

What the Heart Knows

By Marilyn Reeves

As a kid growing up you've got lots of good friends, but there's one who stands out from the rest. She's the one you want to share your good times with, the one you go to when you're feeling down. She's the one you want to share your secrets with. Because the heart knows. When it comes to your very best friend there is no substitute.

Now you're in high school and you think about boys all the time. All the other girls are enthralled by the captain of the football team. He's as vain as he is handsome. Well, they can have him. The one you like is a little bit awkward, a little bit shy, with a twig of hair that sticks straight up no matter how hard he tries to smooth it down. But he's funny and smart, unpretentious and kind, with a grin that could light up the world. Those things that he feels self-conscious about are the things that you happen to care about. He'll never know he's the one you that secretly dream about. But your heart knows. When it comes to your very first crush there is no substitute.

A few years pass and you're now a young woman. Your friends are all getting married and you're feeling left behind. You dream about your wedding day – the white gown with lace and pearls – and although you've not yet found your true love, there is a fellow you've been seeing. So when he pops the question, you answer yes, I do. And you do your best to be a good wife. He's a good man and treats you well. But although the wedding bells rang loud and clear, you don't hear chimes when he comes near. You feel like you're living a lie.

After a time you can no longer silence that insistent voice that needs to speak out: "I don't want to hurt you, it isn't your fault. This just isn't working. We've tried our best, but we both know it should be better than this. I wish you well, just please set me free. There's someone out there still waiting for me. We both deserve a chance at finding true happiness. Our hearts know that when it comes to the real thing there is no substitute."

A few more years go by, then at long last he arrives. He's funny and smart, unpretentious and kind. He has a little twig of hair that sticks straight up and a grin that could light up the world. He's the one you want to share your good times with, the one you go to when you're feeling down. He's the one you want to share your secrets with. And time will tell that he's the one you've been searching for. Because the heart knows. When it comes to true love there is no substitute.