

7.

Some Memories Are Just Too Big to Be Kept in an Envelope

In her memory box there is an envelope containing a feather, a cinema ticket and a photograph of her with her parents and sister, sitting around a table. Her counsellor gently encourages her to talk about these mementos but she's not ready yet. So, they talk about school and how Maisy steals her pens and how she feels about that - angry. The counsellor suggests she draw a picture to bring to the next session.

'What sort of picture?'

'Whatever you feel like drawing.'

At the wildlife rescue, Sarah, the young volunteer, explains how they are helping the orphaned gosling. His mother and siblings were run over, and he was found hiding in a roadside drain. Sarah says they will return him to the lake when he's big enough.

'Will he be OK?'

'He will be fine' Sarah assures her.

She puts a donation into the box and Sarah gives her a sticker which says, 'I'm sponsoring Gus the gosling'.

She puts the sticker - a new memory - in her envelope along with the others: the family day on the beach, when the air tasted of salt candyfloss and happiness, and they adorned sandcastles with shells and feathers; the trip to see *Frozen*, when her mother ate ice cream and hummed along with the songs under her strawberry breath, and her birthday meal, when the wishes and laughter of her sister and parents settled around her like a warm blanket.

She gets out her coloured pens and draws a picture for her counsellor. She draws the bad man with the bomb, then the ambulances in yellow and green with blue lights, and then her family with red splodges on their recumbent bodies. With her best gold pen, she draws a halo over each of their heads.