



Coconut Cowboy

Tim Dorsey

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Channeling his inner *Easy Rider*, Serge Storms saddles up for his most epic, lethal, and hilarious road trip ever as he revvs off to find the lost American Dream . . . starting in the Florida Panhandle.

Obsessed with the iconic Sixties classic *Easy Rider*, encyclopedic Floridaphile, lovable serial killer, and movie buff extraordinaire Serge A. Storms devises his wildest plan yet: finish the journey begun by his freewheeling heroes, Captain America and Billy, tragically cut short by some shotgun-wielding rednecks.

Setting a course for the Florida panhandle, Captain Serge—with Coleman literally riding shotgun—mounts his classic motorcycle and hits the highway in search of the real America: the apple-pie-eating, freedom-swilling moms and pops of Main Street USA.

But the America he finds in the rural burghs dotting the neck of the peninsula is a little bit different . . . and a whole lot weirder than anything Peter Fonda and Dennis Hopper encountered. In a state where criminal politicians are more common than gators, Serge and Coleman discover one particular speed-trap locale so aggressively inept at corruption that investigators are baffled where to start.

Expect nothing less than madness, mayhem, ingenious homicides, and mind-altering pharmaceuticals when Serge and Coleman's path intersects with the Sunshine State's hyper-dysfunctional rusticity.

Where's Jack Nicholson when you need him?

Coconut Cowboy Details

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From Reader Review Coconut Cowboy for online ebook

Kris Patrick says

Writing style as if someone consumed a four pack of Red Bull + a movie theater box of Skittles + a pound of chocolate covered espresso beans

Kathy Worrell ? says

Tim Dorsey orchestrated this story with precision.

However, I found his Florida history trivia a little banal.

Barbara Nutting says

Moving right along through Florida with Serge and Coleman - 10 down 10 to go!! This one covered the part of the state I have yet to travel. It addressed 2 current events - sinkholes and the ridiculous Stand Your Ground law. I'm hoping he will write one on Mosaic and the lies and problems related to phosphate, another hidden crime in Florida! This one was a little "cleaner".

Barb Martin says

When your book features Serge Storms and his sidekick, Coleman, you know you're in for a weird time. This one features a corrupt small town, a road trip inspired by classic movie "Easy Rider" and a cast of idiots who scamper along from one madcap adventure to another. Mayhem ensues. The ending intended to tie together all of the loose ends, but it didn't really work. What did you expect. We're talking about Serge and Coleman.

Craig Pittman says

I am amazed and impressed that Tim Dorsey has written 19 books about his Florida-obsessed serial killer Serge Storms. I am even more amazed and impressed at how good this one is. My favorite remains "Orange Crush," because it's the best satire of Florida politics ever printed. But this one comes in second.

The set-up for "Coconut Cowboy" involves two plots that eventually intersect. The first sees Serge and his perpetually stoned sidekick Coleman buying a chopper and trying to complete the journey to Florida that was the objective of the bikers in "Easy Rider" before their unfortunate demise. This entails visiting such sites as the tree that Tom Petty allegedly planted on the UF campus (which Serge literally hugs). The second involves a naive New York couple who move into a small town in Florida that turns out to be an even bigger

speed trap than Waldo or Hawthorne, the state's two most notorious places for nailing motorists on a technicality. Soon it becomes clear that the town, beneath its placid surface, is a hotbed of corruption and graft, and only the fortuitous arrival of Serge can rescue the couple from a rather deadly situation.

Along the way, of course, Serge deals out his particular brand of whacked-out justice to several miscreants who clearly deserve some sort of comeuppance. My favorite is what he does to the proprietor of a website that features scantily clad women crushing small animals. The punishment Serge dreams up involves the (very real) star animal of Homosassa Springs Preserve State Park.

What elevates this book above the others is the arrival of a character named Matt, a student who has decided to do his thesis on how Florida is a harbinger of the future of America. His discussion of this thesis is both hilarious and completely accurate, and what happens to his thesis at the end is also hilarious and quite believable.

Susan Obryan says

There is nothing normal about Tim Dorsey, and that's what makes his novels so much fun! "Coconut Cowboy" lives up to the high bar of quirkiness expected when Dorsey puts pen to paper.

This time Serge Storms, a man with his own view of history, society and justice, wants to travel the road of "Easy Rider." He's searching for a taste of the fading American Dream, an ideal he hopes to find alive and well in small Florida panhandle towns.

"But the America he finds in the rural burghs dotting the neck of the peninsula is a little bit different . . . and a whole lot weirder than anything Peter Fonda and Dennis Hopper encountered," according to accurately state PR info.

