

Home Scene

The Last Ride

I arrived at the address and honked the horn. After waiting a few minutes I honked again. Since this was going to be the last ride of my shift, I thought about just driving away, but instead I put the car in park and walked up to the door and knocked. "Just a minute," answered a frail, elderly voice.

After a long pause, the door opened. A small woman in her 90s stood before me. She was wearing a print dress and a pillbox hat with a veil pinned on it, like somebody out of a 1940s movie. By her side was a small nylon suitcase. The apartment looked as if no one had lived in it for years. All the furniture was covered with sheets.

"Would you carry my bag out to the car?" she said. I took the suitcase to the cab, then returned to assist the woman. She took my arm and we walked slowly toward the curb.

She kept thanking me for my kindness. "It's nothing." I told her. "I just try to treat my passengers the way I would want my mother to be treated."

"Oh, you're such a good boy," she said. When we got in the cab, she gave me an address and then asked, "Could you drive through downtown?"

"It's not the shortest way," I answered quickly.

"Oh, I don't mind," she said. "I'm in no hurry. I'm on my way to a hospice."



I looked in the rear-view mirror. Her eyes were glistening. "I don't have any family left," she continued in a soft voice. "The doctor says I don't have very long." I quietly reached over and shut off the meter. For the next two hours, we drove through the city. She showed me the building where she had once worked as an elevator operator. We drove through the neighborhood where she and her husband had lived when they were newlyweds. She had me pull up in front of a furniture warehouse that had once been a ballroom where she had gone dancing as a girl.

Sometimes she'd ask me to slow in front of a particular building or corner and would sit staring into the darkness, saying nothing.

As the first hint of sun was creasing the horizon, she suddenly said, "I'm tired. Let's go now."

We drove in silence to the address she had given me. It was a low building, like a small convalescent home. Two orderlies came out to the cab as soon as we pulled up. They were solicitous and intent. They must have been expecting her. I opened the trunk and took the small suitcase to the door. The woman was already seated in a wheelchair.

"How much do I owe you?" She asked, reaching into her purse.

"Nothing," I said.

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By Referral Only™ means ...

Our business is designed to provide you with the highest possible level of service and attention. Unlike most Realtors, who spend most of their time searching for new customers from the general public, over 95% of my business comes from my clients' endorsements. As a result, you benefit by getting more of my undivided attention, education, predictability and dedication.

Our promise is to give you sound real estate advice and help you understand the future implications of the decisions you make.

Our goal is to build a relationship with you based on mutual trust and respect.

Our vision is to make a positive difference in your transaction, in your life, and in the world.

SEASONAL HOME MAINTENANCE



The Last Ride (continued from page 1)

“You have to make a living,” she answered.

“There are other passengers,” I responded.

Almost without thinking, I bent and gave her a hug. She held onto me tightly.

“You gave an old woman a little moment of joy,” she said. “Thank you.”

I squeezed her hand and then walked into the dim morning light. I didn't pick up any more passengers that shift. I drove aimlessly lost in thought. For the rest of that day, I could hardly talk. What if that woman had gotten an angry driver or one who was

impatient to end his shift? What if I had refused to take the run, or had honked once, then driven away?

On a quick review, I don't think that I have done anything more important in my life.

We're conditioned to think that our lives revolve around great moments. But great moments often catch us unaware -beautifully wrapped in what others may consider a small one.

People may not remember exactly what you did, or what you said, but they will always remember how you made them feel.

God brings people who need help into our lives and it's our job to be a blessing.

The Time Is Now

Barely has the day begun and it's already six in the evening. Barely was it Monday and it's already Friday.

The month is already over. The year is almost over. Already 40, 50 or 60 years of our lives have passed, and we realize that we lost our parents, our friends. And we realize it's too late to go back.

So let's try, despite everything, to make the best of the remaining time that we have.

Let's keep looking for activities that we like.

Let's put some color in our grey.

Let's smile at the little things in life that put balm in our hearts.

And despite everything, we must continue to enjoy with serenity this time we have left. Let's try to eliminate the afters: "I'm doing it after.... I'll say after.... I'll think about it after...."

We leave everything for later as if "after" were ours, because what we don't understand is that

afterwards, the tea gets cold;
afterwards, priorities change;

afterwards, the charm is broken;
afterwards, health passes;
afterwards, the kids grow up;
afterwards, parents get old;
afterwards, promises are forgotten;
afterwards, the day becomes night;
afterwards, life ends;

and then it's often too late.

So, let's leave nothing for later.

Because still waiting to see you later, we can lose the best moments, the best experiences, the best friends, the best family.

The day is today. The moment is now.



**Quotes From Children’s Books
Every Adult Should Know**

Some of life's greatest lessons can be found in children’s literature, and ironically, most of us only realize this once we are no longer kids. The following are some of our favourites from books we used to read, and they may very well send you down a trip to memory lane.

A person’s a person no matter how small.
– Dr. Seuss, *Horton Hears a Who*

No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted.
– Aesop, *The Lion and the Mouse*

There’s no place like home.
– Frank Baum, *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*

**Piglet: “How do you spell love?”
Pooh: “You don’t spell it. You feel it.”**
– A.A. Milne, *Winnie the Pooh*

The moment where you doubt whether you can fly, you cease forever being able to do it.
– J.M. Barrie, *Peter Pan*

Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It’s not.
– Dr. Seuss, *The Lorax*

The true courage is in facing danger when you are afraid.
– Frank Baum, *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*

“Sometimes,” said Pooh, “the smallest things take up the most room in your heart”
– A.A. Milne, *Winnie the Pooh*

Welcome New Clients

By Referral Only™ Really Does Work

Here are some of the new clients who were referred to our “RE Family” this past quarter.

Niko Rankovic
Referred by A Bartolovic and Z. Rankovic

Elizabeth Magill
Referred by Joanne Au

Anna and Angela Maglietta
Referred by Paul Maglietta

Kim Maticiw
Referred by Shannon Leah & Norm Beaver

Bob Kapsimalis
Referred by George Kontopoulos

Stephen Price
Referred by Patrick Marshall

Annelies Vogel
Referred by Olaf Vogel

These former clients are once again putting their trust in us:

Olaf Vogel and Arwynn Davey

Gordon and Anita Thomas

Roberto Ulep

Tom & Becky Voll

Niko Rankovic

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