

COLOR IN BLACK & WHITE

I adore the darkness and love the night



By Jay Jefferson
Cooke

You just never know who reads your column.

I am pleasantly surprised when people from way outside of Central Jersey contact me and say that they like Color In Black & White.

I was chatting with a couple of ladies who read my column, and they each seem to be familiar with your humble narrator and his family and friends. My column, after all, is about my life — my life and my feelings. Which, of course, is why it does not matter if readers agree with me. I don't care. As long as people read, I am satisfied. That is why I always thank you for reading.

During my conversation with the two ladies, I wondered about the last 3½ years of Color In Black & White and all the things I have talked about, ranted about, laughed about, cried about and been really angry about. People who follow know how old I am, where I was born, the name of my crew,

why I wear black, where I went to college and grad school (Temple Owls, baby! — Ha! Snuck that in again), why I use parentheses, what my favorite book is, who my favorite actor is, who my favorite actress is, the name of the woman who rejected my marriage proposal, the names of the circus performers (cats) of my two best friends, who my hero is, why I call my daddy “The Old Man,” which 12-car-pile-up gorgeous TV star I mention as frequently as I can, why I am a booster of The Diamond Gems Dance Team, who my favorite band is, why I love Drivin N Cryin so much, who has had the most profound influence on my life, what congregation I belong to, why I miss my Aunt Gail and Uncle Big Tony so much, and much, much more.

One thing that I haven't talked about enough — but an enterprising public relations person read my column and figured it out — is that I adore darkness. This person happens to be representing a company that sells curtains that pledge to really darken a room. Now, I am not one of those Martha Stewart Living types, but hey, anything that shuts out the light interests me. I guess I'm kind of like Dragon, played capably by Thayer David in 1975's “The Eiger Sanction” — that is, minus the whole megalomaniac, cold-blooded killer thing.

Anyway, this PR person sent me some of these curtains, along with some information

about the importance of sleep.

I always could use more sleep.

So after I made the obligatory donation to the MyCentral Jersey.com Wish Book fund — y'all know I can't accept free gifts without making the equivalent donation to

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our company's charity — I tested these curtains out. They don't come in black (sigh), but they do block out enough light to make a room dark as the night. And like Blue Oyster Cult sang, “I love the night,” or if you prefer, like Ozzy Osbourne sang, I'm “Waiting For Darkness.”

Yeah, I like music too (not just movies).

Well the curtains work really well. By the way, they are called Light-Catcher curtains, and they promise to “help create the perfect sleeping environment by shielding out light, noise and drafts, keeping the room cool, dark and quiet.”

Wow, maybe I should put some over my dearest readers — maybe that will quiet them down. If only these curtains could raise their intelligence quotient. (Boy, that last crack is gonna bring in the e-mails and the 3-in-the-morning anonymous voicemails.)

Thanks for reading. I have a useful new tool someone sent me to help train our summer interns this year. It's a good book called “The Plan” by John M. McKee and Helen Latimer. This book offers tips on methods to accelerate your career or even start a



new one (hmmmm) and talks about why it's critical to focus on your personal and family lives.

It's a good read.

Color In Black & White appears Sundays, Tuesdays and Fridays. Jay Jefferson Cooke is assistant editor of the Courier News, the Home News Tribune and MyCentralJersey.com. You may call Cooke at 908-243-6603, e-mail him at: jjcooke@NJPressMedia.com or write to him at 92 E. Main St., Suite 202, Somerville, NJ 08876.