

DID YOU REALLY KNEW ALL YOUR CHILDHOOD  
FRIENDS?

# THE GIRL

*a short suspense story by*

ARLENE SABARIS



## The Girl

Her pale pink dress looked a lot like the dresses my mother made me wear to church. When I saw her climbing a tree in the park, I was surprised by how agile she was, despite her wearing a skirt. I was ten years old and just coming out of Mass that summer Sunday. The heat was relentless and despite my white dress, the material seemed to be woven with strands of pure heat and I could not wait to get home and get it off.

I put my discomfort to one side for a moment, and again stopped to admire the fearless girl climbing higher and higher up the enormous tree, the shade of which was cast over a few of the church's park benches. My mother told me to keep up and I obeyed, but my curiosity was sparked.

We had not done much the day before. We had come from Barahona to the capital, Santo Domingo, to spend the holidays with our grandmother. My brother Danny was two years older than I was and already had good friends in the Colonial Zone whom he would spend the whole vacation with. In my case, it was the first time I would be allowed to stay the whole vacation, usually I would have gone back to Barahona with my mother after dropping Danny off.

My grandmother lived right in front of the church, which had a large park, on a quiet street in the Colonial Zone. The pigeons were permanent tenants of the old building, whose pompous design reflected the height of the colonial period. The park was often busy; it had bushy trees and inviting benches. It was where never-ending stories were made up for the local children who were busy jumping rope, where

couples escaped from prying eyes and where grandparents passed away the years reading or filling in crossword puzzles. That Sunday people noisily filed out the church, and once we got home we had a family gathering of cousins, uncles and neighbours, which took up the rest of our Sunday. Afterwards we had to say goodbye to my mother who was going back to Barahona.

**You've Just Finished your Free Sample**

**Enjoyed the preview?**

**Buy: <http://www.ebooks2go.com>**