

GYPSYROSE

BY Darlene Kerr

For those of us who have friends across the Rainbow Bridge.

I closed my eyes this evening, just for a little while, and this little story began to unfold in my mind. I decided to write it and send it for all of us who have lost at sometime a loved dog or other animal from our lives. It is a 'fanciful' tale, but I hope it will help those saddened by the loss of a chum to feel a little bit better.

Sometimes it is a good idea to let one's imagination go where it can find comfort. Though my sweet GypsyRose figures prominently in this little tale, it is not just for her. It is for every heart that has ached with the loss of a loved animal companion. I make apologies to those who do not have the same beliefs as I do. My intent is not to anger, but to bring some comfort and peace to those who share the same pain as I have now. Writing this was GOOD for me. I hope it will help some of you as it did me.

Darlene



The Meeting

Along the grassy path just this side of the Rainbow Bridge there is a beautiful garden. A riot of lovely colors and many different varieties of flowers, both domestic and wild, populate this lovely garden.

On December 31, 2007 a magnificent rose suddenly bloomed amidst the many beautiful flowers. This rose is like no other for it is double the size of the well known American Beauty Rose but of a color no other rose has ever sported. It is a beautiful shimmering red-gold that gradually shades to a darker gold then a deep mahogany as it neared the center. Its stem and leaves are as white as new-fallen snow. This unusual rose is known as "The GypsyRose"

It sprang into bloom in its full glory as the spirit that gave it life passed swiftly across the bridge.

On the other side of the bridge, in the verdant meadow with the sparkling fire-blue lakes and babbling brooks, this spirit returned to a physical form. The form of a beautiful collie whose colors matched the beautiful rose. For a moment this lovely collie stood, her pretty head turned looking over her shoulder back from whence she came, with a hint of sadness in her dark almond eyes. Then the Angels approached. With them came three other dogs. Beyond these angels and dogs stood quietly many wonderful dogs of many breeds and mixtures of breeds, many cats, birds, and horses, a variety of animals. All that had at one time, no matter how briefly, been loved by a human. Always it is like this when a new spirit arrives. God's special angels will come to welcome the new spirit and to explain what is happening. It is not uncommon for the new spirit to be momentarily confused by the sudden change in his/her environment. In many cases the last memory of their old life is seeing grief in the face and hearing it in the voice of some special human who they have loved with every fiber of their being. Thus they hesitate, confused and saddened by the fact that their loved person is nowhere to be seen. That is why the angels come along with other extraordinary animals who have shared that SPECIAL bond with the same human.

As the beautiful red-gold collie with the light mahogany shading stood gazing back across the bridge, the Angels gathered round and held her in their arms. Then they softly explained to her what had happened and why. They assured her that time had no meaning in this wondrous place, and she would one day be reunited with her loved person. When that day arrived there would never again be a parting. Time, they explained was a HUMAN concept. For animals it had little meaning since animals lived from moment to moment and each reunion with a loved person, be it after an absence of five minutes or hours or years, did not change how thrilled the animal was when the moment arrived. Gypsy knew from past experience that this was true. She knew that, though many times her human had 'gone away,' she always came back again. But this time Gypsy felt it was different for she, not the mistress had left.

Then the three dogs who were standing the closest moved towards her. One was a tri-color sheltie of greater size than she was used to seeing. One was a lovely mahogany sheltie cross of similar size, and in the middle was a huge mahogany collie. The Angels introduced them while explaining to Gypsy that these three dogs had also shared the same bond of love and trust with the human she was worried about.

Bruce, the big collie dog spoke for the first time. He told her that he too had been sent across the bridge by the one she loved. Gypsy's head came up higher as she looked into his dark eyes. "and did you have pain?"

"No" the big collie responded, "I did not have pain as you did. But my body failed me. I could hardly stand, and walking was done only with great effort. If the ground was not even, I would stagger and sometimes fall. For three days I was like this. Then our human sent me across the bridge. I had been deaf for over a year, but as I felt my spirit leaving, I was able once more to hear her beloved voice. I remember what she said. She sobbed these words "Scots `wa hey, Bruce m`lad g`wan away. Bide there for me Brucie" For a moment a deep sorrow clouded the big collie's eyes. Then his dark eyes brightened, and he glanced over his shoulder at the other two dogs.

"We were there you know, the night you were born, right lads?"

