

There were tables to clear, sugar bowls to fill, and people to serve, but the waitress made it through another day. That night when she got home from work and climbed into bed, she noticed the skinned knuckles on her husband's hand.

She knew he was worried about being short of funds, and was trying to find extra work to do, what with the baby coming. Maybe he found something today!

She thought about the gift from the lady and the note the woman had written. Then she gave her husband a soft kiss and whispered soft and low, "Everything is going to be all right; I love you Bryan," and fell asleep, feeling the peace and warmth of the circle of love.

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Do not let this chain of love end here,  
help someone in need and ask that person  
to help another in need...  
(if only in a small way)  
and the chain of love grows and grows....

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## *Circle of Love*



Even with the smile on his face,  
she was worried.

No one had stopped to help for the last hour or so...

## Circle of Love

from Stories of Love

*H*e almost did not see the old lady stranded on the side of the road. But even in the dim light of day he could see she needed help, so he pulled up in front of her Mercedes and got out. His Pontiac was still sputtering when he approached her.

Even with the smile on his face, she was worried. No one had stopped to help for the last hour or so. Was he going to hurt her? He did not look safe; he looked poor and hungry. He could see that she was frightened, standing out there in the cold. He knew how she felt. It was that chill which only fear can put into you.

All she had was a flat tire, but for an old lady, that was bad enough. He said, "I am here to help you ma'am. Why don't you wait in the car where it is warm? By the way, my name is Bryan."

Bryan crawled under the car looking for a place to put the jack, skinning his knuckles a time or two. As he was tightening up the lug nuts, she rolled down the window and began to talk to him. She could not thank him enough for coming to her aid. She had imagined all the awful things that could have happened to her had he not stopped, and she offered to pay him.

### Someone Needing Help

*B*ryan never thought twice about the money. This was not a job to him. This was helping someone in need, and God knows, there were plenty of people who had given him a hand in the past. He had lived his whole life that way, and it never occurred to him to act any other way. He told her that if she really wanted to pay him back, the next time she saw someone who needed help, she could give that person the assistance that he or she needed, and Bryan added, "...and think of me."

He waited until she started her car and drove off. It had been a cold and depressing day, but Bryan felt good as he headed for home, disappearing into the twilight.

A few miles down the road, the lady saw a small café. She went in to get something to eat and to take the chill off of her, before she made the last leg of her trip home. It was a dingy looking restaurant. Outside were two old gas pumps. The whole scene was unfamiliar to her. The cash register was like the telephone of an out of work actor...it did not ring much.

Her waitress came over and brought a clean towel to wipe her wet hair. She had a sweet smile, one that even being on her feet for the whole day could not erase. The lady noticed that the waitress was nearly eight months pregnant, but she never let the strain and aches change her attitude.

The old lady wondered how this waitress, who seemed to have so little, could be so giving to a stranger. Then she remembered Bryan.

After the lady finished her meal, and the waitress went to get change for her \$100 bill, the lady slipped right out of the door. She was gone by the time the waitress came back. The waitress wondered where the lady had gone; then she noticed something written on the napkin, under which were four more \$100 bills!

There were tears in her eyes when she read what the lady wrote. It said, "You do not owe me anything. I have been there, too. Somebody helped me out, the way I am helping you. If you really want to pay me back, here is what you can do. Do not let this chain of love end with you. Help another person in need."