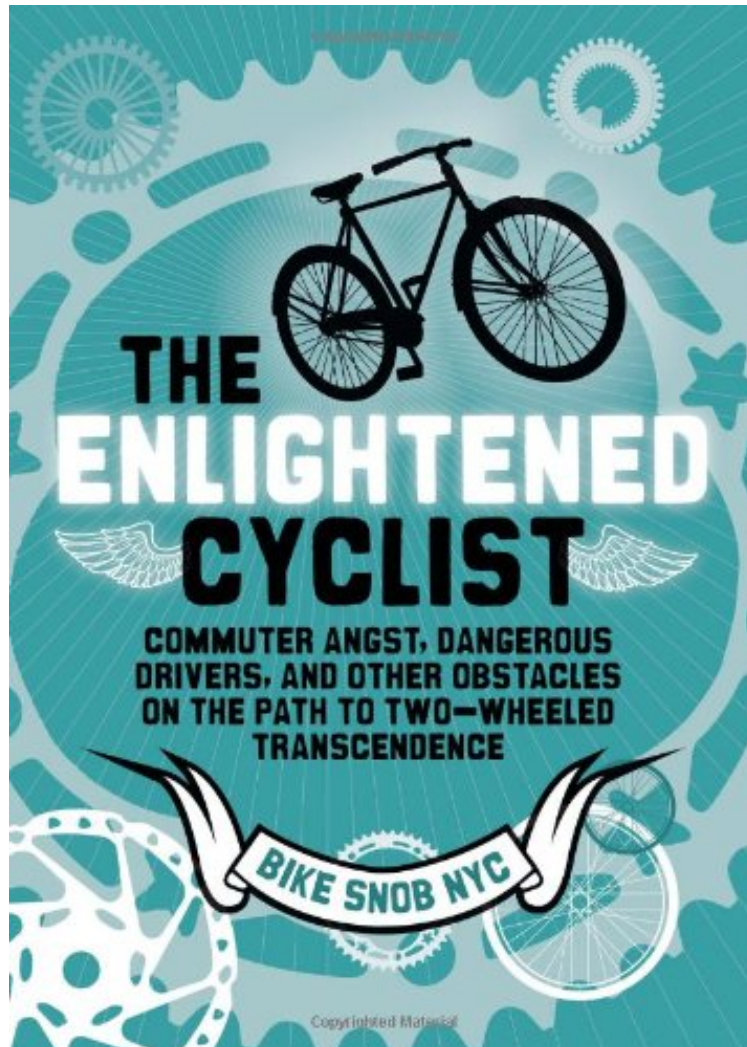


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The Enlightened Cyclist: Commuter Angst, Dangerous Drivers, and Other Obstacles on the Path to Two-Wheeled Trancendence

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BikeSnobNYC : The Enlightened Cyclist: Commuter Angst, Dangerous Drivers, and Other Obstacles on the Path to Two-Wheeled Trancendence before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Enlightened Cyclist: Commuter Angst, Dangerous Drivers, and Other Obstacles on the Path to Two-Wheeled Trancendence:

18 of 19 people found the following review helpful. Even the Best Can Strike OutBy David SteffenI am a huge fan of Bike Snob's blog and loved his first book and so eagerly looked forward to this one. It is the only physical book (as

