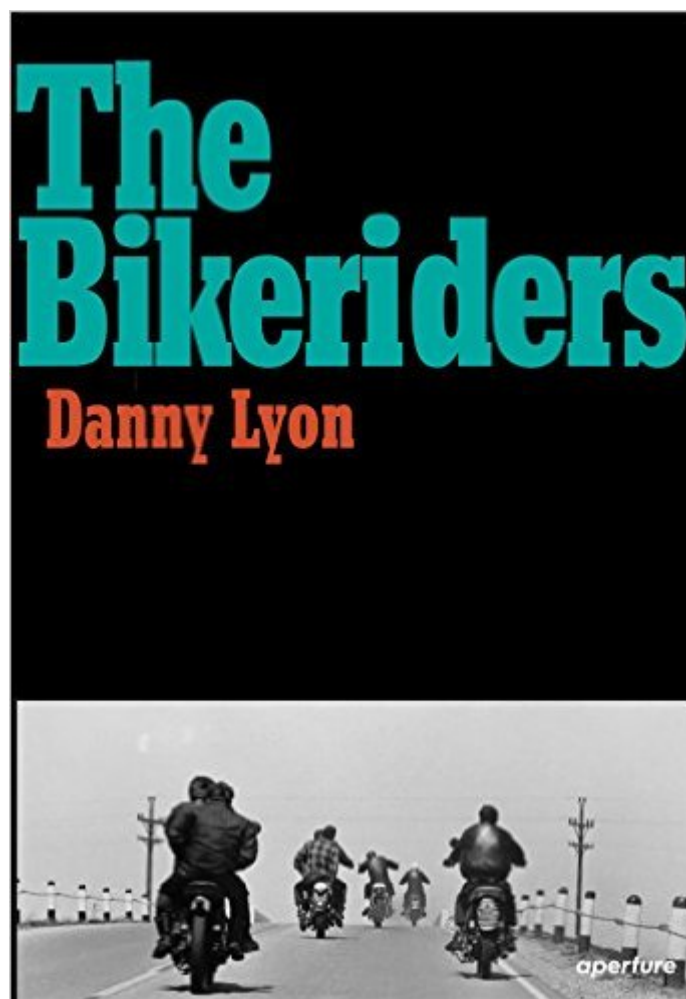


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# Danny Lyon: The Bikeriders



## Synopsis

First published in 1968, and now back in print for the first time in ten years, *The Bikeriders* explores firsthand the stories and personalities of the Chicago Outlaws Motorcycle Club. This journal-size volume features original black-and-white photographs and transcribed interviews by Lyon, made from 1963 to 1967, when he was a member of the Outlaws gang. Authentic, personal and uncompromising, Lyon's depiction of individuals on the outskirts of society offers a gritty yet humane perspective that subverts more commercialized treatments of Americana. Akin to the documentary style of 1960s-era New Journalism made famous by writers such as Hunter S. Thompson, Joan Didion and Tom Wolfe, Lyon's photography is saturation reporting at its finest. *The Bikeriders* is a touchstone publication of 1960s counterculture, crucially defining the vision of the outlaw biker as found in *Easy Rider* and countless other movies and photobooks.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (14 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

In the mid-1960s, just as word about "outlaw motorcycle gangs" began spreading via *The Nation*, *Saturday Evening Post* and other news magazines, a talented young photographer named Danny Lyon gained membership in what was then called the Chicago Outlaws Motorcycle Club. Camera in hand, Lyon captured iconic images of his brethren, their girlfriends and wives, the club's runs and rituals, clubhouse and homes, bars and field meets and, of course, the motorcycles. Then Lyon took up his tape recorder and interviewed several of his subjects: Club founder and president Johnny Davis; Kathy, a big beautiful girl married to Outlaws member Benny Bauer; Cockroach, Chicago

police officer and former Outlaws member; Zipco, arguing with the draft board that rejected him as unfit for service in Vietnam, or laid up in the hospital after a drunken bike wreck; Cal and Funny Sonny, both erstwhile California Hells Angels who joined the Outlaws when they moved to Illinois; motorcycle racers Frank Jenner and Bobby Goodpaster, and a handful of others. The book was originally published in 1968 - a slender, groundbreaking volume of technically and artistically mature black-and-white photographs coupled with gritty, street-tough text. It was remaindered four years later, but quickly developed a cult following, and clean copies of the hardcover original sell for close to \$1000 nowadays. The title was reissued in 1995, in a limited edition which quickly sold out, and again in 2003, with additional text and some of Lyon's original but long-lost color photographs. Each of those editions has also become collectible. However, no matter the edition, anyone interested in motorcycling, the history of the 1960s, or just plain EXCELLENT documentary photographs should find a copy of *The Bikeriders*.

Not quite as many photos as I would normally expect from a photo book (48 not including front and back covers), but the interviews provided in the back give a good view of biker clubs/gangs and races from the era. A good book for fans of old school black and white photography, but also an item of interest to those in the motorcycle racing, touring community.

A classic photo essay with interviews with the subjects, that puts you inside several bike rider cultures. Follows in Robert Frank's footsteps, closely focussed on one subculture. Much better reproduction and binding than the original. Highly recommended!

I haven't finished all the stories yet but honestly I was expecting more photographs.

A perfect work as both history, social critique, and cultural documentation as well as a work of classic American photographic art.

I gave this book to my cousin who is an avid Harley rider and appreciates nice things. He gave me a thumbs up on this book.

Clearly a work of art, a rare and unexpected look into the beginnings of a Motorcycle Club.

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