

RIDER PROFILES

By Janga

Dave Kragen and Veronica

Dave is better known as K.D. Kragen of science fiction writing fame, and Veronica is his motorcycle. Veronica is special in more ways than one. She stars in his recent novel "The Wastes," morphed into a super bike capable of carrying heroic bikers through vast toxic waste dumps at 130 mph. The real life Veronica is an '85 Yamaha VMax. She is an original. 1985 was the first year of the VMax making this is the 20th anniversary of the legendary muscle bike.

Five years ago Dave's wife Jan wanted to do more two up touring but wanted a comfortable ride. They tried out several different bikes, but it was love at first spin on the VMax. Dave has been a long time rider, but Veronica shook his complacency. "It's like the 10mm gun when I was in the Coast Guard, you don't pull the trigger, you squeeze it gently. Her throttle is like that. Took me a while to get used to it." Jan liked the exhilarating, vibrationless ride. The VMax has changed little since it was launched; same styling with small mechanical changes. Veronica's performance has been kept slick with her engine bored out to 1300 cc. with carb rejetting, progressive suspension rear shocks, front fork springs, a lowering kit, Cobra 4-into-4 pipes, Furbur steering head fix to eliminate front end high speed wobble, and an aluminum fan to keep her cool.

What does a philosophy professor biker do when teaching jobs are hard to come by? Dave did odd jobs, editing, even washing dishes in a dinner on Bainbridge Island, until Jan encouraged him to stay home, write, help raise their daughter, and have dinner ready, while she happily worked as a teacher. Dave spent a few years piling up rejection slips until his talent was recognized and his work started to be published by ArcheBooks.

"The Wastes" is the sequel to "Killware." Both are fast action page turners, and available together in book form as "The Killware Chronicles." The main characters that Dave creates stay in your mind as real people, ordinary people, (well, maybe they're somewhat eccentric, a bit quirky), until they are inadvertently caught up in events that require all the survival chi that they can summon. In both novels, when new players are introduced, they emerge three dimensional, adding depth and intensity to the story. "I take bits and pieces from people I know or hear about to form the personalities and plot lines." The Killware Chronicles is an earthly tale of artificial intelligence seeking human components, berserker corporations, children of dubious value, an edgy assortment of well armed internet chat addicts, friends of friends on "cavalry duty", and two do-gooders riding powerful Veronica toward the resulting battle. It's a good read. Check your local book store, library, or order on line.

Dave is busy working on another sequel, and teaches Philosophy at Trumeau College Of The Arts. He has a fourth novel, "Plagueman," to be released this summer. Dave is a member of VMax Owners Association. Veronica is still his daily ride and enjoys being a celebrity.

Killware.com

