



Double the Love

Blossom was a lucky girl. She had two grandmothers. The city one she called 'Nan'. The country one she called 'Gran'.

Blossom lived in the city so she saw Nan a lot. She looked after Blossom when her mum was up to something busy.

Blossom and Nan had lots of special sayings, and they did special things.

"Come on, Nan," said Blossom. "Let's do a Tinga Layo!"

"Tinga layo! Me donkey buck, me donkey leap, me donkey kick with his two hind feet," said Nan. And she would give Blossom a bouncy ride on her back.

Nan often took Blossom to the park and they danced along hand in hand through the trees. And when they got home Nan would give Blossom lemonade and her favourite gingerbread biscuits.

Blossom saw Gran in the holidays.

They all went to stay in her little house. Mum and Dad squeezed into the spare room with Blossom on the folding bed. Blossom and Gran had lots of special sayings, and they did special things.

"Love-a-duck! Cluck! Cluck!" said Blossom. And Gran would take Blossom down to the farm to see the ducks and the hens.

And they often had a picnic in the field behind the house. Gran brought Blossom apple juice and her favourite chessy biscuits. Then Blossom would say, "Come on, Gran. Let's play ring-a-ring-a-roses!" and they swung around and all fell down in a heap laughing.

When they were back in the city, Gran telephoned every Sunday and spoke to Blossom. She made her voice sound very close.

City Nan and Country Gran. Blossom loved them both.

Then Blossom's new little brother was born and there was a party. It was at Blossom's own city house, and everybody came – even Gran, all that way! It was the first time Blossom had ever seen Nan and Gran together! What fun!

But Nan didn't rush to get Blossom any lemonade. And Gran didn't fetch Blossom any apple juice.



They both stayed sitting down and kept themselves quiet...until Blossom fell over.

She bumped her forehead and it knocked her breath out. It made her cry. Quick as a flash, Nan was there and Gran was there. They cuddled Blossom between them in a Nan-and-Gran sandwich. Blossom got a city kiss on one cheek and a country kiss on the other.

Blossom kept hold of both their hand, and wouldn't let go.

“Come on”, said Blossom, pulling.

“Where?” asked Nan and Gran

“In the other room. Let's have some fun!” said Blossom.

Nan put on a tape.

“Gran – do you know the steps of this dance?” she asked. And Gran did some fancy steps and twists.

Nan and Gran and Blossom danced, all three of them together.

Suddenly the music played an old song. Both Gran and Nan joined in.

Then Nan scooped up Blossom on to Gran's back.

"Tinga layo!" said Blossom, and they trotted off, in and out of the kitchen, up and down the passage, tinga-layo-ling, singing and bouncing.

Then, "Ring-a-ring-a-roses!" said Blossom. Everyone made a circle and got mixed up together when 'bump!' they all fell down, laughing and clapping.

"You've got to bring yourself to the city for a visit," Nan Said to Gran.

"And you've got to come to the country for a Holiday!" Gran Said to Nan.

Blossom didn't know she could feel so happy.

When her two grandmothers get together, she has double the fun and also... double the love.



Bernard Ashley
Double the Love
London, Orchards Books, 2003