

MUM, WHO WAS THAT GENTLEMAN WHO KISSED US?

- *A true friend is a treasure*
- *Friendship lasts for ever or is not friendship*
- *Friendship is rare*
- *True friends never forget*
- *To become a true friend to somebody, one has to have experienced true love from somebody*
- *A true friend by holding your hand touches your heart.*

The Story

I lost my Father when I was very small. We were three children; me one year old, my brother two and a half and my sister four. Ever since Dad's death, our Mother - a wonderful and loving woman - brought us up in the love and fear of God. .

During summer vacations, she used to take us to different resorts.. When I was eight years old, she took us for a month to Tona, a well known health resort not far from Barcelona, our native town.

As we were returning home, waiting at the he Bus station, all of sudden a gentleman very friendly, approached mum, called her by her name, kissed her and they started a lively and friendly conversation.

Whilst they were talking, they were looking at the three of us – the children. It was evident that they were talking about us. Actually, that gentleman was gazing at us with moistened eyes. When the Bus was about to arrive, that unknown gentleman asked mum - *I remember his words as if they were spoke right now* – “ Carmen, may I kiss them?” Mum replied: “Of course. you can”

The unknown gentlemen, with tears in his eyes, took me in his arms, hugged me affectionately and stamped on my cheek one of the warmest and most affectionate kisses I have ever received. What a loving and chaste kiss what that! Next, he hugged and kissed my brother and sister.

When we were already sited in the bus, with curiosity, I asked my mother. “Mum, who was that gentleman who kissed us?” With moistened eyes, she told us, “You might have not met that gentleman before. He was the best friend of your Dad!”

(P. Ribes, s.j.)

