

The article below is reprinted from the Go for a Ride Magazine magazine May 2013 issue with some minor changes to the lay-out. This magazine serves the Florida motorcycle and Trike Community.

**GO
FOR A
RIDE**

GO FOR A RIDE MAGAZINE: BIKER BOOK SHELF

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Blind Curves

By Linda Crill

After 18 months of following one-size-fits-all advice for a 57-year-old new widow, Linda Crill is still miserable. In a moment of rebellion, she trades her corporate suits for motorcycle leathers and commits herself to a 2,500-mile road trip down America's Pacific Northwest coast riding a motorcycle. The problem—she doesn't know how to ride and had only 30 days to learn.

With less than a month to learn, Linda enrolls in a beginner's motorcycle course at a Harley dealership. Overwhelmed by the complexities of an 800-pound touring motorcycle and unsure if she can work the biker babe persona, she considers bailing on the trip to retreat into a life of quiet widowhood. But neither option—staying or going—offers the comfort she craves. With little to lose she chooses the road trip, hoping she'll find answers for rebuilding her life around this blind curve.

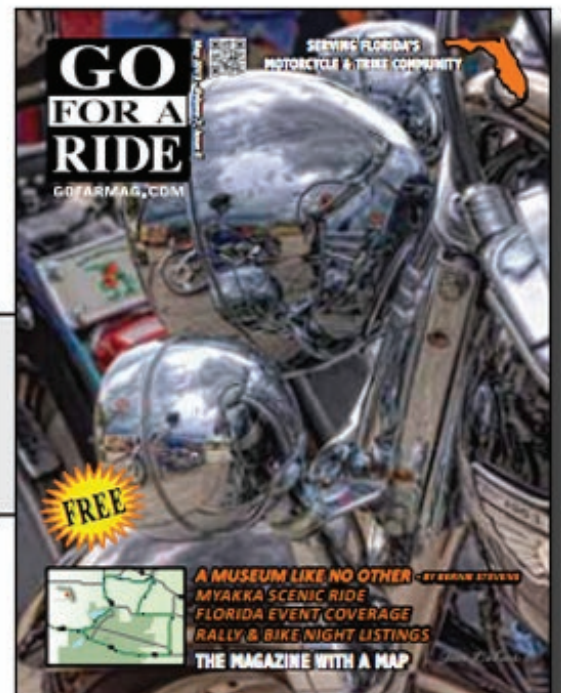
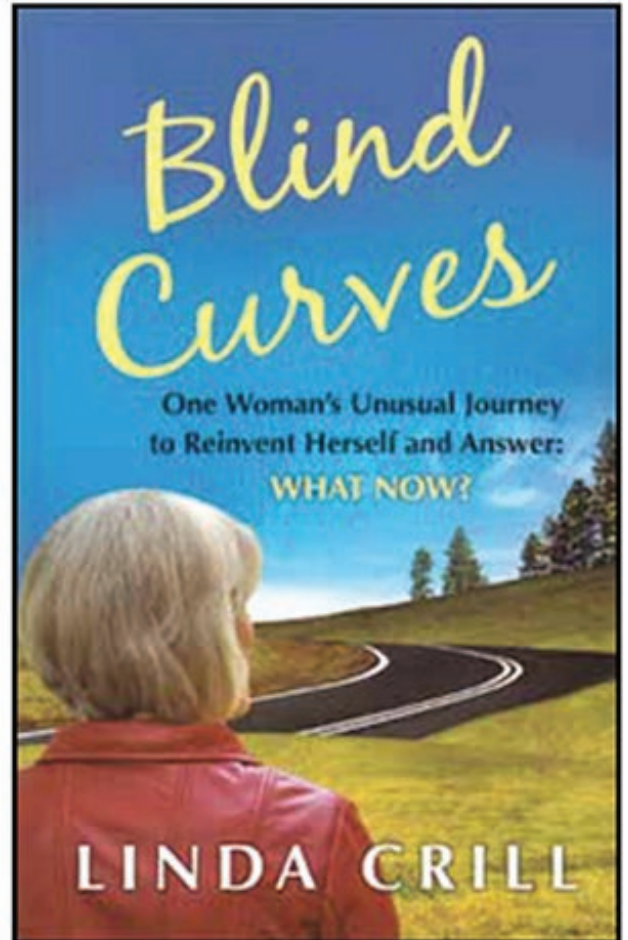
From Vancouver, Canada, to the wine country of California, this out-of-character choice became a catalyst for discovering answers to "What Now?" By heading into the unknown—the blind curve—she faces her fears, tests old beliefs, and discovers not only a broader horizon of possibilities to use in building the next phase of her life but also the fuel to make it happen.

Funny, irreverent, and extraordinarily honest, it's the perfect read for people looking for ways to reinvent themselves, and anyone asking: "What now?"

EDITOR'S REVIEW:

Middle-aged lady is widowed, decides to get her motorcycle license, and then joins up for a long distance ride with some friends. What could possibly go wrong with this plan? Well, not to spoil the plot but actually, not a lot does go wrong. If you were to tell me that someone with no riding experience was going to learn to ride and then hop on an unfamiliar bike to ride a 10-day excursion with three other experienced riders, I would have probably put some money down on "things might not go as planned". But I have to give Linda credit for learning to handle a bike quicker than I recall my riding skills developing. Her novice rider view was refreshing and had me recalling my own "ah-ha" moments as a rookie rider. Her writing style is enjoyable with colorful descriptions of the countryside paired with her inner thoughts on the changes her life was going through.

The book is a pretty good tourism promotion for riding in the Northwest, but it also did a good job of comparing life to riding into a blind curve. "It takes courage and experience to ride into a blind curve or approach the crest of a hill without being able to see beyond it." You can't see what's coming, but you continue forward anyway. Gotta live like you ride.



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