

'What are we going to do? I should have remembered last time she lost a tooth that there were no more left'.

'Let's put a 20 pence coin under her pillow instead'.

'It won't work, you remember how upset she was last time we tried that. She didn't even want to exchange the ones we have given her for modern money'.

'Where does she keep them, perhaps we can take one from the pile?'

'I have looked for them when she is at school but I have been unable to find a single one in the house'.

'Do you remember when we came across that fairy circle in the meadow? She danced in the centre for ages and then asked for those wings to wear so that she could be a fairy too'. Matthew's face softened as he recalled this early memory of his young daughter.

It had been a lovely idea at the time to add to the story about the tooth fairy by putting a fairy coin under her pillow, but now they would have to tell her the truth.

'Give me the big torch and I will see if I can find any more by the river'.

Don't be silly Matthew, she's a big girl now and we have to tell her there are no such things as fairies.

Matthew felt sad at the thought of Angelina finding out fairies weren't real. It had seemed a lovely idea when he discovered a whole cache of these star shaped fossils on the beach on a visit to his grandmother and she had told him that people thought they were coins used by fairies. Angelina loved fairies and he loved the idea of enhancing her imagination. He had offered to swop the stars for proper money to be able to replenish his little stock, but no. Angelina informed him, quite firmly, that she was saving them and had put them in the fairy bank! Whatever and wherever that may be!

'I don't believe you', Angelina said, as she stomped off the following morning, after her mother had informed her that the fairy hadn't come for her tooth because she didn't exist.

In spite of what Ellen had told him Matthew decided to go back to search the beach and the nearby river. Hooray, he found another small cache of these star shaped fossils, gathered them up and took them home, ready to put one under Angelina's pillow when she went to sleep that night.

Perhaps fairies do exist after all.