of motorcyclists come to this part of the country for the Honda Hoot or the Gold Wing gathering. These are friendly gatherings. We wave to the riders when we see them heading towards the mountains.

The Gods of Mischief are definitely **not** the same! They bring terror to communities in California: barroom brawls, gangs, drugs, murder, especially when they feel like they are not getting the "respect". The federal government wants to bring down the "Green Nation", the Vagos outlaw motorcycle gang.

George Rowe was a "bad boy" who grew up with a very rough childhood. We learn about Rowe's childhood, including being taken out of school for four years of fishing with his dad. We learn why he reformed. We learn how and why he agreed to let the feds convince George to go undercover and infiltrate the Vagos.

Most of the book is written in R-rated language, bordering on X-rated. This rough language emphasizes the way George, his girlfriend, and the Vagos talk.

The best part of the book was the details of how Rowe and his family went into the witness protection program. I sense that Rowe had assistance in writing the book, as he himself said he could barely read and write. My guess is that the "ghost author" cannot be identified due to the security.

Again, I lead such a sheltered life and am glad to get a glimpse of this type of terror through the printed word, rather than in real life.

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### **Cheryl says**

First off let me say that if you are easily offended by foul language then don't go any further and read this book. Mr. Rowe lays it all on the line and airs his dirty laundry. For this fact, this is why I enjoyed reading this book. It felt raw and unscripted. Like I really got to know who the "real" George is. On this same note, as much as I did appreciate getting to know George and his childhood, I did feel like after a while of reading these things that it did slow down the reading of this book some.

There was one comment that I read that Mr. Rowe said that I thought this is a big understatement. It was "Hanging with the Vagos was not my idea of keeping good company." No one person would really want to hang with the Vagos unless you wanted to live a life of crime or are an undercover agent. Me, I would rather have a root canal. To do all the things George had to do to become a member and accepted by the Vagos is not for me. Like for example getting the back of his head tattooed with "Green Nation" for the Vagos. The ending is kind of sad. Knowing that even though George helped to take down the Vagos in a major bust that the Vagos are still alive and well and have doubled and maybe tripled in size is scary. So it does make you wonder what is the point of informants when the gang is just going to grow again with new leaders and the informants are left to constantly watch their back for the rest of their lives. Still a good read.

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### **Brandy says**

George, your everyday run of the mill ex-con, ex-druggie, hell raiser, volunteers to help take down the Vagos of Hemet, California with the ATF. The story opens with the George explaining that he is waiting for the US

Marshalls to come take him and his family away to protection. His Fiancée is unaware that the man beside her has been under cover for three years. The story continues to grow as George explains who he was and who the Vagos are. In the end George is held prisoner of his own life sentence to a life in the witness protection program. I don't want to go into detail and spoil the story.

What I can say is George's story is incredible, moving, heart wrenching, and filled with a life of adventure, fear, and mischief. I could not stop reading his story. The book is extremely well written and told in rich detail with brutal honesty. I learned about the life a 1%-er leads, brotherhood of an outlaw club, the history of California back in the 70's and 80's, and what it's like for someone to go undercover. The whole time I was reading George's story it felt like I was listening to my grandfather tell me stories of his past and the good ol' days. I was immediately trapped from page 1 with the introduction of how George's world was about to shatter. This is a book written not just for any motorcycle enthusiast but anyone interested in true crime or looking for an awesome story. My heart goes out to this man for his bravery and the life he endured while being undercover. I know it was hard for George to leave behind the only world he ever knew and the people he loved most.

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### **Matthew Ciarvella says**

It seems that memoirs of time spent with outlaw motorcycle gangs are getting more and more popular. Unlike No Angel, which details an ATF agent's attempt to infiltrate the Hells Angels, Gods of Mischief follows a self-confessed "criminal and menace to society" as he tries to clean up his town by going undercover into the Vagos Motorcycle Club.

The book's strong points are the raw honesty that Rowe has about himself. He doesn't try to make himself look like a hero or even a decent guy. Some of the stories he relates about his own vile behavior are gut wrenching. It gives the book a very authentic feeling to it.

The downside of this book is the same problem I had with No Angel. Rarely do these undercover operations end with a big, dramatic confrontation; the handler says "we're ending the operation and pulling you out" and out the informant goes. Arrests are made, but as with No Angel, the epilogue is depressing. Several guys get put away, but it's little more than a dent; even the chapter that was dismantled by the operation is up and running a few years later.

I can't fault the book for honesty and for the fact that real life doesn't follow story conventions, but it's still a letdown and a feeling of helplessness as one considers whether all the strife was worth it. Still, it's a solid, if not exceptional book, and worth the time I spent reading it.