With Serge on the prowl, what follows - and sometimes leads - is hilarity, mayhem, murder and nuggets of wackiness. Drugs? Yes. Corruption? Oh, yeah. Great read? Of course!

Gisela Hausmann says

As a devout fan of the movie 'Easy Rider', who met Dennis Hopper in person, and also lived in Florida for almost twenty years I was interested in reading/hearing Tim Dorsey's story.

On my last long distance trip I listened to the audio book but did not make it beyond twenty-five percent.

The book features beautiful, vibrant descriptions of who and what you get to see in Florida (which really is not part of the South). I laughed and giggled about some of them, but the plot moves along too slowly. My favorite was the real estate agent.

I'd encourage writers who seek to improve on descriptions of their characters to read this book. For this purpose 'Coconut Cowboy' may be a perfect book. The plotline wasn't to thrilling to me.

3 stars,

Paul Pessolano says

“Coconut Cowboy” by Tim Dorsey, published by William Morrow.

Category – Mystery/Thriller/Comedy Publication Date - January 26, 2016.

Here we go again. This is the 20th installment of the continuing saga of Serge A. Storm and Coleman. Those of you who have read these books know that Serge is a serial killer, who kills only those who need to be killed, and that Coleman is his sidekick who is addled on either booze or drugs.

Serge decides that he wants to tour Florida as was done in his favorite movie, “Easy Rider”. Serge trades in his 72 Mercury Comet for a motorcycle with sidecar. Serge is out to find the American Dream which he considers lost. He believes he can find it in small rural towns in Florida.

Serge and Coleman begin to explore small town Florida and encounter anything from drug czars, bodies, and all around wackos. They find one town, in particular, where politics and sleaze are the order of the day. They find corruption, lies, and stupidity everywhere they turn.

Just another stroll through Florida with the kings of comedy, murder, and addiction.

Sandy says

"Florida.....the nation's pace car of dysfunction."

And driving that car is the inimitable Serge Storms with fellow space cadet Coleman as co-pilot. In their 19th outing (Jeeze Louise, how old am I?), the disturbed duo crisscross the state's backroads in an homage to "Easy Rider". Well, sort of.

Peter Fonda & Dennis Hopper didn't have to deal with crooked politicians, FOX-ish news reporters, lovesick hippos & sinkholes. Lucky for us, all of these & many more are included on this road trip with hilarious & sometimes grisly results.

As we ride shotgun on their trail of carnage, we're treated to Serge's musings on the state of humanity in general. The reader is at risk for mental whiplash as topics careen from the bizarre to possibly true. Example: did you now the Acme Co. of Roadrunner fame was the prototype for Amazon's delivery model? Wonder if they sell anvils. And Serge's address to the crowd at an outdoor concert alone makes this worth your time.

The writing is fast paced & fluid with several story lines unfolding. Each has its' share of quirky characters to

keep you entertained as you wait for the inevitable collision of loons in the small town of Wobbly. But at the heart of all the mayhem is Serge. Yes, he's a serial killer but you have to admire his creativity. I mean, why limit yourself to boring old bullets or knives when you can opt for armadillos or Dorito dust?

There's a laugh out loud moment on almost every page so be prepared to be interrupted by those around you asking "What are you reading?"

The author is a master of injecting his stories with a combination of real events & biting cultural references. We can only hope Mr. Dorsey leaves his brain to science to confirm he has twice as many synapses as the rest of us mere mortals. My only complaint is it doesn't come with a soundtrack of the tunes Serge curated for his trip. That would be killer.

Jim says

What the hell was I thinking? I never like to start a book inside a series, and somehow I managed to grab the latest of a nineteen-volume series. Damn you Tim Dorsey, now I have to backtrack and start at the beginning, made even harder since the local library doesn't have the first few and I'm not wild about electronic. I must say that I was predisposed to enjoying this book, having been raised mostly in Florida and been a fan of the Dexter series. Serge is a Florida trivia buff and an avenging crusader, of sorts, though some may be turned off on the vigilante aspect. I especially love all the cultural references from my generation. So many times I thought, "Oh yeah. I remember that." I laughed out loud, then called my siblings and some of my friends to clue them in as well. I think I may be hooked like a ten-pounder from a sinkhole lake, and I'm happy to be landed. I hope the earlier stories are as enjoyable.

