

## **Puppy gets 80-year-old booted off bus**

Police car relay saves the day for woman who was dumped in rural area late at night.

BY PAT LEISNER  
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TAMPA, Fla. - The bus was a Greyhound, but the driver was no dog lover.

An 80-year-old woman returning home from her birthday party was kicked off a bus at a rural truck stop late at night because of her birthday present: a tiny puppy named Cookie.

Dogs aren't allowed on Greyhound, and the driver refused to make an exception, leaving Antonia Sanabria at the side of the road about 80 miles from home in Tampa at 3 a.m. Friday. Sanabria had boarded the bus Thursday night in Panama City after visiting her daughters.

A security guard summoned by the bus driver called Marion County sheriff's deputies - adding to her fright.

"When the bus pulled away and I saw all those policemen I was scared," Sanabria said. "I thought they were going to put me in jail. I don't know. I was crazy with fear. I've never gone to jail."

What could have quickly become a terrifying ordeal for the woman, who walks with a crutch and has trouble hearing and seeing, instead became an inspiration.

After getting her a sandwich and something to drink, police from different jurisdictions teamed up to ferry Sanabria all the way from the Ocala area to her Tampa doorstep in five patrol cars.

"I've never seen so many people so nice with me - an old lady. They gave me love, respect, attention," she said. "Love has a lot of names - compassion, respect, friendliness."

As soon as she got home, all Sanabria wanted to do was sleep, which she did with her new 7-week-old Pekinese pup.

When she woke up she found a bouquet of roses with a card that read: "We want you to know there are still some nice people in the world," from Hillsborough sheriff's deputies in Tampa who coordinated the relay.

Greyhound apologized and gave her a refund Saturday. The unidentified driver, a 20-year Greyhound veteran, was suspended pending an investigation.

"It's unfortunate that a lady of this age and condition would have something like this happen to her in the middle of the night," said George Gravley, a Greyhound spokesperson.

Sanabria's daughter, Sally Creel of Panama City, was outraged. "What a low-life thing to do," she said.

But after the police rescue, her mother was far from bitter.

"It was a birthday I'll never forget," Sanabria said.

## IF

If you can keep your head when all about you  
Are losing theirs and blaming it on you. If you  
can trust yourself when all men doubt you,  
But make allowance for their doubting too;  
If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,  
Or being lied about, don't deal in lies,  
Or being hated, don't give way to hating,  
And yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise:

If you can dream - and not make dreams your master;  
If you can think - and not make thoughts your aim;  
If you can meet with Triumph & Disaster  
And treat those two impostors just the same;  
If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken  
Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,  
Or watch the things you gave your life to broke,  
And stoop & build them up with worn-out tools:

If you can make one heap of all your winnings  
And risk it on one turn of pitch-and-toss  
And lose, and start again at your beginnings  
And never breathe a word about your loss;  
If you can force your heart & nerve & sinew  
To serve your turn long after they are gone,  
And so hold on when there is nothing in you  
Except the Will which says to them: "Hold on!"

If you can talk with crowds & keep your virtue,  
Or walk with Kings - nor lose the common touch,  
If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you,  
If all men count with you, but none too much;  
If you can fill the unforgiving minute  
With sixty seconds' worth of distance run,  
Yours is the Earth & everything that's in it,  
And - which is more - you'll be a Man, my son!

-Rudyard Kipling