

Natalia G.

## A Secret

It all started with an eight-year-old boy, Ben. He had no friends at school, even the teachers were mean to him, but one Mrs. Penny. She was the ONLY one nice to him. When I say ONLY I mean the ONLY! She was the only person in that school who helped Ben and gave him his real grades instead of a fake one! At home it got even worse. His mom would hit him all the time for no reason! On cold nights she would make Ben sleep outside. But one cold night when his mom through him outside, he ran away.

The ran away so far that he didn't know where he was! Until he did. He saw the subway that he'd always pass by. Then he knew he was at Midway St. It wasn't that far from his house. "Should I keep running" he thought? " Maybe I shouldn't run that far what if, what if I need to go back"?! He gathered a couple of leaves, twigs and made a bed and took it to a nearby tree. Every day Ben would STEAL! Steal from unsuspecting people! He would do this three times a day. Now eight years have pass by! Now young eight-year-old Ben has turned into sixteen-year-old Ben. So, it has been eight years now since he ran away. He found a job. A gas station! He thought " of course they're going to give a sixteen-year-old a job. They're not going to care". And he was right, they don't care. His job was to sweep the floors and restock. You may think this isn't to hard, but that's where you're wrong. That gas station is the only gas station in that area!

It was very hard. One day a little girl came in, all by herself. No mom, dad, sister, or brother. She came up right in front of Ben. looked at him. To Ben it seemed that they have been staring at each other for hours. But it was only a minute long. She went to a corner and just sat there. Ben's shift was finely over and he could go home to his tree. The girl followed him. At first he didn't noticed but then he did. Ben said a moment "who are you"? She looked at the floor for a moment then said "I ranaway"!

He said "do you, do you need a place to stay"? She said "who are you"? Ben said "I ran away too". Ben said "its late we can stay at my place". She said "fine but you have to tell me more about you. Ben said "fine but you have to tell me about you too! "Deal, deal. She said "so where is this place any way". "Just right up that tree" Ben said. The girl muttered something under her breath. Ben said "did you say something"? The girl said "no, let's go. Ben said ladies first". She said "fine but we'll tell me about you, right"? "Right". So, you already told me you ran away, but why" said Ben? She said " well I ran away because, because when I was five or six my mother told me I had a big brother. But he ran away. After that she told me she told me don't ask any more questions. But I still did. Then she started getting mad at me, then hit me. She would throw me outside on cold nights. Then one night I ran away.

Ben started crying. She said "why are you crying"? He said no reason, but then he said "one more question". Fine what is it. "What's your name?" Alice, okay thank you. Now it's your turn, what happened to you? Oh, said Alicen. Ben said "how old are you exactly?", eight. I ran away when I was eight too! Ben said, "let me see your wrist" Could it be, you are my sister!!? So that means we are related!!! They both said "So what do brothers and sisters do?" Said Ben. I guess, care and love each other but, I thought moms did that? Said Ben. "Well then, looks like

we are going to find a new mother", said Ben. " We will have to go to a foster home for a while than", said Alicen. I guess so, I saw a couple down the block, "let's go" said Ben. They were there for at least one week. There was a woman that looked familiar to Ben.

A young woman, she started walking towards them. Alicen said " I know that woman, that's my old 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher Mrs. Kinkade. I feel like I know her too. I thought she looked like my 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher. Ooh, that must be Mrs. Penny's daughter!! And maybe she's coming over here. Maybe she will adopt us. She was the nicest woman in the world. Ben now calls Mrs. Penny his grandma. Right when they got adopted, Alice would call Mrs. Kinkade mommy all the time after every sentence. Alicen got to finish 3<sup>rd</sup> grade with Ben, but their new mom taught Ben everything so quick. He got to skip all the way up to high school. They were the happiest kids alive.