

"My Secret Wishes—Never Before Told"

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What my most secret and deepest wish in the whole world is right now, is for a few acres of land with green trees on it where I could spend entire days in silence, just watching the way the shadows change as the sun passes overhead, and listening to the leaves whisper in the wind! Just a place where I could be myself and not have to do **ANYTHING** except... just be.

And if there were someone there with me, someone with a quiet smile and the kind of hair that looks best with sunlight on it—well, that'd be fine with me. In fact, I guess that's the most important part of my wish!



SUSAN DEY:

Wishes...if wishes were apples and we could pick them off trees, I'd pick a basketful! Wouldn't it be wonderful, to have a wishing-tree, somewhere where it's pretty and there's a stream nearby, and when you want a wish, you could just reach up into the cool green branches and take one down? And maybe breathe on it and polish it like an apple, so it would be the best wish possible? And then, if you're anything like me, you'd probably give it to someone!

I have more wishes than there are stars in the sky. I guess I can pick just one that's my most secret, but I've had to think about it for a long, long time! I threw out all the obvious ones—like getting married to someone I love, and being happy for my whole

life, because everybody wishes those, and they're not really so *secret*!

I think probably my most secret wish isn't for me at all! (Remember, I told you I'd probably give away the best wish I picked off the tree!)

If I could have any wish in the world, I think it'd be for children everywhere... that they could live in a world where they didn't have to see hatred they can't understand, where there would never be a child who cried because an adult hurt him. It's a wish for children in all countries, rich and poor, American or Vietnamese... never again to have to see or feel something wrong and hateful because adults can't learn to love one another.

That's the one. That's the wish I wish hardest of all.

