



StreetCreds

Zach Fortier

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StreetCreds is a look inside the world of street gangs and the cops that work them. Filled with drive by shootings, back-stabbing detectives, ruthless gang members, killers, and un-believable gang on gang violence. It is all there. StreetCreds takes you inside the Gang Task Force. Hold on for a reality check.

StreetCreds Details

Date : Published January 21st 2012 (first published January 19th 2012)

ISBN :

Author : Zach Fortier

Format : Kindle Edition 263 pages

Genre : Nonfiction, Business, Amazon

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From Reader Review StreetCreds for online ebook

Lisa says

Somehow Zach got into my heart more than most... I found myself screaming RUN but there he stood ALONE... facing the streets challenging THEM to fight... Stealing life escaping from death... the barrel of Pacman's gun stuck in my soul... a kid's need to be a kid but family and society unrelenting... treating others with dignity and respect even after they try to kill...

The mother yelling, Pacman get out of the street! You're gonna get killed!

A father coming to Zach's car looking in seeing the barrel pointed ready to fire...

The daughter most precious gift of all do they live or do they die... do they forgive or do they forget...

My heart afraid that soon the pages would end... StreetCreds better than Curbchek both leaving me wanting... needing... more...

Amber says

I waited in anticipation for STREETCREDS after reading CURBCHEK and my expectations were exceeded. I could not walk away from this book. Zach does an amazing job at making you feel as though you are in the experience with him. While describing the shocking truth and facade of the dangerous and entirely political game of Police work, I felt every emotion. I felt anger, sadness, shock and rage as Zach recounted cases he'd handled. Having to watch his back, while dealing with two enemy factions. The known enemy of the streets and the unknown of his department. Zach put everything on the line to be a cop with integrity, treating everyone with respect, taking the time to learn the streets and the culture within it. Yet he was fighting an uphill battle, not only on the street, but within the department. Fighting to solve cases, get accurate information, get criminal's off the street and fighting to get co-workers and administration to really give a damn about what was happening in the city. STREETCREDS is a great look inside the culture of gangs, the competition within the Police department and the political stranglehold that can be placed on any given Officer at any given time.

Rachel says

Having read Curbchek I was honoured to receive a paperback copy of Street Creds from Zach Fortier. I really enjoyed this one too, but Zach is a very different man from the first book. This book is equally gripping, honest and humble, but the lead is a lot less green and has been hardened somewhat by life.

Zach speaks of not just the stress of working to crack gangs and apprehend gang members, making the streets safer, but also of the war with his dodgy and often haphazard colleagues and his inner battle with himself. The streets have taken their toll and we see him struggle to retain the softer side of his identity, but how can this be possible with what he sees and hears on a daily basis.

This book stayed with me for a long time and I can't wait to read Curbchek Reloaded. I honestly take my hat off to Zach, I know for a fact that I would not be able to do a job like he did, let alone be brave enough to write the truth afterwards. We need more like Zach on our streets to keep our children safe, and it's a shame that many good guys are broken by the sheer weight of responsibility.

Well written and edited as usual, the paperback version was my copy for this review but it is also available on Kindle now.

Rachel Dove
The Kindle Book Review

Aimeekay says

I was really looking forward to reading Street Creds. I had read Curbchek and enjoyed it immensely.

Fortier continues painting the picture that he started in his first book. This time however the focus is more on his years in the gang task force, which he only touched on previously. He also goes deeper into detail on some of the incidents that he first introduced in his previous book. At first I wasn't sure how to take the repeating of some of the stories. The more I thought on it though, the repetition makes sense. Curbchek was his experiences as a whole while in law enforcement, Streetcreds is specifically his experiences in and with the gang unit, as well as the gangs that they interacted with. It also draws a painful portrait of a man whose daily interactions with the community he served permanently skewed how he saw the world around him. (If you're still concerned about it, don't worry it's only a few stories, and not the majority of the book, so it doesn't take away from the book)

Streetcreds is also darker than it's predecessor. There are fewer laugh out loud moments, and more that were just heart-wrenching. Again I think this is due to how these experiences affected him and that he is trying to communicate that to the reader. But once again Fortier lifts the veil that separates the average day person from a world that is dangerous and a lot closer than they realize. He also shows how not everyone who is involved is stupid or strung out. How the gang world is evolving and changing. And even how those who refuse to acknowledge the darker side of society's existence aren't immune to it's touch.

