

# Book Review ~ *The Meaning of Life According to Bikers*

*The Biker Book For Charity*

Edited & Introduced by Louise Lewis

“What is the Meaning of Life?” As I first sat with this book in front of me I was moved to consider.... Do I just dive in and start reading? Do I contemplate the question first, then read to see how my answers match up? Agree? Disagree? Conform? Ahhh... but there IS no wrong answer ☺ Right ?

I’m unsure that *The Meaning of Life* can be quantified or defined in any black & white concrete manner. Although I’m certain that there would be some out there who disagree on that.

For me at least, “What gives meaning to your Life?” is a more manageable consideration. But this piece isn’t about me. It’s about the book.

When our copy arrived in the mail, the very first impression while unwrapping it was how striking it was. The look, quality, and feel of it gave off a positivity that was surprising; and that was before ever cracking the binding.

The photography is outstanding; a combination of candid and portraits intended to capture the essence of the people who are speaking. Some comments Louise collected seem similar to what you’d read on a Facebook-style inspiration page. Others are more thoughtful, obviously personal to the individual who is sharing. The book is well organized. With hundreds of responses, representing the famous and the regular riders, Louise created Chapters to group them in terms of similarity. Themes include Spirituality & God, Riding, No Idea, Service to Others, Family & Friends, and so forth. The responses are well expressed, presented beautifully, and can serve as a touchstone for each reader’s personal exploration of the subject.

Some might say that because of the inherent risk that motorcyclists accept as part of riding that a biker’s perspective on the meaning of life has been more closely examined. I would counter that we

each reflect at our own pace, based on triggers, inspirations, and life events ... riders and non-riders alike. Bikers may just face those triggers and such more frequently.

It isn’t necessarily one of those books that you’d sit down & read cover-to-cover in one sitting. There’s an initial desire to flip through to check out the photos, see who participated, and catch a few comments. From there evolves a desire to take more time, study the images, and contemplate the entries at greater length.

Chances are you’ll recognize people in your lives in these pages. In our decades in this community Bruce & I have met scooter folk who reflect the different philosophies expressed in the book; sometimes bringing a nod, a smile of remembrance, or a bemused shake of the head ☺

As much as it seems like this might be a book only riders could understand, it may actually have a secondary value... as a means of explaining to non-riding friends or loved ones what we ‘see’ about this lifestyle that they don’t ‘get’.

So now that we have established that the book, *The Meaning of Life According to Bikers* is a good find ... let’s talk about how Louise is presenting it, as its subtitle says *The Biker Book for Charity*. Its goal is to be of benefit to our motorcycling community as a whole. She provides numerous opportunities to support charitable organizations, everywhere and anywhere.

Asked what charity is benefited by this book, she replied, “Hopefully thousands!”

Okay then, let’s go into that. There are multiple ways for this book to raise money. An organization can purchase books in bulk from the publisher at a discount, then sell them at retail... donating the difference to their charity of choice.

People can purchase the book online through Amazon. Purchases there go to support Louise’s charity of choice, the Children’s Hospitals Tour

which you will read more about if you visit its page. <https://www.gofundme.com/BikerBookforCharity-ChildrensHospitalsDonationTour>

OR you might get the opportunity to meet the lady herself who put this all together and purchase it directly... at a personal appearance on her book tour. This includes a stop in Sturgis on August 5, 2019.

During one of her interviews she commented that when she started she wasn’t sure how the bikers would respond to her. She is a self-described geek, definitely and obviously NOT part of the riding community. She shared a story about walking up to a rider to ask him her “What is the Meaning of Life?” question; explaining why she wanted to know. As the conversation progressed this fellow told her, “You are the perfect person to do this” rather than a rider. Actually, I get that. If someone within the biker community had offered up a book such as this, it could have been written off as self-serving, a vehicle to whitewash bad acts, or similar crap that’s been shoveled over the decades. Louise, being an ‘outsider’ so to speak, offers an independent perspective.

You can buy the book at Amazon {or even better, [AmazonSmile](#)}. If your organization wants to use the book as a fundraiser for your preferred charity, then contact Schiffer Publishing, 610-593-1777, and ask about quantity discounts. For more information, contact Louise through her website <https://thebikerbookforcharity.com/>

The project of creating {and now promoting} this book has been Louise’s ‘Meaning of Life’ since 2002. That’s a lot of dedication! From what we see, her time, energy, and effort have been well spent.

We wish her the very best as she continues along her ‘Meaning of Life’ path. Maybe ours will cross some day ☺

*Betsy & Bruce*