

Richard

I have known Richard Lumley since he was born, although haven't seen so much of him in recent years due to distance and busy lives. Over these years however, I have kept up to speed with all the latest happenings in Richard's family via my oldest friend Mary, Richard's big sister and I do hope that, by the time you boys, Lumi and Diell, are old enough to read this, your Halla Mary will still be around and will be able to tell you a lot more about your Dad than I can.

Losing your Dad so suddenly and at your young ages was such a terribly sad thing to happen. Diell, you may not remember much at all about him, and Lumi, maybe not that much either. But I'd like you to know, all 3 of you, including Donjeta, that you were incredibly lucky to have had a father like Richard, even for a short time. Richard was one of the kindest, most patient and considerate people I've known. I never heard him lose his temper or raise his voice even when he was little. He was the sort of person you wish there were far more of in the world. It would undoubtedly be a better place.

Richard was born when Mary and I were both 15. So Mary was like a second Mum to him. He was of course her brother and later on helped Mary with all sorts of things, particularly technology: computers, televisions, smart phones etc, so for Mary, he had gone from being like a son to her, to a brother and then something akin to a father. In fact he reminded me a lot of your grandfather, in looks and in his gentle character. I can't remember many incidents about his childhood or younger years. Mary will remember a lot more, especially as her memory is excellent and mine is more of the goldfish sort. I do remember when he graduated from University and how handsome he was. There's a great photo of him taken at that time, which I hope you still have.

What I do know is that his absence will leave a huge hole in your hearts and lives which will be difficult to fill. In fact, that will probably never happen, but I hope you will eventually get used to the new reality and that other adults or good friends will appear in your lives, who will be great role models too, and support you on your journey.

Pam Manning