opposed to Kindle edition) I purchased this year because I wanted this book to sit on my bookshelf. Sadly, I was very disappointed. There is nothing wrong with this book, I certainly wasn't offended by it, but it just wasn't funny. It was so not funny that about half way through I stopped and wondered if I had gotten it wrong, if in fact it was supposed to be a serious book. Unfortunately, there simply isn't enough substance to support a serious book. By all means, read Bike Snob's blog and buy his first book. I suggest skipping this one and hoping the next is better. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Buddha on a Bike By Kindle Customer The Bike Snobs concern in this book is that stretch of time between work and play which seems the least Zen inducing: the time we spend trying to get from one to the other. The Bike Snobs transcendence comes from his convincing demonstration that it doesn't have to be this way, and that the right type of vehicle with the right type of attitude can transform the NYC commute (and from which we may be able to extrapolate any commute) into an activity that we can look forward to and, indeed, relish. Nominally a book about bicycles and cars and the struggles between the two, it is ultimately a book about a road to mental health. Meanwhile, the writing gets its edge from the fact that it's generally not pretty out there, as our commuting encounters are often quite pathological. Over the course of years of riding, trying in general to show good behavior, I've always wondered what would trigger the occasional driver to sidle up next to me as I spin along on the shoulder of the road in my rather modest bike gear and induce his friend sitting on the passenger side to roll down his window and scream into my ear, trying to spook me into a roadside ditch, or, in one case, off the side of a cliff just for laughs, it seems. This book helps to explain the roots of such encounters, and points the way to come to terms with them. If we cannot, in the end, attain the realm of sweetness and light, we are at least given the palliative of laughter, spread widely enough to dilute its derisiveness. As other reviewers, both of the positive and negative ilk, have already noted, this may not be a book for everyone. But I think it should find a sizable audience, not just cyclists, and that speaks well of our potential for humanity. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Philosophical Bike Snob By Rita Mayberry The terrorist attack of September 11, 2001 affected all of us in different ways, but it certainly affected the NYC Bike Snob. This book shows a mellow side that his first book did not, and certainly could go a long way in breaching the communication gap between motorists and cyclists as well as the huge gap that often exists between cyclists and cyclists, motorists and motorists, and between any two human beings. While written with humor, this book explores the serious issue of road rage, unnecessary anger, and blatant disregard for the humanity of one another. While some folks think anything by Eben Weiss is a joke, the underlying theme of this book is a serious one. That we need to lighten up and consider one another in our day to day living. I find this to be his best work, and if you dismiss it out of hand, you need to read it again, slowly and thoughtfully. For the cyclists who love to cut into and out of traffic, scare pedestrians, ignore traffic signals and taunt automobile drivers, this book will be a joke at best and a betrayal at the worst, but to me, and I live in both worlds, it is a manifesto. I believe this author's metamorphosis as a writer was triggered by the horror of being a New Yorker on 9/11. I read this book quickly once and then slowly for a better grasp, and came away very impressed with this young man's writing and his world view.

The joys of commuting by bike attract scores of new converts every year. But as fresh-faced cyclists fill the roads, they also encounter their share of frustrations: careless drivers, wide-flung car doors, zoned-out pedestrians, and aggressive fellow cyclists, to name a few. In this follow-up to the best-selling *Bike Snob*, *Bike Snob NYC* takes on the trials and triumphs of bike commuting with snark, humor, and enthusiasm, asking the question: If we become better commuters, will that make us better people? From the deadly sins of biking to tactics for dealing with cars, pedestrians, and other cyclists, this primer on bike travel is a must-read for cyclists new and seasoned alike.

"Weiss is a Brooklyn-based cyclist and writer. His book is 240 pages of optimism hidden in snark, of hope cloaked in sarcasm, and it's full of sometimes scathing, always accurate cycling observations that occasionally border on genius.... But for all its sardonic wit - and there is a lot of it - "The Enlightened Cyclist" at its core is an honest look at a growing culture of bicycle commuters vying for a slice of the road in a car-dominated culture that still considers the bicycle an "alternative" means of transportation. Mixed into the snark stew is a plea for commuters of all stripes - pedestrian, cyclist and driver - simply to get along." - The Unnamed Cyclist According to the irreverent Bike Snob NYC (*Bike Snob: Systematically and Mercilessly Realigning the World of Cycling*), the nom de guerre of Eben Weiss, the main thing commuters want is "To be happy, and to not get killed." And in this hilarious faux-epic volume, the author uses the Bible as a loose template for how cyclists and cars can, and should, all get along. Though there's some take-home advice, such as driving behaviors to avoid and which kind of bike to buy, most of the book is a rollicking window into urban cycling from a self-professed "smug dork." There are several extended glossaries--in the annals of Annoying Cyclist Behavior, Weiss describes the differences between "salmoning," "shoaling," and "wheelsucking." And sidebars include Understanding Bipedal Idiocy and The Dachshund of Time. Occasionally, the author flips into an earnest, philosophical voice; though his description of his experience on 9/11 and his rant about the pointlessness of dressing up for work are thought-provoking, their tone is somewhat out of place in what is, at heart, a truly fun and witty ride. The book shines when the author combines his self-deprecation on behalf of all cyclists ("we are kind of the nerds in the school cafeteria of transportation") with heavier topics ("when it comes to integrating our

transportation, we're as closed-minded as the racists of yesteryear"), creating a call to arms for the ultimate commuting goals: transcendence and "highways of happiness." - Publishers Weekly

About the Author BikeSnobNYC (a.k.a. Eben Weiss) is the blogger behind bikesnobnyc.blogspot.com, a massively popular cycling blog. He also writes a monthly column in *Bicycling* magazine. He lives in Brooklyn, New York.