I think whether or not you read the first book, you will still enjoy Streetcreds. It's fast paced and there are some great insights in it into the world of gangs and the people who are trying to control them.

Definitely worth picking up.

Beth Bailey says

After thoroughly enjoying reading Zach's book "Curbchek" I was very excited when Zach asked me to read "Street Creds" and do a review for him! I was definately not disappointed! As usual Zach portrays a remarkably refreshing honest account on his experiences working with the diverse gangs on the streets today. He lays it all right out there, the good and the bad by individual cases and gangs he was working with. I especially appreciate his honesty in speaking out on the corruption that exists within our police force. Although we all know that it exists, it is rare when it is publicized and even rarer by a fellow officer. I read this book in one day, once I started it, I read it cover to cover. Zach's patience and dedication to his career is definately an asset to the safety of our streets. Zach not only takes the time to get to know the different gangs and their traits, but also goes the extra step and tries extremely hard to get to know as many of them as possible as individuals. These are not just "cases" to Zach, they are individuals....and he treats them as such. As you are reading this book, Zach writes in such a descriptive way it feels like you are actually there beside

him. I would definately reccommend this book to others to read!!! Another great job Zach!

Brooke says

The descriptions of characters and incidents kept me reading, but this book desperately needs better editing. Some sentences/paragraphs simply need to be re-ordered, and then the writing and storytelling would flow better. As is, it's a series of anecdotes which make you feel as if you're listening to the author tell his stories. (My rating is actually 3.5 stars.)

Updated 04.17.13: Since Monday afternoon, I've seen hours of coverage on the bombings at the Boston Marathon. Yesterday afternoon, one of my friends witnessed a shooting in the city where we work. What does this have to do with my review? It serves as yet another reminder for us to thank and appreciate those in law enforcement and emergency and medical services who work so hard for us.

Garth Mailman says

Couldn't finish it.

As another reviewer has written, free or not, not worth the download. One is forced to believe that if this man still works for the police he writes under a pen name and that the authour photo is faked. The police service he describes is too busy chasing its own tail to fight crime. Given that police services are run by human beings and manned by officers with the same failings this officer sees conspiracy behind every doorway. In the first place it would seem their psychological profiling system has failed them or they would never have hired someone whose childhood years left him as screwed up as this person describes his as being. After reading the first couple chapters I was forced to decided this book just wasn't worth my time.

Eric says

A couple weeks back I was lucky enough to be able to read and review Zach Fortier's first book, Curbchek, which I absolutely loved. I gladly accepted when Zach offered me a review copy of Streetcreds, and I am glad to say I loved it just as much as I loved Curbchek!

While Curbchek mostly followed Fortier as a cop patrolling the city, etc. Streetcreds focused on the Gang Task Force that Fortier was on for a while. While it is a bit different that what happens in Curbchek, I thought it was cool to learn about the different ways Zach interacted with the gangs and how the streets worked when he became more involved with different groups. The action and intensity is still there, and I loved it. Another thing that I don't think there was much of in Curbchek that is seen in Streetcreds is a bit of background on Fortier. There was a bit in the beginning of the novel that was especially touching (not really the right word, but at the same time it is, and also slightly sad) about Zach's childhood. I just felt for Zach and reading the scene was very emotional. I felt it was a great addition to the story that let us see a little in Zach's past and what he had to deal with growing up.

I really liked how the stories were spread out and how certain parts involved people from earlier stories, just like in *Curbchek*. It is so strange to think that in the gang world, people keep turning back up and just won't go away. I loved how Zach progressed throughout the novel, how being on the Gang Task Force affected him. Especially the last two chapters or so really showed how the Task Force had changed Zach as a person, and it seemed it changed him in a much different way than being a cop in *Curbchek* did. I thought it was cool how the two different jobs had different effects on Fortier, and it was scary to see what it did to him.

In *Curbchek*, it took me a while to get used to Zach's writing style, but it had eventually grown on me and I really enjoyed it. Jumping into *Streetcreds* gave me no problems, as I really do enjoy Fortier's style of writing now. I don't really know how to describe it, it is just really to the point, I guess you could say. It keeps things understandable and puts you right there in the event, and you feel like you are right there with Zach.

Streetcreds had some pretty disturbing parts, just like *Curbchek*, and it was awesome. It was real, and often kinda scary. Some of the cases Zach had to deal with were beyond weird, and it was really cool to get some insight into just what he had to deal with.

