

## WHO I AM



### Individual

Throughout my lifetime I have encountered many things that I have enjoyed, but have never had the chance to love. This year I have had the chance to put my hand on the throttle, roll my wrist backwards, and feel the freedom that runs through my hair. Motorcycles have done something to me that no other human or entity could have. They have taught me that sometimes all we need is to listen to the motor, and set a gaze on the horizon. The breeze has something to it. Whether it is after every second that goes by I know I just escaped my death, or if it is the calming sense of that I didn't just die. Even the culture that comes along with motorcycle's. Every character has a different background, just like every bike has a different make or displacement. It never gets old meeting someone new with the same passion that you have. The love to ride. That's what its all about isn't it? Passion? A strong and barley controllable emotion. That's exactly what this machine has done to me. Every time I hear the motor fire up, my blood ignites, my fingers twitch, and my overall excitement pulsates throughout my body. The feeling is indescribable. The sound. The road. And the weightless motion as your soul leans into the wind.

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### Family

As I get older I've noticed the relationship between my family change. More mature conversations are compelled about money problems, conflicts at work, and I have even learned that the smallest things can act as a guideline to an even closer relationship. My grandfather has been struggling with heart problems

for the last couple years and introduced me to his love for music. Records have been around since Columbia Records introduced LP's in 1948. My grandfather played me the first ever record I'd ever heard, and at that instant I fell in love with the waxy black circles. The album's name was Happy Moods by a pianist named Ahmad Jamal. Little did I know the actual sentimental value this album had. The night I left my grandparents house my mother started to cry. My grandfather was the head of the RCMP in Calgary, Alberta. My mother told me whenever something bad had happened or he had a tough day, he would come home and play this record. The smooth touch of Ahmad Jamal's fingers seemed to take away the pain and replace it with peace. Harmony. Calmness. A few years later on my birthday, my grandfather gave me the album. And as he did, every time I'm feeling down I drop the needle, and let it caress my sorrow away.

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## Peers

Skateboarding is a sense of friendship, not only between you and your board, but with the people you meet along the way. I've worked at a skateboard shop for three years now and can't believe what I've learned and who I have met along the way. The atmosphere and the people around skateboarding is kind of like one huge family. Everyone you meet is so encouraging and passionate about the sport. It's extremely refreshing to see. Now a days all the top athletes are just playing because of money, but skateboarding is different. Athletes do it for the fun of it. My friends and I have always revolved around the skateboard culture. It has, and will always be attached to us. The smooth and repetitive feeling of putting your foot down, kicking back, and letting the board roll underneath your feet will never get old. Something about the harmonious feeling causes an addictive disease. The disease of love. The love of a lifestyle.

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