

10 SEC READING: Keeping friends - Paulo Coelho



When she was eleven years old, Anita went to her mother to complain. “I can’t manage to have friends. They all stay away from me because I’m so jealous.” Her mother was taking care of newly-born chickens, and Anita held up one of them, which immediately tried to escape.

The more the girl squeezed it in her hands, the more the chicken struggled. Her mother said: “try holding it gently.”

Anita obeyed her. She opened her hands and the chicken stopped struggling. She began to stroke it and the chicken cuddled up between her fingers.

“Human beings are like that too,” said her mother. “If you want to hold onto them by any means, they escape. But if you are kind to them, they will remain for ever by your side.”

Published on February 22, 2011