Overall, I really enjoyed *Streetcreds*, just as much as i enjoyed *Curbchek*, and i definitely look forward to Zach's next novel, *Curbchek Reload*. I have a feeling its gonna be awesome. Anyway, if you are looking for a fast paced, real, and highly enjoyable story, i recommend you check out *Streetcreds*, and also *Curbchek*. You don't want to miss out!

Dan G. says

After reading *CurbChek*, I waited with strong anticipation for the release of *Street Creds*. I was not dissapointed.

Zach takes us to the streets with him as he recounts his time as a gangs detective in the city of "St. Paul". This book does not read like a traditional novel, but rather a collection of short stories. Each of which is a new case Zach takes on, or a bone chilling event that took place during his gang assignment. He breaks down each gang, and their m.o. as they arrive in the stories. None of these cases are ordinary, each is very dymanic in their own way. One story he ends up in a high-speed pursuit of some thugs who just committed a drive-by shooting, and he has the reader wondering if he is going kill these guys (out of anger, not necessity) once he catches them. Zach had to work with a unit of detectives who were constantly trying to sabotage his cases, administration who could care less about the rampant gang wars that were taking place under their noses, and city councilmen who were affiliated with the bangers themselves. This gave Zach the "Everyone is corrupt, trust no one" mentality. He is very articulate in his writing and will put the reader in the room with him. The same room where he stands toe-to-toe with twenty bangers, ready to shoot it out! Pick this book up, and you'll never put it down.

-Dan G.

Tammy says

Although my review of Zach Fortier's *Curbchek* was less than favorable, the author asked me to read and review *Street Creds*, which follows much the same format but focuses on Fortier's time working on the Gang

Task Force. I expected *Curbchek* to be a novel, which it claims to be. But it was a rather thinly disguised memoir of actual police cases, and so when I began *Street Creds* I was prepared for the same thing. I was not disappointed.

In the specialized Gang Task Force, Fortier once again shows us the realities of life on the other side of the law, as he infiltrates some of the toughest gangs on the streets. Using his apparent charm to get hardened criminals, drug dealers, and gang members to trust him, he not only makes arrests and gets convictions in court, but he also dodges bullets, engages in a dangerous high-speed chase after witnessing a drive-by, and even plays a key role in stopping a turf war. Reading about these exploits makes you wonder how the force got along before he joined them. The raw language, which only highlights his rough writing skills, for some reason fits in with the down-and-dirty, super-hero-like feats he pulls off.

The book is arranged as a series of chapters highlighting different cases with gangs, and unlike *Curbchek*, which didn't have any kind of arc, *Street Creds* feels more like a complete story. Chapter One explains how Fortier became part of the Gang Task Force and his disdain at discovering how mismanaged the department was, and as the chapters progress, he gradually gets to know the individual gang members, which helps him succeed in solving crimes and cleaning up the streets, at least according to him. By the end I almost felt like I knew the author better, and in some strange way, even understood him.

This time around Fortier gives us a glimpse of his violent childhood. Raised by a sadistic mother and an overworked and angry father, he and his brother are taught at a young age to steal, lie and fight. Like many children raised in such an environment, he grows up believing that his is a normal childhood. After describing this horrific upbringing, Fortier concludes that the abuse only made him better able to relate to the gang members he spends time with every day.

Street Creds also shows us the emotional state of a man who spends his days and nights with criminals and violence. In a poignant moment near the end of the book, the author observes his daughter in the bathroom. She is looking in the mirror and holding up her hands in a way that makes him think she is making a gang "sign." He is appalled and angry that his own daughter may actually be involved in a gang, and he confronts her. The girl, scared and confused, tells her father that she is only looking at nail polishes and trying to decide what color to wear. Defeated, Fortier realizes that it's time to get off the streets, or he may destroy one of the only good relationships he has.

Despite his aggression and complete lack of respect for his fellow police officers, Fortier hides his vulnerability behind a tough guy façade as he gamely tries to find his place in the world. *Street Creds* is more introspective and controlled than *Curbchek*. Fortier's anger issues are still there, but he clearly wants to make things better, both on the streets and in the Task Force. He's trying to figure out which world he belongs in, and my guess is it's somewhere in between.

Many thanks to the author for sending me a review copy of the book.

This review originally appeared on Books, Bones & Buffy.

