## Commuter Angst: Dangerous Drivers and Other Obstacles on the Path to Two-Wheeled Freedom

Riding a motorcycle can be a liberating experience. It's a great way to save money on gas, reduce your carbon footprint, and beat traffic. But it also comes with its share of challenges. One of the biggest obstacles is the presence of dangerous drivers on the road.



The Enlightened Cyclist: Commuter Angst, Dangerous Drivers, and Other Obstacles on the Path to Two-

Wheeled Trancendence by gal-dem

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According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA),motorcyclists are 28 times more likely to be killed in a crash than passenger car occupants. And while motorcycle fatalities have declined in recent years, they still account for a disproportionate number of traffic deaths.

There are a number of factors that contribute to commuter angst, including:

- Aggressive drivers: Some drivers are simply more aggressive than others. They may tailgate, cut you off, or even try to run you off the road.
- Distracted drivers: Many drivers are distracted by their cell phones,
   GPS devices, or other activities. This can lead to them not paying attention to the road and causing accidents.
- Impaired drivers: Driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs is a major problem on the roads today. Impaired drivers are more likely to make mistakes, such as speeding, running red lights, and failing to yield.

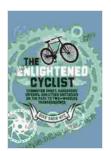
In addition to dangerous drivers, there are a number of other obstacles that motorcycle riders face on the road, including:

- Road hazards: Potholes, debris, and other road hazards can pose a serious threat to motorcyclists. Even a small pothole can cause you to lose control of your bike.
- Weather conditions: Rain, snow, and ice can make riding a motorcycle more dangerous. Wet roads can reduce traction, making it more difficult to stop or turn. Snow and ice can make it difficult to see and can cause your bike to slide.
- Mechanical problems: Even the most well-maintained motorcycle can experience mechanical problems. A flat tire, a broken chain, or a dead battery can all leave you stranded on the side of the road.

Despite the challenges, there are a number of things that motorcycle riders can do to overcome commuter angst and make their rides safer. Here are a few tips:

- Be aware of your surroundings: Pay attention to the traffic around you and be prepared to react to dangerous drivers. Use your mirrors frequently and be aware of what's happening behind you.
- Ride defensively: Don't assume that other drivers will see you. Ride in a way that makes you visible to other vehicles. Avoid riding in blind spots and be prepared to take evasive action if necessary.
- Wear proper gear: A helmet is the most important piece of safety gear for motorcyclists. It can protect your head in the event of a crash.
   Other important gear includes gloves, boots, and a jacket.
- Take a motorcycle safety course: A motorcycle safety course can teach you the skills you need to ride safely. These courses cover a variety of topics, including basic riding techniques, cornering, and emergency braking.

Riding a motorcycle can be a rewarding experience. But it's important to be aware of the challenges and to take steps to make your rides safer.



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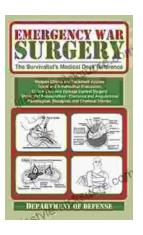
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