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### **Loren says**

Let me start of by saying...This book is NOT for everyone! It is definitely R rated! George Rowe tells his story, in his language, and shares his sex life at times, in great detail, so if that might be offensive then this book is NOT for you!

George Rowe's story is incredible. When I was given the option to review it and I read the excerpt, I was intrigued. I'm not sure what I expected but I can tell you I am still just shaking my head as to how this man was able to first survive the "prospect phase" while trying to become a Vagos member and secondly, living with them while working with the Feds to take them out and not being busted!!

It seems George had a rough life from the start. His parents split, his mother was an alcoholic and took George from bar to bar as she found a new "lover" every chance she got. The court granted his Father custody and when George was just a young kindergartner, his father removed him from school and took him away to live in the Cascades. His Father taught George many things that would prove to help him in his future but sadly, his father became ill and he and George had to move back to Southern California where he later passed away. He and George were watching tv when his father slumped over into George's lap and died. George was only 10 years old.

After a friend of George's went missing and he knew "who" was involved in his disappearance, he had to do something. He agreed to work with the Federal Government to bring down the Vagos. Honestly, everything that George had to do to "become" a Vagos was more than most people can endure in a lifetime, George endured it all in 3 very long years. Add to that, the stress of every single day wondering if you would live or die or even worse, be found out by those you are helping to put away!

His story is fascinating, but I have to wonder...If George happened to ever read this review, I don't think he would appreciate my choice of words. His story is far more than fascinating, it is an incredible story with a very sad ending. George did so much for his community, for his friend who disappeared, and for those who were abused, intimidated, and far worse by the Vagos. But George will live forever with one eye open wondering if the Vagos' have finally found him and come to get their revenge.

Thank you Ashley Hewlett and Touchstone Publishers for allowing me this book for review in exchange for my honest opinion.

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### **Mason Canyon says**

This is one book that was much more than I had expected.

This is a very frank and candid look at life as an undercover informant in one of the nation's most notorious motorcycle gangs. Author George Rowe tells it as he remembers it. He doesn't romanticize his role in the gang's activities or his part in bringing the gang down in March of 2006.

If you don't care to read foul language or straight forward talk, then be warned this story contains both. But it is presented in a manner fitting the story.

Rowe was no angel to begin with. He grew up in a hard life becoming a drug dealer and convicted felon. But there was still good in him as he attempted to clean up his act. The major turning point, however, came when members of the Vagos outlaw motorcycle gang brutally beat up a friend of his. Days later that friend went 'missing' and hasn't been seen or heard from since.

Rowe wanted revenge and his hometown out from under the gang that terrorized it. For the first time in history a private citizen, Rowe, volunteered to work undercover. He would bring the gang down from the inside. For 3 years Rowe was known as 'Big George' walking the walk, talking the talk of the Vagos. He

even became involved with an addict named Jenna without telling her who he really was. In fact, as he helped bring the brotherhood down around them, she was pregnant with his child.

Gods of Mischief gives a raw look at the lifestyle Rowe lived. As a reader, the story is a roller coaster ride of emotions. The story flows smoothly leading readers on the highs and lows of the double life. A number of black and white photographs are also included throughout the book. They depict numerous members of the Vagos.

Once all was said and done, some things changed and others remained the same. In the end, it's sad to know Rowe is the one who really lost the most in his attempt to make life better for others. He remains in the U.S. Witness Security Program as the ones he helped put in jail have vowed to find him.

Gods of Mischief is a gritty memoir. It's hard hitting with a powerful punch. It'll give you a new appreciation for the unsung undercover heroes helping to rid our country of drugs, violence and the like.

This is a gripping story that you won't be able to put down once you turn that first page.

FTC Full Disclosure - This book was sent to me by the publisher in hopes I would review it. However, receiving the complimentary copy did not influence my review.

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### **Karen says**

Fascinating.....flew through this book in record time.....

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### **Israel says**

I didn't know what to think when I picked up this book. Unless I'm reading "Hell's Angles" by Dr. Hunter Thompson then motorcycle gang books really aren't my bag but I have to admit I loved this book. If "Gods of Mischief" was a movie, I wouldn't take my kids to see it, but I would've seen it twice. Gods of Mischief is fast paced (I finished it in a little over two days), action packed, and has nice sized chapters that aren't too long (I hate long chapters). The book is about George Rowe signing up to go undercover for the ATF to infiltrate the Vagos motorcycle gang. George is motivated to take such a large risk by the disappearance, and suspected murder, of a family friend who had a run in with the Vagos and a very upright moral stance of wanting to make his home town of Hemet, California free of the dangerous Vagos motorcycle gang.

