



The Perfect Vehicle: What It Is About Motorcycles

Melissa Holbrook Pierson

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The Perfect Vehicle: What It Is About Motorcycles *Melissa Holbrook Pierson*

"This book, a polished, winding meditation on the theory and fractiousness of motorcycles, celebrates both their eccentric history and the wary pleasures of touring."—*The New Yorker*

In a book that is "a must for anyone who has loved a motorcycle" (Oliver Sacks), Melissa Pierson captures in vivid, writerly prose the mysterious attractions of motorcycling. She sifts through myth and hyperbole: misrepresentations about danger, about the type of people who ride and why they do so. *The Perfect Vehicle* is not a mere recitation of facts, nor is it a polemic or apologia. Its vivid historical accounts—the beginnings of the machine, the often hidden tradition of women who ride, the tale of the defiant ones who taunt death on the racetrack—are intertwined with Pierson's own story, which, in itself, shows that although you may think you know what kind of person rides a motorcycle, you probably don't.



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