

## BOOKS. IVÁN MONTES GÁLVEZ

Translated from original Spanish

### PERCEPTIONS OF POWER

The woman who rides a motorcycle emits a special energy that is easy to recognize and easy to connect with it. A sort of emotional bond that reminds us that men and women share the same freedoms and rights, which excites our admiration by knowing that women have struggled to get there, to overcoming the highest barriers of social and cultural thinking.

Maybe female riders can be seen as the epitome of their own fights and demands, their constant struggle to get these and cause them to be recognised, an example to our (sometimes) comfortable and indifferent male conformism. Perhaps his own figure, vulnerable, strong and free, thrills and disturbs us equally.

On a bike seems that women have had found decades ago a real road to empowerment (remember the flappers, without going further), to a self-consciousness of themselves, to their inner strength, their independence, their personal balance and control of their own lives.

All of these is demonstrated by this fantastic book by Canadian author Liz Jansen, *Women, Motorcycles and the Road to Empowerment*. An original and necessary vision that transcends the unique relationship between human being and machine, and focus in fifty female stories of self-discovering through the motorcycle.

Among these there are some names you might be familiar with, like those of the writer Carla King, the stuntwoman Debbie Evans, Lois Pryce (author of the essential moto-adventure tale *Lois on the Loose*), or the beautiful 'speedhunter' of the Bonneville Salt Flats, Leslie Porterfield. Testimonies that demolish all the *clichés* you could conceive, which are based on contemporary reality and transcend all the surfaces and showing us that, above all, the bike can transport us to a new state of consciousness. Riding it is sensual, visceral and nourishing body, mind and soul. It commits our five senses and a sixth, of intuition of what surrounds us.

Motorcycle satisfies our primal instincts of evasion and speed. Riding it is like a ceremony or a mad sweet dance —do you remember those between Doohan and Crivillé?—. Strength, balance, courage and skill; women they have a lot. Even the cover illustration of Lyn Bishop reflects perfectly the inner energy that this book holds.

### WOMEN, AND THE ROAD MOTORCYCLES TO EMPOWERMENT

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