The reason this book is so good is because George Rowe doesn't pull any punches. You can really feel George's gritty personality coming off the pages and that is the ultimate reason this book is a great read. George Rowe gives the reader a unique perspective and that helps the reader really get an idea of what riding with a motorcycle gang is all about. The drinking, fighting, drug use, gambling, sex, drugs, and rock n roll is all there on display and George Rowe walks a fine balance of telling the story authentically while not being influenced by drugs in part because of his own past filled with drug use. George Rowe also has a fine sense of humor that he interjects in just the right places in the book to be effective. The author constantly reminds

the reader how bad the Vagos members are and his motivations for wanting to put them behind bars.

George Rowe is authentic, in no way is this man a phony, and as the story draws to its logical conclusion, I was heartbroken when George is forced to enter the Witness Protection Program and abandon some life long relationships including a relationship with his best friend Old Joe. If I had any complaints about the book it would have to be that the author uses his past life experiences, which are very interesting, to show his motivation for some of his actions while working undercover and in some cases I found myself a little confused. Some parts of the story feel a little scattered when the author tries to weave his past experiences in with his time undercover but that is just a small flaw in a rather well written book. If you want to read an exciting, action packed, crime thriller that has some authentic moments of humor and friendship "Gods of Mischief" would be the book for you.

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### **Happy says**

#### **Amazing**

Kept me riveted. No extra words or "fluff." Extremely exciting and, in some ways, emotional. I highly recommend this book.

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### **Mirella says**

Gods of Mischief is a gripping, tell-it-like-it-is memoir of George Rowe, a man who once lived a life of criminal activity and turned his life around, doing his best to right the wrongs in his community. A savvy drug dealer and ruthless small businessman, George Rowe was forced to take a hard look at the path of his life when his 8 year old son point blank asked him if he was a drug dealer. From that moment on, he did his best to put his adverse lifestyle behind him.

Because members of the Vagos Motorcycle Club had previously tried to recruit him, George enters into an agreement to become a confidential informant for local law enforcement. His task is to infiltrate the Vagos MC and gather evidence. Understanding the danger and consequences, George accepts and lives the lifestyle for several years, putting his life in danger more than once.

This book is a revelation, giving readers an intimate look into the functions and dysfunctions of outlaw motorcycle clubs like the Vagos, their club rules, their attitudes and beliefs, and their ruthless behaviour. More importantly, one cannot help but admire George Rowe for not only changing his own life, but for having the courage to aid law enforcement in bringing to a halt the rampant crimes and danger suffered by townsfolk, albeit temporarily. It was his own way of making amends, of sacrificing 3 years of his life by going undercover, of trying to do what was right despite his own sad background. I am glad that George Rowe took the time to pen his tale now that he is in hiding and in Witness Protection.

I was completely engrossed in his story, unable to put the book down, and reading it in two sittings. The author has a blunt writing style, adding vividness and impact to the storytelling. What I liked most about George Rowe, that despite his gruff exterior, he is a man with heart taking care of his girlfriend Jenna and her child, sticking with her despite the agony of her drug addiction and the havoc it played upon his life and that of her father. It speaks to George Rowe's credibility and integrity. This is a great story of redemption

and personal triumph and I highly recommend it. I truly loved this book! Bravo George Rowe 13 I applaud your courage wherever you are.

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### **Benjamin Greene says**

**Excellent book! Very interesting story of a man who infiltrated a biker gang and ultimately brought them down.**

It's a fast paced read of a guy who decided, for no obvious self-interested reason, to infiltrate a biker gang in behalf of the authorities. It certainly does a good job of portraying the realities of the lifestyle of a serious criminal.

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### **(Tori-Smexybooks) smexys\_sidekick says**

Originally published at <http://smexybooks.com/2013/02/review-...>

Favorite Quote: "I've been riding a hell wave, and there was no breaking free. Nothing to do but let the waters take me."

The high-octane, no-holds-barred, true story of a bad guy turned good who infiltrated one of the most violent outlaw motorcycle gangs in history to take them down.

