

An American Lowlife

Scot Sothern

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Scot Sothern : An American Lowlife before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised An American Lowlife:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Scot Sothern: The Literary Knockout of the YearBy Jim A. LopezScot Sothern's "Curb Service" (Published by Soft Skull Press, 2013) was/is one of the most, if not the most exciting reads of the year, and now he has presented us with his "An American Lowlife" (Published by powerHouse Books): a raw gritty collection of photographs and prose that depict the stories of life in the streets for hard working ladies (and some gentlemen) of the night.I been reading Sothern for three years now and he simply gets better and better. His prose are short and too the point, reflecting a writer who labors at his craft (seemingly effortlessly, that is,

he has soul). Doing the work for his readers, he makes it a pleasure to turn the page, with an anticipation that does not go unrewarded. He is in the great tradition (and this is not hype), Sothern is truly in the tradition of Hemingway, that is, he hits his reader with a force and sentimentality that makes one feel like he or she were there with him in a dirty hotel room or under a highway overpass somewhere in Los Angeles. He cares for his subjects but not so much that his subjects get away from him in a fairy tale romance. Prostitution is a reality and Sothern shows us that reality in both his photos and his prose: the ugly, depressing, the longing for hope and something other than a "sugar daddy" with a fist demanding cash emerge on the page. Sothern guides his readers and viewers into the harsh lives of the working girls who had a hand in the building of the American west. "An American Lowlife" is not polished PR, nor is it for the cute and cleaver. "An American Lowlife" and Sothern are the real deal. Scot Sothern belongs in the class of other Los Angeles writers, such as Mike Davis and James Elroy, with the social realism of John Steinbeck and Nelson Algren, and his photos are as poignant, extreme and hard hitting as Larry Clark's "Tulsa". I had no problems with the e-book download. Photos and text came out great! If you have not read Scot Sothern or viewed his photos, "An American Lowlife" is an excellent introduction to the work and vision of this author and artist. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Buy this book. By Bobby B. Great photography and an intriguing and provocative subject. A gritty, black and white photographic journey through the motels and back alleys of street prostitution. A modern day Weegee. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The ouija board of love By vportillo Scot Sothern is an American Lowlife. He is the Weegee of prostitution. He's got some mommas in here that will soil Pazuzu's britches, snap your neck, and throw you out the window. Terrific!

Using his camera like a knuckled fist, Scot Sothern spent five years photographing street prostitutes and the bleak netherworld they, and he, inhabited. He was not in the trenches as a journalist or crusader but as a John with base instincts and an artistic eye. Gritty, black-and-white Tri-X images, along with Sothern's short, confessional writing tell the story of An American Lowlife. Shot mostly in Southern California between 1986 and 1990, this work records the existence of the many disenfranchised Americans, men and women, hawking body and soul for the price of a Big Mac and a fix. With these full-frontal portraits, and full disclosure texts, An American Lowlife documents the struggle and paralyzing plight of street-level sex workers-victims of a culture that deems them criminal and expendable. Originally published in the U.K. as a limited edition artist's book in 2011, and now out of print, An American Lowlife has been resurrected and is now presented as an EBook for all who missed the original.