

ON THE VISITATION DAYS

A daughter greets her father with a smile and kiss on his cheek.

They catch up about mom, grandpa, and the rest of the family.

It takes time to reconnect and begin to feel at ease.

For people who haven't seen each other in weeks, months, or years.

This is on visitation days.

Wives run to husbands with outstretched arms and tears running down their face.

Those are the scenes repeated over and over on visitation days.

Grey uniformed guards keeping a close watch

A controlled smile upon their faces
yet ready to admonish and scold
for too much hand-holding, lingering
kisses, or sitting side-by-side.
This is the reality on visitation days.

The hours speed along and now it's time to
say good-bye.

The reality begins to sink in and
we are forced to acknowledge.

This was just another visitation day.