

22nd September, 2007

MY FAVOURITE BIRTHDAY PRESENT

DEAR DIARY, my favourite birthday present of all time is a packet of fruit polo's. My sister Sheba bought me fruit polo's for my 6th birthday. I have no recollection of anything else on that day; I can't remember what my parents bought me; I can't remember anyone else being around so I don't think I had a party nor can I remember my birthday cake.

I remember standing in the kitchen and Sheba said to me happy birthday and handed me a packet of fruit polo's! I was overwhelmed. As a child I always found expressions of love overwhelming for some reason. I wonder sometimes, was I 'affected'? Anyway, we didn't really hug, kiss or show feelings so every time I felt that warm feeling of love or being loved, something welled up inside me.

I didn't realise Sheba knew I really existed. My five older siblings were closer in age so they all stuck together. I was much younger than everyone else so I became a bit of a loner around the house and a daddy's girl so it didn't occur to me that Sheba even cared about my existence much less my birthday. On top of that, as far as my little six year old mind was concerned, she found something rare. I had never seen fruit polo's before; I had only ever seen the mint ones. I remember a vague feeling of Sheba going to great lengths to get the polo people to colour my polo's and add fruitiness to them. Now as an adult, I wonder how I could have been so silly to think that the Nestle factory would do something as intricate as that for me!

Sometimes a gift is special not because of what it is, how much it cost or how big it is, but it's special because of the way it makes you feel.

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