


BOOKS

Memoir is challenging but worthwhile

You've never been so mad in your life.

Boy, you were angry. Ready to scream, spit nails, tear the world apart with bare hands. So mad you couldn't see straight, as they say, and you're still seething. As in the new book **"All the Rage: A Quest"** by **Martin Moran**, would the trespass against you ever be forgivable?

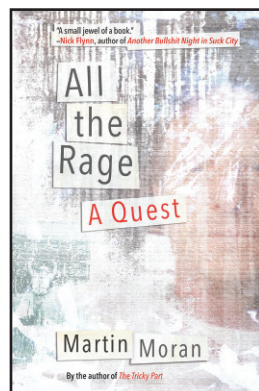
It was unimaginably difficult to make that last call, even though there had been other calls over the years.

Moran had to make sure that someone was monitoring the man who'd molested him decades before. Bob was elderly by now, but Moran knew that Bob wasn't rehabilitated – if such a thing could even happen. He was relieved to know that California authorities had Bob on a registry.

In another memoir, in another time,



Terri Schlichenmeyer



"All the Rage: A Quest"

By Martin Moran

Beacon Press, 2016

Price: \$24.95; 232 pages

he'd written about Bob pseudonymously. He didn't want to cause trouble then, for himself or anyone else, but the memory of what happened when he was twelve still, of course, lingered. He'd waited thirty years, after all, to finally call the cops.

And yet, he didn't hate Bob. His step-mother, yes, but not Bob. And he

didn't think he was angry about the whole thing; no, what irked him most was when people asked him if he was angry. He had a life to live, a career as a writer and actor; he lectured, traveled, explored, loved his family and his partner. Who had time for anger?

Who had time for forgiveness?

That was something Moran wrestled with. He worked as an interpreter for a man who was seeking asylum in the U.S., and the horrors the man endured were nearly unbearable. He seemed to forgive those who hurt him. An old friend who'd been molested was able to forgive, too; in fact, he almost seemed to think that Bob was a nice guy. Could anybody ever think of Hitler or Stalin as a human being worthy of grace? Or was justice needed before we can truly forgive?


If a book, a nonsentient item made from dead trees, could have feelings, "All the Rage" would throb with aching.

Author Martin Moran indicates in this memoir that he no longer feels compelled to be coy with his molester's name, so he specifically identifies the

catalyst for this journey. That up-frontness immediately feels squirmy – in part, because everything's suddenly more personal, and in part because Moran already seems oddly blasé toward Bob, who nonetheless is a ten-foot-tall, constant presence in this story.

All that happens in the first pages. Because of the unsettling feeling we're left with then, what comes next, and for the rest of the book – losses, bewildering arguments, final words exchanged with a friend, and yes, a blazing realization of hatred – becomes compellingly soul-washing, not only for writer, but for reader, too.

Though there's plenty of rawness here – both in feeling and in word – this meditation on justice, compassion, and mercy is something we all need at some point, so find "All the Rage."

If you miss it, you may never forgive yourself. 

Terri Schlichenmeyer is a nationally-published book reviewer, living in Wisconsin; like "The Bookworm Sez" on Facebook.

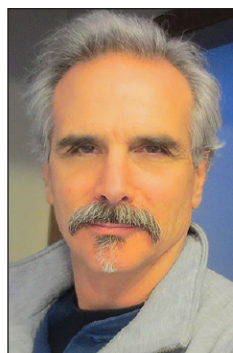
Sci-fi novel continues on Word website

Central Indiana resident Karl J. Niemiec (pictured) is the author of a sci-fi trilogy involving Hollywood "Film-making Adventures" involving out-of-this-world mobsters.

Niemiec has also had film-making adventures of his own, as a writer and actor on films including the 1992 "bikini" film "California Hot Wax."

Read one of his death-defying Hollywood memories, **"The next script deal was held at gunpoint,"** about what happened when someone wanted him to write another bikini movie, at www.thegayword.com.

As for his sci-fi trilogy, another chapter of the first book, "Alien Made," is also



posted at The Word website.

"Just know," Niemiec said, "that these adventures have been twisted tightly into a sci-fi trilogy so that those who have threatened me about repeating what I know to be true will leave me and my family alone. I don't claim that any of these people are real – alien or otherwise. And if I did, like (main character)

Joseph Picasso, I am not at liberty to admit it.

"Because of the danger that underscores letting these stories go, I have held on to them for many years."

The books are available on Amazon, either in paperback or Kindle Books,



at <http://amzn.to/karlniemiec>, with a portion of sales proceeds to be donated to Indiana Youth Group, which supports LGBTQ in ages 12-20.

Niemiec is Executive Producer of Programming, LapTopPublishing.com and KJN On-Camera Studios; contact him at KjN@LapTopPublishing.com. 