



NEW BOOK HELPS CAR OWNERS PROTECT THEMSELVES

“Anyone concerned with her fiscal and physical well-being should find Car Advice For Women (and Smart Men) of great value,” says Susan Winlaw, the 312-page book’s co-author.

“We filled Car Advice For Women with information that would help people who already have a car as well as tips for people looking for a new one,” Winlaw says, “so it’s more of a user’s guide than a buyer’s guide.”

Because safety and security have long been the primary auto-related concerns for women, Car Advice For Women covers those issues in great detail, offering tips on how to make your current car safer and how to pick out the safest vehicle possible if you’re buying a new or used car.

“Some of the safety tips will be familiar (seatbelts and so on),” says Winlaw, “but many of them may come as a surprise to readers. For example, most women don’t know they’re in danger because they sit way too close to the steering wheel, or because they leave objects lying around loose in the car. And almost no pregnant women think about the risks to their unborn children they’re creating by simply being in a moving car.”

There’s also a significant amount of information on how to address affordability issues, which are becoming more important as fuel costs rise. “Following any one of several pieces of our advice will enable you to earn back the cost of our book,” Winlaw says. Car Advice For Women (and Smart Men) is available for \$24.95 (plus shipping and handling) only at www.CarAdviceForWomen.com or www.CarNewsForWomen.com

Car Advice For Women also pays considerable attention to the bad advice that’s gained undue credibility through constant repetition. “We call those things Old Husbands’ Tales,” says Winlaw, “and we throw some reality on them.”

There are suggestions on which particular models are worth considering, as the book names the safest vehicle (Saturn Outlook), the last vehicle you’d want to be in if you are in a crash (the Smart mini-car), the most-sense-for-the-most-people car (Pontiac Vibe), and the best family hauler (Dodge Grand Caravan).

Brands that have gained exalted status with many female buyers -- Honda, Toyota and Volvo -- are brought down to earth from their high perch, and some salt is applied to the reputations of Consumer Reports, the IIHS and NHTSA.

For anyone looking for a spiritual perspective on the general auto-owning experience, there’s a section in Car Advice For Women that details a religious view of cars and driving, highlighted by the Ten Commandments for drivers.

Winlaw spent many years in retail marketing and information technology before creating this book, but her vast exposure to cars came from being married to co-author Alex Law, a veteran automotive journalist. So Winlaw’s driven over 1,500 cars and has attended new car launches and auto shows around the world.

For other items of interest about cars and for more about the content of Car Advice For Women (and Smart Men), Winlaw suggests consulting www.CarNewsForWomen.com.

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