It's the morning of March 9, 2006, hours before one of the largest motorcycle gang busts in United States history, and George Rowe can't sleep. He keeps thinking about the past three years he spent as an informant for the ATF, working undercover with the Vagos, one of the most dangerous biker gangs in the country. His fiancée, a struggling heroin addict carrying their unborn child, is asleep next to him. She's got no idea who he really is, what he's done, or what's about to happen. How in the hell, Rowe wonders, did it go so far and get so deep? (Goodreads)

From the current hit HBO show, Sons Of Anarchy, to the motorcycles gang romances currently being penned by such authors as Kristen Ashley, Joanna Wylde, and Jaci Burton- MCs (motorcycle clubs) are a popular subject matter that has opened up a whole new hero for romancelandia to love. The gruff, alpha male who lives free and takes what he wants, regardless of the consequences. I won't even bother trying to convince you I haven't jumped on this train and rode it hard. Something about the balance of love and violence is addictive and I would be hard pressed to deny it. However, in real life, MC gangs aren't like this. The men aren't anti heroes with a secret yen to find their one true love (old lady) and ride off in the sunset with her. The Hell's Angels, The Vagos, The Warlocks, etc...are criminals. Gun running, prostitution, and extortion are just a few of the crimes these gangs are involved in.

When I received Gods Of Mischief for review, I was interested in getting a first hand look into the reality of these men, their lives, and the clubs they swear allegiance to. George Rowe, our narrator, takes the glamour and romance out of the MC gang life and shows us the rotten core that festers inside of it. Told from his

point of view, we get a laid back, folk tale style story that tells us an interesting and engaging story of a man and his three year deep undercover effort to bring down a vicious motorcycle gang.

“The road taken by the 1% was a bitch to travel...better to steer clear.”

Our journey starts with George at the end of the road, waiting for the ATF to start their take down and wondering how on earth he is going to explain it all to his pregnant drug addict fiancée. The story then switches to the past as George tells us of his life up to this point, addressing his turbulent and violent childhood and adult years with no apology. No excuses. He is what he is. An addictive personality whose life is a study in drugs, violence, and bad choices.

“Every saint has a past and every sinner has a future.”

Yet, there is a vein of humor that runs through this story. George is a good natured man. He has a self depreciation to his thoughts and reminiscing, often poking fun at his mistakes and questionable choices.

“I could finally take my girlfriend on some of the club runs. Jenna was actually happy with the idea of spending quality time with her suspiciously gay boyfriend.”

He collects strays and attempts to help them, even though he himself is a hot mess. He struggles with his conscience on many occasions, knowing what he is doing is wrong, yet doing whatever is necessary to stay on the path he chose. I grew to like George despite his many, many flaws. Even after finishing his story, I hesitate to call George Rowe a hero, and I think he would too. He, like the rest of the town, turned a blind eye to many of the misdeeds of the Vagos motorcycle gang, allowing them the almost impenetrable hold they had on the town. It is only when a friend disappears does George pick his head up, look around, and truly acknowledge the evil that lives around him. I would however commend his courage and bravery. It takes a lot to rise above the restraints you have put upon yourself and fight for what's right. Especially knowing that once he was done, his life as George Rowe was essentially over.

“Man, what the fuck happened?”

The heart of the story is essentially a timeline of his undercover work-from his inclusion into the Vagos Motorcycle Club and becoming a full member to the various activities he and the club members engaged in with personal commentary added. It reads fast and has a hypnotic easy rider-70's vibe to it even though this takes place only 6-7 years ago. It's very easy to get lost in George's head and the story. While we understand that he is working to take them down, you can sense the struggle he has with this assignment. These are men he has lived with, worked with, and fought with. They accepted him into their family and he has made friends with some of them. He is committing the ultimate betrayal and it's not an easy burden for him to bear. I liked that he struggled with it. That he didn't place himself on a pedestal and whitewash his own involvement.

There were a few problems. The editing and format were horrible with repeating paragraphs and jumping sentences. Hopefully, the publisher will clean up the copies. The story drags at times as we wait for the

action to start and I admit to getting antsy and wanting to jump ahead. There are also some repetitive scenes where George drifts back and forth between the present and the past or vents his dislike of certain members.

The ending was hard, fast and heartbreaking when everything comes together and George realizes what will have to happen now. Also, there is a small epilogue that makes you question everything George did and if it was all worth it. Regardless, the story is an adventure for true crime and MC buffs; providing an honest look at a man and what he was willing to do to clean up his town and redeem himself in the process.

Overall Rating: C+

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### **Joe Evans says**

what do i think? well i will let you all know i grew up in hemet and i knew george... he and my dad were daily friends and i use to purchase stuff from him when i was in high school... he was a great hearted guy, but at the same time, we always knew he was shady and was called a rat by alot of my dads associates... good job on the book the george, bad choices in life, but great job with the book! i will tell you all if it is true!

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