



Ladies Up Front

Aims Call, aka Glitter Girl in the Wind

Despite growing up and living in a small town in Wyoming from kindergarten through high school graduation, I am a true gypsy at heart. Traveling is a passion of mine and as soon as I left my hometown of Green River, Wyoming I traveled the world as much as possible. I've had the chance to live in some exciting cities ranging from New York City, Los Angeles, Washington D.C. to Hilton Head Island, South Carolina. and I even spent some time living in northeastern China. While in China I backpacked solo through most of the country and spent time in the mountains at a Buddhist monastery. Of all of the places I have lived Denver, Colorado is by far my favorite city. A true Rocky Mountain girl needs her mountains and I absolutely love the riding our beautiful state has to offer. Road trips on my bike are the very best way to travel. I love being out in the open air riding through beautiful canyons and countryside. Riding is pretty much always on my mind. I'm always daydreaming of what new things I can do to my bike and the next bike I am going to buy. I am constantly daydreaming of new roads to travel and new places to see. I want to cover the U.S. Canada and also ride new roads internationally. The world is just one big riding opportunity!

Before I bought my bike I had no idea of the entirely new (to me) world of riding that I was about to enter. One of the most life-changing aspects of learning to ride has been meeting all of the amazing people I have had the chance to meet so far. Riding has been a true gift and I have made some amazing friends in the wind along the way. I have learned to appreciate good riders who not only ride safely themselves but look out for those in their riding group as well. These are the riders I stick close to and while I love riding alone, riding with great friends can be even better. Similar to how a wolf pack travels making sure that the more vulnerable wolves are always protected. My friends and I make sure we know the riding skills of all of us on the road together and we ride at a pace and choose a route that is rider-friendly for all of us to enjoy together. We don't leave a fellow rider behind or put them in a position where they may feel pressured to "keep up" and we don't take unnecessary risks that would risk group safety. My advice to any new rider, especially women riders, is to find your wolf pack and ride with them.

One of the best parts of riding is being a part of the conversations along the way. Riding is so much more than the incredibly free feeling of having our knees and face in the breeze. Riding has an entire culture. Being a part of this culture you get to meet some interesting fellow riders along the road and hear their stories. I



believe if we really sat down and talked to just about anyone we would be amazed at the stories that we all have to share. We share stories to make each other laugh, we share stories to entertain, we share stories to grow closer and understand one another and we also share stories to help each other.

Riding has helped me start to enjoy life on a wholly different level. A few years ago I survived a home invasion and an attempt on my life. I fought hard to survive and apparently I'm meant to be here because I was allowed to live. I see life each day as a gift and I try to live life to the fullest. After the attack I had a hard time sleeping and relived the event in nightmares for years. It has taken a lot of time, prayer and hard work for me to heal and for me to get better. I hated the person who had done this to me—and, waking up hating someone every day can make you miserable.

I don't know if you have ever heard the saying, "Holding onto anger is like drinking poison and expecting the other person to die"? This



seems to me to be very true. I eventually chose to forgive my attacker and while it was the hardest thing I have ever done, it was also one of the best things I have ever done. Freeing myself from the hate and resentment has given me a much better way to live.

Forgiving someone who wrongs you doesn't mean you talk to them or try to have any kind of relationship with them, it simply means you set yourself free from their actions that hurt you. When you do this, you can truly be free. Everyone has their own path they need walk, and my path was forgiveness. Forgiveness allowed me to stop being a victim and turn into a strong survivor.

My attacker was very remorseful and doesn't remember attacking me. Don't get me wrong, I'm not excusing what happened. But today, I can say that I have seen the effects that drugs and alcohol can have, and how it can steal someone's soul and put them into a downward spiral where they end up doing things they would never normally do.

Now, I try to live my life how I ride my bike—moving forward, not backward. I think riding is symbolic of life in general, sometimes we find ourselves caught in a storm, and it sucks, but we push through or find a safe place to wait out the storm. No matter what, the storms always go away and the sun does come back out.

Over time, experience helps us to become better riders. Experience also helps us to become better at this crazy thing called life. One thing I really love about riding is that when I'm on the bike I'm in the moment. I'm paying attention to the road and my surroundings and just taking it all in. I'm not stressed about work or anything else. Riding demands your full attention and to me it is true happiness and freedom. There's nothing a great motorcycle ride can't fix! Those of us that ride know this feeling well so keep on riding my brothers and sisters in the wind and I'll see you on the road!

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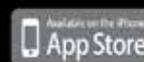
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