

Megan Rohleder -A pot of gold

'Mumma, I saw Grandad's spirit in class today. He said at least you weren't arguing with him when he died. My teacher said to keep it to myself.'

Lily knew her Mum was desperate for a connection with Grandad after his sudden death on holiday. In fact, all of the triplets knew. Lily had started seeing his spirit, or at least she told her Mum that. Amelia had built a garden shrine. But Maddie – she was different. She was the one who sailed through NICU and was left to her own devices when her sisters needed more.

Maddie had come to turn to animals for attention. The day after Grandad died, Maddie left crackers on the garden step. She had fond memories of Nanny putting her on that same 'naughty step', only to be joined by a willing Grandad, happy for any opportunity to rest, so he would say. The next day she left more food. On the third day, Maddie got a reply. A rainbow she had drawn days before had flown from the bin, was swooped on by a magpie and indelicately dropped onto the trampoline.

Wondering if Lily had really seen Grandad's spirit, Mum researched. She discovered it's common for children to have interactions with spirits, and rainbows are a sign of a spiritual life beginning.

Jumping on the trampoline late that day, Maddie was humming along to 'I can sing a rainbow' when a magpie again swooped in and got its claws stuck in the netting. The bird wanted itself known - was the magpie now Grandad? Flying above and watching down on us?

Nanny was the only one on holiday with Grandad when he died, but she was not with him when he passed. The autopsy gave no answers, and it would take years for an inquest to make it through Greek courts. But then an answer arrived, in the form of another rainbow... An email from a witness to Grandad's death. Apparently, he had been arguing, there was a kerfuffle and Grandad suffered some sort of heart attack and fell into the pool. He couldn't be resuscitated. The email came from Rob@rainbowlawyers.com.

Perhaps Lily had seen Grandad's spirit after all. Perhaps Maddie's rainbow was a sign. Perhaps spirits and the animal kingdom work in unison to show us what we need to see when we need to see it. Perhaps...our own pot of gold.