Fred Forbes says

Serge Storms is an acquired taste but one that has been one of mine for many years now. It has become an annual January tradition for me to meet up with Tim Dorsey at a bookstore signing and pick up his latest autographed release. Tim is not only a nice guy but probably one of the hardest working folks in publishing as shown by his travel schedule. (check it out on his website) While Serge is a serial killer, he only kills those who would harm Florida or Floridians, usually in creative fashion that somehow reflects what the affected party is guilty of committing. (Yea, now and then he takes down some ass who really hasn't harmed anyone but whose personality is such that most of us would duplicate the crime if we could get away with it.) These doings usually occur while Serge is drifting around the state, dispensing historical lore and other trivia about the sunshine state while accompanied by his drug/booze addled companion Coleman and a cast of others. Usually he is making his way in a hopped up Camaro but this trip takes place on a Harley chopper with a sidecar in deference to the 1969 movie "Easy Rider" as Serge and Coleman explore small town Florida to see if they can find if the nostalgia fueled America everyone knew and loved still exists. Like the other 18 or so in the series, a bit of mayhem, a bit of fun, some interesting characters and some dastardly deeds. Check it out.

Jeanne says

Serge and Coleman are back, re-living the motorcycle journey of Serge's Easy Rider heroes. Sinkholes, small

town government, dirty politicians, and a student writing a thesis all add to Serge's great adventure! 5 out of 10.

deep says

PW Starred: Bestseller Dorsey's entertainingly picaresque 19th Serge Storms novel (after 2015's *Shark Skin Suite*) opens with a scene that sets the comic tone for what's to follow. A dispute between mascots for competing eateries, a man in a panda suit and one in a gorilla suit, turns violent; at a nearby bank, a would-be thief, who leads a "long, imprecise life footnoted entirely by sighs," learns to his chagrin that he's waited in the wrong line to hand in a robbery note. Dorsey deftly brings all his players to life, none more so than his serial killer lead, Serge, a vigilante who has a soft spot for the victims of bad guys other than him, a wide-ranging knowledge of popular culture, and original insights (e.g., that the Amazon delivery model was inspired by the Acme company in the Road Runner cartoons). The major plot thread focuses on geologist Peter Pugliese, who has just moved from New York to the small burg of Wobbly, Fla., and finds himself in shady company. The author's Kinky Friedman-like voice perfectly suits the engaging story arc. Author tour. Agent: Nat Sobel, Sobel Weber. (Jan.)

Dave Szostak says

Dorsey's newest continues the manic escapades of *The Sunshine State's* most prolific, lovable, and demented serial killer, Serge A. Storms. Aided, somewhat, by his perpetually sauced and stoned sidekick Coleman, Serge again acts as a Fury of Florida, protecting the weak, exploited and preyed-upon, and dispensing wildly creative and ironic forms of justice to a seemingly unceasing number of Floridian miscreants. An obnoxious, noise-polluting road rager gets his comeuppance in the opening pages, for example.

In "Coconut Cowboy", Serge's latest idee fixe involves his quest to rediscover the American Dream by using that seminal 'turn on, tune in, drop out' 1969 road film "Easy Rider" as inspiration.

A walking encyclopedia of Floridian lore, culture, and history, Serge is also the type of individual given to conversational tangents, such as explaining sleepless nights pondering questions like 'What happened to Richie Cunningham's older brother Chuck on the television series *Happy Days*?'. A semi-recurring character on the first season, Chuck vanishes inexplicably by the start of the second season. Serge, accordingly, postulates a late night, bloody argument in the Cunningham living room, followed by an early morning interment in the Cunningham backyard, as the solution.

As in previous novels, Dorsey rarely finds himself confined by notions of story and structure. His novels are the literary equivalent of sketch comedy, with episodic and humorous interludes punctuating a barely-there narrative. Thus, while Serge and Coleman are motorcycling their "bitchin' chopper" through the back roads of the state in one strand of plot line, in the other, married couple Peter and Mary Pugliese move to the "nice little town" of Wobbly. The name of the town denotes its ethical, legal and governmental footing. Soon Peter is unwittingly participating in the numerous and nefarious enterprises conducted by the 'finer' citizens of the town. It takes Serge, at the last minute, to extricate Peter from these entanglements.

Reliable, but unsurprising, buffoonery from Dorsey.

Lori says

Somewhere between two or three stars. The 19th book in the series which started in 1999. I usually laugh when I read them.

If you're unfamiliar with the series it's a mix of fact, Florida history, a opinionated psycho-killer, and his stoned side-kick. The last couple haven't been that great, but maybe the next two will be better.

I liked that bit about free concerts by Tom Petty's and the Mudcrutch Farm. "Today, so many people claim they were at those concerts that they would have been bigger than Woodstock."
