

**Mama Kat's Thoughts**

Being on the bike brings me a peace like no other. I don't know if I can put it into words, but I'll try. The perspective of "fender fluff", if you will. For me, it's time spent with that special someone, as well as the wind in my hair and my knees in the breeze. There is something to be said for the camaraderie between bikers to.

Moments out of the drive way I feel the stress and tension of every day life leave my body. It is, quite literally, as if someone lifts a weight from my shoulders. I close my eyes, take in a deep breath and lean in close to my man. I circle my arms around his waist and interlock my fingers, pulling him to me. He leans back into me and the miles start to add up.

A new form of communication takes place since it's hard to yell at one another over the roar of the bike. A tap on the shoulder before pointing something out, the squeeze of my legs against him lets him know I'm content and enjoying the ride.

We always manage to meet interesting people and find unique places. We usually set out in the morning with no particular destination in mind. Where we go doesn't really matter, it's the getting there that's the fun. It's not until it starts getting late in the day that we figure out where we are and the direction home.

With great reluctance we begin the trek home. The night air is a bit cooler, but the sunsets are never less than spectacular. They seem to be brighter, more colorful and majestic - each more so than the last. As the sun sets and the stars come out I have to lift my face to the heavens. A deep blue sky dotted with twinkling stars. I can't help but smile.

We have traveled far today and the ride home is longer than we anticipated. Although we usually stick to the back roads, we hit the interstate to make better time. The black of night is interrupted by tail lights in the front of us, small towns along exits and oncoming headlights.

An upcoming exit points out a small town we have been to before. The nicest little hole-in-the-wall restaurant that serves the best coffee with a side of humor that can't be beat. We haven't been there for a while and decide to make a stop. A good cup of coffee will hot the spot.

We roll into town and park out front. I hop off the bike as he eases the rear tire up to the curb. Before he gets off the bike he is met with a hug and a kiss. I'm grinning from ear to ear, my heart is full and my mind is at peace. I am thankful for so much.

Once inside, not much has changed. The owner greets us with a smile and sits with us, asking how many miles we've put on since seeing him last and commenting how happy we look. Our intention is for a cup 'o joe and hit the road again ASAP. We stay a little longer than expected - good company, hot coffee and great conversation make it all worth while. At last we say our good byes, with promises to stop back in sooner rather than later, and head out the door.

Back on the bike - we are still a ways from home. Interstate miles, should be there in 45 minutes, not bad. I snuggle in close and put my chin on his shoulder. A deep sigh escapes my lips and I plant a kiss on his cheek. Again, the miles roll by and we are soon home.

With the bike put away, we sit out on the porch for a bit, recalling the days events and enjoying the company of one another.

I can't help but think of how this day would simply never be, if it weren't for the steel horse in the garage. I wonder, in it's conception, if anyone realized what it would bring to so many. So much more than mere transportation.

**Laura the Potter**

The last year I have many friends that are struggling. Friends that have worked for the same company for more than 20 years, and laid off...Construction workers who are out of jobs...my enrollment has been down because of everything. This winter has kicked our butt's! Gas prices rising, people that cannot sell their house, shops closing their doors, on and on and on!



OK...I'm not going to be doom and gloom here...because with all this...what do you have? Love. Love, support, a helping hand, integrity, and the biggest thing is to Love yourself, and have faith! Believe me...I could write a book about what I have gone thru in the last 10 years! Trying not to be a starving artist...but always...when things seem the worst...no money, somebody walks thru my door and buys something...something always happens to get my through...because I have faith...Faith in myself...because I really do love me!!!!!!!!!!!! Does that sound bad? I do. I am resilient! I come up with ways to make some cash...I have had to move - 10 times in 10 years...how crazy is that!!!!!!!!!!!! Only 1 time did I move in with a man...and now, I am moving again...with a man!

I have had to make new friends, establish my business over and over and over, and it gets very old...but - you do what you have to do right? So...riding season is coming soon...Thank God! Anyway people...my point is - just Love Yourself...have faith...and everything will turn around...Happy New Year! Take Care, Laura the Potter laurathepotter@yahoo.com



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