

Autumn Bus Ride

By Marilyn Reeves

All aboard my imaginary bus ride! We're taking a trip to see the fall leaves. Everyone aboard this bus is in the autumn of their lives, including me, your driver. Like all of you, I have taken a number of bus rides in my lifetime.

Back in the springtime of my life, the buses I took were filled with laughing children and family members, driven by others much older and wiser than I.

But when spring transformed into summer, it was time for me to take the wheel for a while. My bus was filled new friends and lovers, a husband or two, and a young son who depended upon me to get him from Point A to Point B, safely and fueled with love, so he could learn to drive himself one day.

Those loved ones who filled those buses of times gone by can still be viewed when I glance in the rearview mirror. And once in a while we'll pause at the same rest stop to get caught up with one another. But then we get back in our own private vehicles and continue on our individual journeys, our attention on the road ahead and not on the miles we left behind us.

Those of you who are riding with me on this brief excursion to view the autumn leaves are the ones about whom I concern myself today. You fill my mind as you fill up my life at this point in time.

Some of you late arrivals are still sporting your summer green vitality, while others are wearing your brightly colored fall finery, enjoying every moment of your long-awaited retirement. Still others have already donned your winter coats and will be transferring at the next stop to take the train ride to the top of the snow-capped mountain. There you can look back down at the long road you've traveled and contemplate its beauty.

At day's end, if you turn and lift your eyes towards the heavens, you will see the setting sun putting on a spectacular light show, turning the clouds to radiant shades of red and orange and bright golden yellow, echoing the colors of the autumn leaves below.

Thank you for boarding my bus. I hope you enjoy the ride.