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Hunter S. Thompson's Story

Thompson's version of the party is much darker than [Wolfe's](#) or [Ginsberg's](#) versions. Thompson rode around with the Hell's Angels for a year in order to write *Hell's Angels: A Strange and Terrible Saga*. Though he had initially developed a friendly working relationship with the outlaws, he was nearly killed after being stomped by four or five of them at a bar.

Thompson inserted the Kesey/Hell's Angels alliance in a chapter entitled "The Hoodlum Circus and the Statutory Rape of Bass Lake." Much of this chapter is devoted to the Angels' reputation for rape, murder, and mayhem. Thus, Thompson focuses on the orgy as he recalls the party:

Soon she was surrounded by a large group of onlookers. . . drinking, laughing, and taking a quick turn whenever some vacancy occurred. . . It was not a particularly sexual scene. The impression I had at the time was one of vengeance. The atmosphere in the room was harsh and brittle, almost hysterical. (192)

Thompson had witnessed several of these orgies before and was familiar with the Hell's Angels' outlook on sex and women. To him, the party was not a pleasant example of free love. Instead, it was another outlet for the Angels' aggression. Though one may argue that Thompson was biased because he was eventually betrayed by the Angels, his novel exhibits very little bias. He portrays the Angels in a very straightforward style, debunking the sensationalist myths surrounding the legendary outlaws.

