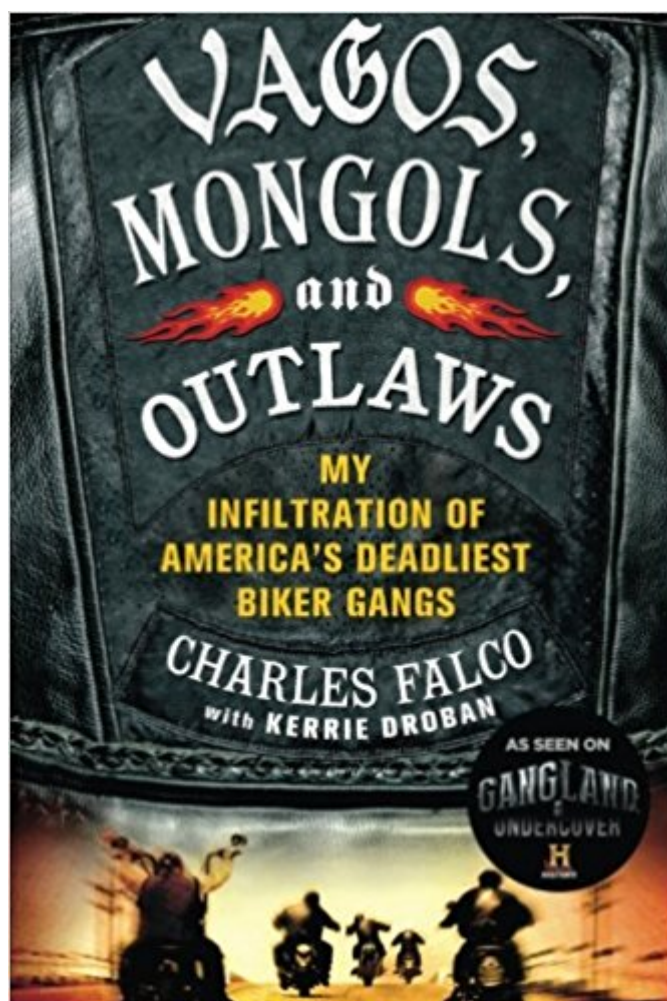


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Vagos, Mongols, And Outlaws: My Infiltration Of America's Deadliest Biker Gangs



Synopsis

The basis for the hit TV series *Gangland Undercover!* The gripping account from an ex-con who went undercover to help the ATF infiltrate three of America's most violent biker gangs. Despite lacking any experience with motorcycle gangs, Charles Falco infiltrated three of America's deadliest biker gangs: the Vagos, Mongols, and Outlaws. In separate investigations that spanned years and coasts, Falco risked his life, suffering a fractured neck and a severely torn shoulder, working deep under cover to bring violent sociopaths to justice. His dedication was profound; Falco spent almost three years infiltrating the Vagos gang and rose to second in command of the Victorville, California chapter. He even served time in San Bernardino's Murder Unit and endured solitary confinement to protect his cover and the investigations. Falco recorded confessions of gangland-style killings and nearly became a target himself before he sought refuge in the Witness Protection Program. But discontent to remain on the sidelines and motivated by a strong sense of duty, Falco eventually left the Program and volunteer his talents again to infiltrate the Mongols and Outlaws, rising in rank to Vice President of the Petersburg, Virginia Outlaws chapter. His efforts culminated in sixty two arrests of members for various crimes, including assault and murder. Executing one of this country's most successful RICO prosecutions and effectively crippling the criminal enterprise, Falco's engrossing narrative of the dangers of the biker underworld harkens back to Hunter S. Thompson's classic *Hell's Angels*, vividly recounting a life undercover.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Facing more than 20 years behind bars for manufacturing and distributing methamphetamine, Falco

quickly accepted the government's offer: in return for certain considerations, he would infiltrate the Vagos, a particularly nasty Southern California biker gang. Unfortunately, Falco wasn't a biker and had no experience with biker gangs. Like William Queen's *Under and Alone* (2005) and Jay Dobyns' *No Angel* (2009), this is a tense, violent, frequently distasteful story of a man living in a world of extreme violence, afraid his cover could be blown at any second. Of course, Dobyns and Queen were actual undercover agents. Falco was a regular guy with no training or experience, which makes the story that much more harrowing. In describing his nearly five years living with three separate biker gangs, Falco, ably assisted by true-crime author Droban, whose *Running with the Devil* (2007) followed a government infiltration of the Hells Angels, makes the reader feel at least some of the fear, disgust, and sheer panic he endured. The book contains some graphic language and descriptions, but, given its subject matter, most readers will probably assume that going in. --David Pitt --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

