

NICE STORIES

And now for a little break from all the bad news in the world today, brought to you by the kindness of strangers.

MAN'S SHOES

A One morning in 2012, a Winnipeg, Manitoba, city transit bus driver named Kris Doubledee, 38, made an unscheduled stop on a busy street corner. The passengers all watched him as he got off the bus and approached a man on the sidewalk who was barefoot. Doubledee asked the man if he had any shoes; he said no. So the bus driver removed his own shoes and handed them to the man. "Here," he said. "You need these more than I do." Then Doubledee returned to his seat—sans shoes—and continued on his route. A passenger asked him why he'd done that. Doubledee explained that he'd seen the man standing there before and just couldn't bear the thought that he didn't have any shoes.

WRITING BLIND

Trish Vickers, from Charmouth, Dorset, England, lost her eyesight in 2005 due to diabetes. Seven years later, the 59-year-old started writing her first novel, *Grannifer's Legacy*, about a young woman whose life falls apart. But because she isn't computer-savvy, Vickers had to do it the hard way: by longhand. She wrapped rubber bands around notebook paper (on a clipboard) to indicate where the lines were and then carefully penned her story. Once a week, her son Simon would read the chapters back to her so she could make edits and send the text off to a typesetter. Everything was going smoothly until one week when Simon showed up to find Trish very excited about the 26 pages she'd just completed. "But Mum," he said, "there's nothing here." Vickers's pen had run out of ink; every page was blank, thousands of words...gone. She was devastated.

Unwilling to give up, Simon asked the Dorset police if someone in the "fingerprints department" had any spare time to help. No one did, but the staffers all felt sorry for her, so a forensics analyst named Kerry Savage volunteered her time during her lunch breaks and carefully scrutinized the pen indents to reform the lost text. It took five arduous months, but Vickers got her pages back with nearly all

of her words intact...and to rave reviews from the staffers. "It's not as though my book is a big blockbuster," she said, "but as a hobby and something that is very important to me, it was just wonderful that they put that time and effort in."

NICE GALS FINISH LAST

After winning the race of her life, 17-year-old long-distance runner Meghan Vogel was basking in the glory of having just become the 2012 Ohio state champion in the 1,600-meter event. But she still had the 3,200-meter race to run. And she was pooped. The high school senior ran anyway, determined to finish. As she turned the corner on the final, grueling lap, she was in last place. Ahead of her was Arden McMath, a runner from a rival school. And McMath was having a tougher time than Vogel. Not far from the finish line, McMath collapsed on the track. Vogel caught up, but instead of passing McMath, she picked her up and then held her up all the way to the finish line. Just before they crossed it, Vogel pushed McMath in front of her. Vogel's act of sportsmanship made headlines all over the world. "If you work to get to the state meet, you deserve to finish no matter who you are," she said. "I think fate may have put me in last place for a reason."

MAKING IT RAIN

A man walked into a Starbucks coffee shop in Boston, Massachusetts, on St. Patrick's Day 2011 and yelled, "I'm rich! I'm rich! I'm rich!" He held up a wad of \$1 bills and threw them in the air. Then he walked out. Instead of the melee you'd expect when a crowded room is suddenly inundated with flying bills, the customers and staff just stood there as the cash settled on the floor. Then a Starbucks employee quietly gathered it all up and put it in an envelope. The money, which totaled \$100, was sent to a charity organization for tsunami relief efforts in Japan. The identity of the "I'm rich!" man remains unknown.

WHEN LIFE GIVES YOU LEMONS, SELL THEM

Losing nearly everything she owned to a powerful summer thunder storm didn't make Elissa Myers cry, but the kindness of the little boy who lived next door did. Eight-year-old Johnny Karlinchak had learned a lot about the compassion of strangers four years earlier

when his sister died. “All of our neighbors came and helped,” he recalled. So after the hurricane-force winds from the 2012 summer storm toppled a giant oak tree onto Meyers’s house in Springfield, Virginia, Johnny gave her all the money in his piggy bank—five quarters. When he learned that she needed a whopping \$500 just to pay the insurance deductible, Johnny took it upon himself to earn that money. He opened a lemonade stand in his front yard and made \$21 on the first day. A few days later he topped \$100. A week in, he’d met his goal, but he kept fund-raising. By the time a local news station interviewed Johnny, he’d made \$700—all for his neighbor whom he barely knew. (It must have been some very tasty lemonade.)

THEY’LL LIFT HIM UP WHERE HE BELONGS

It was a dream come true. Country-music fan Patrick Connelly was finally going to see a Blake Shelton concert! But when the Kansas City teenager, who is physically and mentally challenged, got to his seat at the outdoor venue, he was devastated. The rest of the crowd was standing, and all he could see from his wheelchair were people’s legs. Patrick’s mom and sister tried lifting him up, but it was 100°F, and he was too big for them to hold up for more than a few seconds at a time. Patrick was in tears. Just then, two young men who were standing nearby walked over and lifted Patrick up above their shoulders so he could see. They held him up for half an hour in the sweltering heat. But there was a long way left to go in the concert, so the two men took the boy up front, where he was allowed to watch from the front row. Patrick later got to meet Shelton in person, and ended up having pretty much the best day he’d ever had.

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ASLEEP ON THE JOBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBB

Someone in Germany (identity not revealed) became a temporary millionaire in 2013 after their bank account suddenly grew by 222,222,222.22 euros (\$295 million). But just as quickly as it arrived, the money was gone. What happened? The person had deposited a check for 64 euros (\$85). But the bank clerk who was processing the deposit fell asleep on his keyboard while leaning on the “2” key. A supervisor later caught the goof.

Can you name the 9 NFL, NBA, MLB and NHL teams that don’t end in the letter “S”?...
...Answer: Jazz, Heat, Magic, Thunder, Avalanche, Wild, Lightning, Red Sox, & White Sox.