

Writers Are Gang Members!

The other day I accidentally ended up in an online conversation centered around the fact that ALL cops are bad guys and gang members.

The other person in the conversation disagreed strongly. Even though she's always posting about her own illegal (but ethical) activities, and apparently ignoring who puts her in danger. She posted all the tired old justifications and apologetics—it was like she had her own copy of *The Copsucker's Handbook* (I should write that!), and had memorized it. I responded to a couple of her points, but she was flooding the thread faster than I could write. I even tried to call a truce and drop the subject a couple of times, but she wouldn't let it go. Copsuckers are so *sensitive!*

Finally she asked me to explain how I can hold that opinion about cops, and how I can say they are a gang. I said "OK". (It's easy to do, and not difficult to lay out clearly enough that anyone who isn't blinded by their religion can see.) But before I could post even the first bit I was writing, she told me to go to a different group to post my response—which seems counterproductive since that's not where all the lead-up had occurred. So I asked "why?"

Instead of answering that question, she started proclaiming how angry she was with me. Finally she squeezed out this gem:

Writers are gang members! And I hate them all and wish they would shoot each other and die! The world would be a better place!

(She also told me I think I'm "so smart", but I'm stupid, and said she would never talk to me again, but that's not relevant.)

Well, shall we compare the claims?

Show me the writer gang. Go on, *show* me.

(I *can* show you the cop gang—I can drive you past their clubhouse—I can show you their gang signs, symbols, and tattoos—I can translate some of their street talk—and I can show you how their gang membership drives their loyalties and behavior.)

Writers are all over the place as far as their beliefs, ethics, and principles go. Not unified in anything but that they write. Some are even so low that they defend and promote government and enforcers! Perhaps you could make the claim that writers belong to many

different opposing gangs, but even that is a shaky claim. But, lets just pretend the claim has merit. Writers are *still* better than cops.

Writers, by the act of writing, don't violate anyone. I can't force you to read anything I write—nor would I ever consider trying to do so. I can't force you to shell out money so that I can afford to keep writing—again, why would I do such a disgusting thing? I don't believe that by writing, I have any "authority" over you. I don't believe that I am entitled, by virtue of writing, to molest you or use force against those who aren't violating anyone. If I *do* violate you, I don't believe I am immune to consequences just because I write. I expect that if I murder someone because I'm scared of them, my status as a writer won't protect me from a murder conviction. Again, writers are better than *any* cop.

I would say the pro-cop/anti-writer rant says more about the person who wrote it (*wait... does that make her a "writer"?!*) than about other writers. What do you think?

Anyway, it is a reminder just how delusional most of the people around me continue to be. They are "why we can't have nice things"... they love their chains and bullies too much to admit they have been duped. They are cowards. And they are growing more hostile every day.