"Falco rose to "officer" status in three biker gangs, and his book *Vagos, Mongols, and Outlaws: My Infiltration of America's Deadliest Biker Gangs* is the more polished, measured and authoritative of the two. *Los Angeles Times* comparing to George Rowe's *Gods of Mischief* "Absorb *Vagos, Mongols, and Outlaws* as one part juicy scoop, one part machismo on parade, and Falco can take some sad and beautiful snapshots." *Boston Globe* "Falco was facing a minimum sentence of 22 years in prison for conspiracy to distribute and manufacture hundreds of pounds of methamphetamine when the San Bernardino Sheriff's Department made him an offer he couldn't refuse--become an undercover informant instead of going to jail. The bulk of this fascinating autobiography describes in detail Falco's work infiltrating the Vagos Motorcycle Club, an outlaw biker gang considered in 2003 to be the largest urban terrorist' organization in the U.S. Falco's main assignment reads like a synopsis of the book: "Get inside, gather intelligence on the gang, identify the club's leaders, purchase drugs from them, and collect as many illegal firearms as you can." Falco describes in almost excruciating detail how he rose in the Vagos ranks from a go-fer to a full-fledged member, a three-year descent into a violent world of drug abuse, Neanderthal treatment of women, and constant fighting that left Falco living constantly "in a state of veiled paranoia," even after the Vagos gang was brought down by the law. It is Falco's unrelenting depiction of the stupidity and brutality in the Vagos biker world that makes his story powerful." *Publishers Weekly* "Facing more than 20 years behind bars for manufacturing and distributing

methamphetamine, Falco quickly accepted the government's offer: in return for certain considerations, he would infiltrate the Vagos, a particularly nasty Southern California biker gang. Unfortunately, Falco wasn't a biker and had no experience with biker gangs. Like Jay Dobyns' *No Angel* (2009) and William Queen's *Under and Alone* (2005), this is a tense, violent, frequently distasteful story of a man living in a world of extreme violence, afraid his cover could be blown at any second. Of course, Dobyns and Queen were actual undercover agents. Falco was a regular guy with no training or experience, which makes the story that much more harrowing. In describing his nearly five years living with three separate biker gangs, Falco, ably assisted by true-crime author Droban, whose *Running with the Devil* (2007) followed a government infiltration of the Hells Angels, makes the reader feel at least some of the fear, disgust, and sheer panic he endured. The book contains some graphic language and descriptions, but, given its subject matter, most readers will probably assume that going in. "The paranoia of crooks, the desperation of incarceration, the fear of getting whacked, and survival working undercover in a brutal biker world devoid of common decency. You can read about it all in this book. But Charles Falco actually lived it and miraculously came out a better man. "Gritty and real, tragic and brutal. The book is filled with powerful characters. A compelling read . . . not for the squeamish. "One of the most extraordinary true crime autobiographies. "Raw honesty and horrendous recounts . . . *Prodigal Father, Pagan Son* is written with emotion, detail and brilliant imagery. The book is able to capture the audience with authenticity and believability. "MotorcycleUSA.com on *Prodigal Father, Pagan Son* "Sydney Morning Herald on *Prodigal Father, Pagan Son* "Nomads Leathers on *Prodigal Father, Pagan Son*

Interesting subject matter but too poorly written to finish. The writing was repetitive in instances when completely unnecessary and even evident in poor paragraph composition where the same two adjectives would be used over and over again within a couple of sentences of each other. There was also a lack of description which would have been welcomed for added interest and clarity's sake due to the vast array of characters to keep straight. At times someone new would pop into the narrative with no explanation as to how they fit into the current situation being recounted let alone the bigger picture of the criminal organization. Didn't even make it through his time with the Vagos before getting fed up.

Good quality would purchase from again

great read

I really really loved the series based on the book. The book really captures the stress Charles was under. It is fast paced and exciting. I couldn't put it down. I honestly wish this was like 3 books instead of 1. It's totally addicting.

Somehow the author of this book has managed to take what should have been an exciting and interesting topic and turns it into a vapid read with prose more suitable to a ripped-bodice romance than a book about the gritty world of outlaw bikers. There are times when you get the idea (Kerrie Droban with a little input from Falco) was just throwing stuff in to make the minimum number of words required by the publisher. We have pages on end of "dream sequences" where the hero (?) imagines himself drowning, floating in water, etc. It is also obvious that one of the purposes of the book is to make Falco look like a much better person than he is in reality. He is admittedly a major drug dealer and meth cooker who agreed to go undercover to avoid a long prison sentence. However, as the book progresses, he somehow gains a conscience and tells us his motivation is now to see justice done to the evil bikers. Ironically, the vast majority of the arrests that resulted from his undercover work were for minor offenses and little jail time, and the people who he sent to jail had committed much less serious crimes than Falco himself. The book depicts the OMC bikers as very one dimensional, evil, almost cartoonish characters. Falco somehow hangs out with these guys for years, and doesn't find one single person that he feels the least trace of friendship for or whom he regrets betraying. Compare this to Jay Dobyns "No Angel", where during his undercover time he develops genuine friendships for the members of the OMC and expresses regret that his job was to put them in prison. Falco also makes himself out to be much tougher in his fictionalized account than the actual Vagos he dealt with remember him. According to them, they remembered him as stoned all the time. His club name in the Vagos was not "Quickdraw" as he relates, but Tijuana Charles, because he almost got arrested for public urination in that city. My advice--Don't waste your money. I find the topic of OMC's fascinating, and even I could barely finish the book, and I only did so I could write this review even-handedly.

Well laid out, keeps you reading. Great detailed content, makes you feel as though you were riding along with these outlaw bikers.

I loved the tv show and really enjoyed reading the story of Charlie Falco....good read!!!

Great book, it helps conclude the tv series that was canceled early. Charlie infiltrated two one percenter clubs. What an unreal story.

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