



## The Cookie Thief - by Valerie Cox

A woman was waiting at an airport one night  
With several long hours before her flight  
She hunted for a book in the airport shop  
Bought a bag of cookies and found a place to drop  
She was engrossed in her book but happened to see  
That the man beside her as bold as could be  
Grabbed a cookie or two from the bag between  
Which she tried to ignore to avoid a scene  
She munched cookies and watched the clock  
As this gutsy cookie thief diminished her stock  
She was getting more irritated as the minutes ticked by  
Thinking "If I wasn't so nice I'd blacken his eye"  
With each cookie she took he took one too  
And when only one was left she wondered what he'd do  
With a smile on his face and a nervous laugh  
He took the last cookie and broke it in half  
He offered her half as he ate the other  
She snatched it from him and thought "Oh brother  
This guy has some nerve and he's also rude  
Why he didn't even show any gratitude"  
She had never known when she had been so galled  
And sighed with relief when her flight was called  
She gathered her belongings and headed for the gate  
Refusing to look back at the thieving ingrate  
She boarded the plane and sank in her seat  
Then sought her book which was almost complete  
As she reached in her baggage she gasped with surprise  
There was her bag of cookies in front of her eyes  
"If mine are here" she moaned with despair  
"Then the others were his and he tried to share"  
"Too late to apologize she realized with grief"  
That she was the rude one, the ingrate, the thief

(How many times in our lives, have we absolutely known that something was a certain way, only to discover later that what we believed to be true ... was not?)