

Barbara

I can't remember the first time Baz introduced me to his Mum, (it was shortly after a date to a chippy overlooking the cooling towers in Sheffield), but what I do remember is a sense of being immediately, and effortlessly, accepted into the family... there was no awkwardness, no questions, no judgment, just endless cups of tea and biscuits, offers of bread and dripping (which I declined), laughter and silly songs.... and love...

As I have become part of the family myself, I have observed the relationships between Baz and his siblings and between them and their Mum... what I am struck by is the powerful, extraordinary love they have for one another... yes, they become exasperated with each-other, bicker, sometimes fight, but bonding them is a love, so strong and compassionate - they are a force to be reckoned with...

This sort of love is learned - it was Nannan Rose and Barbara that taught them to love, to care and look out for each-other and all that they meet. Barbara was proud of her brood. They are proud of her.

I feel privileged to have known Barbara for half my life and I'm honoured to be part of this family.

Julie Ireland