

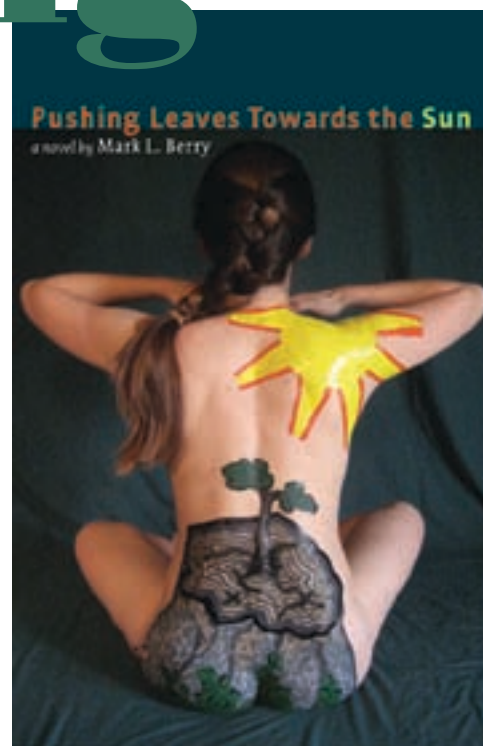
Life Imitating Art

As I rediscover riding

By Mark L Berry #139933

More than 20 years after I earned my motorcycle endorsement, how did I fall in love with riding again? It's a case of 'life imitating art' as I wrote my first novel and decided I had to have the bike from my own book.

My life changed radically in 1996 when my fiancée died unexpectedly onboard TWA800, a Boeing 747 that literally blew up over Long Island, in which all 230 passengers and crew were lost. I don't know that anyone is ever prepared to lose the person they love the most. My situation was even more complicated because my fiancée, Susanne, was a passenger



on the airline I work for, so my entire world (soul mate, home, work, family, everything) was uprooted. In the years that followed, I wrote song lyrics to deal with my grief and survivor's guilt in addition to talking through my emotions with a professional therapist. Ten years after that tragic event I decided I needed to write even more to feel better. I decided to use those songs as the foundation for my first novel with the hope of helping others who are suddenly faced with a great loss. Of course, the first person this book has helped has been me.