

Operation Bourbon - The First Chapter (The Brethren Outlaw Motorcycle Club Crime Thriller Book 4)

Iain Parke

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"Then he said the words that we'd all been dreading to hear, We've got a rat."

Targeting the Rebels MC, at a staggering twenty-four years total length, Operation Bourbon was the longest running police undercover and infiltration mission ever conducted in the UK.

Now for the first time the story of the operation can be told based on Iain Parke's extensive conversations with the officer involved, together with extracts from police files and surveillance materials, as well as never before seen interviews with club members and associates, and sections of club documentation showing how the club was set up and run.

The result is an astonishing tale of fundamental betrayals at every level, as both bikers and police are forced to ask themselves who they can really trust.

As a result, Operation Bourbon opens the books both on club business, and on police undercover operations, in a way never before seen in the UK.

Books in 'The Brethren MC world' are a series of crime thrillers set amongst UK outlaw bikers and biker gangs (an environment made most familiar by the American TV series Gangland, and Sons of Anarchy) and this is the first to feature an undercover cop.

Author interview

Q When and why did you start on the path to become an author?

New Year's Day 1994, recovering from a mammoth hangover at a friend's hut in a village half way up Kilimanjaro by reading Iain Bank's Complicity at one sitting and thinking, so how do you start creating a plot like that? It's been downhill, literally, from there.

Q Who are your two most favourite authors? And why?

Iain Banks for his plots and John LeCarré for how he creates atmosphere.

Q Do you read books that are the same genre as your work?

I'm best known for my biker books series.

I'd read Hells Angels Hunter S Thompson's seminal work as a teenager which fascinated me and I'd then read anything else I could find on outlaw bikers and bike gangs and the idea of writing something that took the culture seriously had been on my mind for years before I picked up a pen, back in those days before Sons of Anarchy splashed SAMCRO across the world's screens.

After Sonny Barger published his autobiography there seems to have been an increasing flow of outlaw motorcycle club based books and so I read a lot of factual, very much 'so called' in some cases, books about biker culture particularly but I tend not to read much biker fiction as given my magpie mind I'd just end up stealing bits that I wanted to use in my own books.

I also read a lot of true crime and books on British gangland by way of research.

Q Who do you write for? The audience or yourself?

Being honest, myself in the first instance as my books are things I just need to get out. But then the pleasure of messing with reader's minds I suppose is also quite a selfish one.

Q Are you totally separated from your characters or is there a bit of you inside?

There's a core or nugget of autobiography in all my books to a greater or sometimes much lesser extent. There has to be for me to be able to write myself into the characters and understand the logic of the choices they make.

Q What's your technique? Plan it out or make it up as you go?

A mix. I tend I have a theme or an idea, which becomes a bit of an outline that becomes a stronger skeleton as I go, but the characters always have a way of revealing hidden twists and motivations as they get involved.

There was never actually meant to be a Brethren outlaw motorcycle club crime thriller series. The first book, Heavy Duty People, was a standalone exploring how and why a character might end up as what they were. Heavy Duty Attitude then just happened when two of the characters met up in my head and they were off, I was just along for the ride, and it's gone on from there.

Q Tell us a secret...what's your guilty pleasure?

I murdered my ex-boss – I had him garrotted in one of my books. That was very satisfying.



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