

GLOBAL NEWS



THREE-YEAR-OLD AMERICAN BOY LEFT IN CAB!

A 3-year-old boy gave his mother a good scare when he hopped into a cab at Kennedy Airport, New York and ended up with strangers in the Bronx. Little Clifton Duplessy had arrived at the airport with his mother Michelle and two older brothers for a trip to Haiti. As mum was unloading luggage from their car, Clifton jumped into the front seat of a taxi. At that same moment, a woman and her son got into the back seat and the driver assumed Clifton was with them, whilst they, in turn, thought the boy was the driver's!

While police searched the airport for the little boy, the taxi reached the woman's destination in the Bronx - about 20 miles away. When the passenger started to leave the cab, the driver thought that she was abandoning her child before realising that the child didn't know any of the passengers. Officer Robert Schechter, who was flagged down by the cabbie, said that he took Clifton to a police station where officers bought him some sweets until detectives arrived and took him back to the airport.

Ms. Duplessy told Taxi Globe after being reunited with her son: "He told me that he missed me and that he loved me. Then he asked why I left him!"

AUSSI TAXI DRIVERS FACING CRISIS

Taxi drivers in Queensland, Australia are claiming that their industry is in crisis as passenger numbers continue to fall dramatically. The Queensland Taxi Drivers Association told Taxi Globe that drivers in the famous Gold Coast area – whose business relies heavily on tourists - have been hardest hit. An official at the State President's office told us that the industry had been in steady decline during the past two years. He went on to add: "The Iraq war made things worse, then the SARS virus hit us and added to the decline. Now the US mortgage crisis has slowed things even further and hit the overseas market badly. Even the domestic market is still well down due to those who used to fly, but now prefer longer car trips. That leaves cabbies twiddling their thumbs. But the plain fact is that although we can try to woo these people back to Queensland, we can't force them to come..."

A KENYAN TAXI RIDE TO REMEMBER FOR A YOUNG ENGLISHMAN

A young Briton got more than he bargained for when he hopped into what he thought was a taxi in the Kenyan capital of Nairobi and found himself facing a possible death sentence! After a night on the town, the man

stumbled into what he thought was a taxi at 5 o'clock on a Sunday morning only to find himself in the presence of three armed robbers who had just stolen the taxi he thought was going to take him home to bed!

"I would think that he quickly sobered up," said one police officer to Taxi Globe! Worse was to follow for the Englishman as within minutes, his new 'friends' were pursued and captured by police who refused to accept his protestations of innocence. "Not many people mistake robbers for a taxi," the officer said, adding that the man was finally released after convincing the arresting officers that he "...was just another mad Englishman!"

A police spokesman explained to a disbelieving Taxi Globe reporter that the man had been arrested in the early hours of Sunday morning and was detained briefly before police officers finally believed him. Carjacking is a common crime in Kenya and can be punished by hanging.

CHRISTMAS IN CHICAGO...

Driving his Yellow Cab in Chicago, Melin Forcivitch - who came to the USA in 1957 from Russia – spotted what looked like a bundle of rags lying on a rubbish tip. Something made him go and look at it and to his horror, he discovered that the bundle was in fact a little girl who had been reported as missing that morning. "I can't believe how many people must have walked passed her," said Melin, "she had been there all day and was turning blue from the cold!" The missing girl had wandered away from her parents while they were doing some early Christmas shopping. Unfortunately, the 4 year old young girl suffers from a rare medical condition with similarities to diabetes, that requires her to take oral medication several times each day. Her next dose was due at the same time she had gone missing and she went on to miss two more doses. She fell onto the rubbish tip and passed out – yet not one person stopped until Melin spotted her.

The girl's parents, who didn't want to be identified, were extremely relieved when police told them of the cab driver's discovery and offered him \$500 as a reward. Melin refused. "My reward," he told Taxi Globe, "was to see the parents' faces when they came to pick her up. That was my Christmas miracle and accepting their kind offer would sully that memory."



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