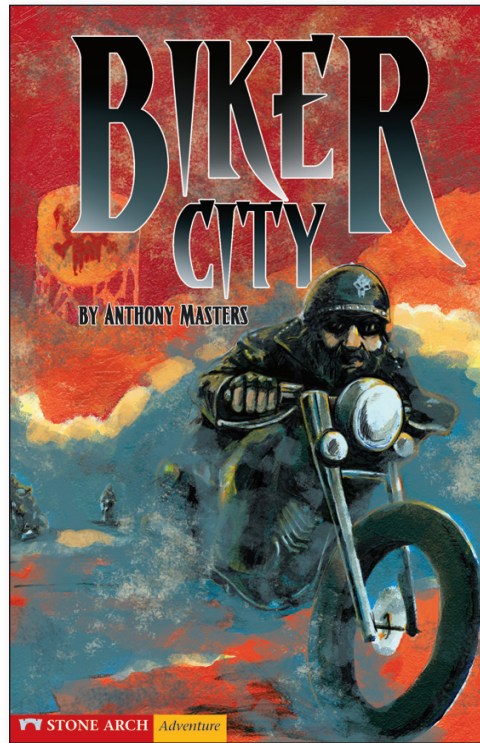




READER'S THEATER



Biker City **by Anthony Master**

Characters: **Todd**
 Todd's mom
 Biker
 Narrator

Genre: **Adventure**
Ages: **8-11**

Biker City page 1

- Todd:** When will Dad get back?
- Mom:** I'm sure he'll be here soon.
- Narrator:** Todd gazed out the window. It was a very dry day. The beach was littered with piles of rotting weeds and white fish bones. It hadn't rained for a very long time, there was no life, and the sea was far away now.
- Mom:** Todd, Dad won't come back just because you want him to.
- Narrator:** Todd was 13. His dad had a gift that others did not have. He could find water under the ground with a special stick he held in his hands. The stick moved by itself when water was near. These days, there was very little water. Many people had died from thirst already. People were frightened, and some would do anything to get water. Because it was no longer safe to live in the city, Todd and his family went to live by the sea. That was years ago. Now there was nothing but miles of sand, dead trees, and no fresh water.
- Todd:** What if the Bikers got Dad? They've been looking for someone to find water for them.
- Mom:** Don't worry, Todd. Your dad can look after himself.
- Narrator:** Todd could hear the fear in his mother's voice behind her confident words.
- Todd:** I'm going to take the beach buggy and go look for him.
- Narrator:** As Todd drove his beach buggy over the sand hills to the road, he felt very thirsty. He always needed a drink of water, since he and his mother had to share what little water they had.
- Todd:** What's that?
- Narrator:** Todd heard the sound of an engine. As he listened, he realized it was not the noise he hoped to hear.
- Todd:** It's a Biker! I can see his gang symbol on his helmet.

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- Narrator:** Todd jumped off his buggy and hid behind a sand dune. He watched the Biker stop, reach in his bag for a bottle of water, and take a long drink.
- Biker:** Ah, that tastes good.
- Todd:** I wonder what he's doing here.
- Biker:** Hmmm, I think the road to that house is around here. I better go get the rest of the gang.
- Narrator:** Then the man turned his bike around and drove back the way he had come.
- Todd:** I hope he doesn't find Dad.
- Narrator:** The Bikers traveled in gangs across the countryside breaking the law. They robbed people and beat them up to get their water.
- Todd:** I had better get back home. The gray sky could mean wind storms are on their way.
- Narrator:** Todd's mom was relieved to see him walk through the door.
- Mom:** I'm glad you're back. I think that horrible, hot, dry wind is coming back.
- Todd:** You mean the scorcher?
- Mom:** Yes. We may have to go down to the basement and take some food with us.
- Todd:** And Dad's still not back. I hate to have him gone when the scorcher comes in from the sea.
- Mom:** I guess something's kept him.
- Narrator:** Todd decided not to tell his mom he'd seen a Biker.
- Mom:** I've put all we need in the basement. Let's get down there. Dad will be okay.

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Narrator:

As Todd and his mom sat in the basement, the scorching wind blew harder. The sand spilled through the wall.

Mom:

I'm sure your dad found somewhere to get shelter from the wind.

Todd:

He'll be home soon.

Narrator:

Todd reassured his mother while wondering if the Bikers had gotten his father. The sound of the wind grew louder and they could barely hear themselves speak. The basement was very hot.

Mom:

Here, Todd. Have some water.

Todd:

You have some too.

Mom:

That's okay. I don't need any.

Narrator:

When the wind blew itself out hours later, they went upstairs. The house was not damaged. There were piles of sand against the front door. Then they heard a roar.

Mom:

That can't be the wind coming back.

Todd:

It's not the wind. It's the Bikers and they're riding straight toward us.

Biker:

Come on, men. I think what we want is inside that house!

Narrator:

Will Todd and his mom stay safe from the Bikers? Why were the Bikers on their way to Todd's house? Will Todd find his dad before it's too late? Read *Biker City* to find out!

THE END