

## Night Rider

by cubic *Thursday, Jun 20 2013, 12:11pm*

international / poetry / post



the wind is constant  
on the southern tablelands  
there is not one straight tree  
on the land

but it's not the wind  
it's the sound  
as it hisses thru the grasses,  
whistles, howls and whips  
thru trees, outcrops and fences  
that unhinges locals

stark and sharp in its bitterness

small settlements are known  
for their brooding populations  
no banjo players only disappearances  
tourists and those foolish enough to hitch  
a ride with windblown rattled minds

by the side of the road  
my Italian 750 purrs under me  
engine muffled by the wind  
i tighten my scarf, zip my leathers  
clip my helmet and hit the highway  
tightening my thighs  
to catch the warmth of the engine

headed north for Sydney,  
home

night riding is safer  
highway traffic is sparse

and speed is easy though  
the cold freezes gloved hands  
on throttle and clutch lever

black leathers,  
helmet and bike  
merging with the night  
i roar past hamlets at speed, cognisant  
of the many highway patrol vehicles  
and cops on big bikes that love  
to chase speeding motor cyclists

stopping is out of the question  
i have been contracted  
for special deliveries

the instant i see lights suddenly  
appear  
i open her up,  
the engine is doctored and police  
are not able to barricade the road  
for fear of causing a death for a road offence  
though they always partially  
obstruct the highway  
when radio'd ahead  
the challenge is to choose  
the safest way through gaps at speed,  
it's better to make the pigs jump  
than do jail time

i never know what's in the small packages  
i deliver but it's not difficult  
guessing the return packages are cash  
and lots of it

but i do it for sport and skill,  
not the money though it pays well

it's all in a night's work

i look forward to the city's  
lights  
and familiar backstreets

<http://jungledrum.hopto.org/news/story-642.html>

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Underground Oz Poetry. <http://ozpoetry.lingama.net/news/poem-392.html>