Rick says

Zach gets a little more fictional, but still close enough to reality to be scary. Zach is not afraid to rip on the politics of the PD, while continueing to do the job the way he see's fit. A realistic view of how the battle is actually fought on three fronts at the same time, fighting crime; the administration; and staying within the acceptable norm of society. Zach presents his insight on the inner city gangs and some of the more colorful

people who choose to make that their life. The toll taken on him and his fellow officers is brought to light, explaining the burnout and cutthroat tactics utilized within the culture. Having worked closely with Zach and actually being referenced in this book are both honors. Thanks Zach for another great adventure!!

Shannon Gambino says

Zach Fortier exposes more internal corruption as he takes to the streets to battle the gangs' forever increasing activity. Zach hangs on to a modicum of sanity as he deals with gang crimes and the superiority complex of the higher echelon in his police force. Taking on a more somber mood than his previous book, CURBCHEK, STREETCREDS reads more like a death warrant for all involved - as if each person is doomed to lose, including Zach. Each story concludes with the gang member being locked up, washed up, used up, or dead; each chapter leading to an ultimate demise of friendships, family, sanity, and even life. Toward the end of the book, Zach is dealing with almost the same internal conflict as the older gang members: he's alone with no one to trust, has lost his relationship with his daughter, is fighting for his sanity. Zach's story directly parallels that of each gang member written about in STREETCREDS.

The insight given shows how much those who willingly put their lives on the line to protect the streets are affected by it. Kudos to Mr. Fortier who opens up without qualms and shows the world the good, the bad, the funny, and the ugly of police work.

Jeannie Walker says

I must say StreetCreds definitely is a reality check to what is actually happening on the streets, and elsewhere, especially in big cities, but also in towns.

The author was a police officer, who spent time in a Gang task force. He has been fighting crime for over 30 years. He knows what it is like to put everything on the line as a cop with integrity and fighting the uphill battle on the street as well as trying to get some co-workers and administration officials to give a hoot about what is happening in the streets and the department. The author exposes corruption both on the streets and in the police department. Unfortunately, there are good cops and there are bad cops. I believe readers will come to respect Zach Fortier and the amazing job he does in describing the truth and the danger.

Does the dedicated police officer wind up with no one to trust? Does he lose his relationship with his family? Does he lose his sanity? You will have to read this incredible book to find out.

I highly recommend reading StreetCreds. It is a book you won't be able to put down. Just be ready to experience all your emotions - sadness, anger, shock, and rage.

Jeannie Walker - Award Winning Author of "Fighting the Devil"- A True Crime Story of Consuming Passion, Deadly Poison, and Murder

Sue says

I won Street Creds by Zach Fortier through the Goodreads giveaway contest.

They say that God never gives you more than you can handle, but in this story Zach has been through alot, and learned so much during the process.

Street Creds is a look inside the Gang culture in the inner city, and the cases handled by Zach Fortier.I could not walk away from this book. Zach does an amazing job at making you feel as though you are in the

experience with him. While describing the shocking truth of the dangerous and entirely political game of Police work, I felt every emotion. My heart went out to him. Having always to watch his back, while dealing with the enemy, and dealing with the "What's in it for Me" generation in his department. Zach put everything on the line to be a cop with integrity, treating everyone with respect, taking the time to learn the streets and the culture within it. Yet he was fighting an uphill battle, not only on the street, but within the department. Fighting to solve cases, get accurate information, get criminal's off the street and fighting to get co-workers and administration to really give a damn about what was happening in the city. STREETCREDS is a great look inside the culture of gangs, the competition within the Police department and the political stranglehold that can be placed on any given Officer at any given time.

Star says

StreetCreds: Commanding a level of respect in an urban environment due to experience in or knowledge of issues affecting those environments.

Welcome back to the life of Zach Fortier, first seen in CurbChek! StreetCreds is a more in depth look at Zach's time in the Gang Task Force. Pulling no punches, Mr. Fortier tells it raw and uncensored - as it truly happened. At times scary and at times heart-wrenching, StreetCreds will definitely make it's mark on your mind and heart. It's amazing to me to read about all of the b.s. cops have to deal with - not only on the streets, but in their own units. It seems to me the thin blue line is only in effect at certain times and not for everyone. StreetCreds is amazing and eye-opening!

Books by Zach Fortier: CurbChek, StreetCreds, Curbchek Reload