The tri-color sheltie stepped forward. "Yes, we were, and we knew even before our human did, that you would be like us, her heart dog. My name is Lad. I raised our human from child to young lady." His eyes twinkled with merriment, "Let me tell you GypsyRose, she was a paw full. She was a tomboy and full of adventure. She didn't seem to have any thought or sense of danger. She would go anywhere and try anything. Many times throughout those first years from child to early teen, I had to step between her and trouble. But I love her dearly, and we all visit her often."

The slender mahogany sheltie cross stepped forward. "My name is Young Lad. Lad here is my grandfather. I too have many tales to tell though my time with our human was much shorter. I was not ready to leave. Nor was our human willing to let me go. I tried very hard to remain, but my body was not able to sustain life. My last "life" memory is hearing her sobbing and begging me to stay. When I let myself, as now, think of that I feel very sad." Then he shook his coat and raised his handsome, intelligent looking face, "But I try not to think of that time very much, for it is not good to do this. You, Gypsy, better than anyone, know this to be so. After all, it was you who helped our human to move on after her father died."

Then a familiar sounding bark assailed Gypsy's ears. Turning her head she looked to see the dog

who called to her. Across the grass, coming at a swift gallop, his big faced smiling as always was a very big red gold collie. Gypsy's heart leapt with joy. "Dino" she cried as she hurried towards him, "Dino. Look at you. You are strong and young again. You look wonderful!!"

Sliding to a halt in front of her, the big dog smiled into his sister's face. "Yes, and I feel wonderful too. I can run and leap just like I used to in the old days. Boy I would love a crack at agility now!! I bet I could do it just like you. We have lots of hills here and some natural bush tunnels, plus creeks we can leap over and all sorts of fun things we can do. Just you wait and see. Plus, Sis, just look at that lake will you? It is great to go swimming there and see on the one side is a cliff. That is called "lookout ridge." We all take turns up there watching for our humans. Several of us have left already with our humans. We can see them coming from a long way off, and we can run to meet them."

"Oh," Gypsy whispered, "then what happens when we see them coming? Where do we go when we join up with them?"

Lad, the sheltie, stepped forward. "We go to join them in their reward as they pass though heaven's gate. The Great Master, who they call God, promised those who love Him and believe in his Son, eternal life, and he has decreed that we share this with them for all eternity. For he knows for our humans it would not be heaven without us."

Then Lad stepped a bit closer to Gypsy and looked deep into her eyes. "Do you have any pain now GypsyRose?"

Gypsy smiled at him. "No, I have no pain. I remember having pain, quite a lot, but our human made it go away, just like I knew she would."

"Yes," Lad nodded wisely, "She made it go away. Three times she did this in those last days, then she, despite her own pain, promised you would never have pain again, right?"

"Yes. I remember her telling me that." Gypsy smiled again at the memory.

"Well my dear. Here there is no pain. Our human kept her word. The only time you will feel sorrow is when you let yourself remember those last moments, and how sad our human was. So for her sake you must try not to think of that anymore. She would not want to think of you being unhappy. The Great Master gave to us some special abilities that he did not give to such a large degree to humans. He did this in exchange for the shorter life he allows us to have on earth. How many times have you understood something that our human, at first, did not quite grasp until you showed her and helped her understand? Like when her father died, and she grieved so much she was in danger of ruining her own health?"

"Yes, I remember that sad time though I was only a pup myself. It took quite a while to bring her around as I recall, and she often got angry with me. But I knew it wasn't me she was really angry with, but rather with life itself."

"Exactly" replied Lad, "We, many times, can understand certain things in life quicker and better than humans can. We have a sixth sense about things that most humans lack. So welcome to Rainbow Bridge, GypsyRose, the last waiting place. Here time has even less meaning for us than it did in life on earth, and we can visit as many times as we wish. Sometimes the odd human will 'feel' our

presence. More often they do not, but it makes no matter, for we can also come to them in their sleep. Some will remember our visit when they awaken. Some will not. But we will be able to make their dreams happy and see and hear them and know that one day they will see and hear us again too."

With that said, they all began to race together towards the other animals to make friends and renew old acquaintances. Dino ran along side his swiftly moving sister and whispered "We have treat bushes here that have every conceivable type of treat you can imagine, and we can have as much as we want." Young Lad, running on the other side of Gypsy, nudged her playfully as he said "Oh and for your information we even have a peanut butter bush Gypsy." He was gratified to see the sparkle in her pretty eyes as she clicked her jaws in the old familiar way and said "Yes. Peanut butter. That is my FAVORITE!!" GypsyRose

