



Rosie,
 sat amongst
 the wildflowers at the
 bottom of her garden. It was her
 favorite place to be. Even though it
 was a warm and sunny day, she couldn't
 feel happy. The rabbits were chasing each
 other in circles, the birds were singing their
 glorious songs, and the hedgehog was
 taking a leisurely stroll down the
 path. Such a beautiful day, but
 Rosie was too sad to notice. A
 tear escaped from her eye
 and ran down her
 cheek as she cried
 softly.



"All of us were sent here to do
 a special job. Some jobs take longer
 than others to complete, but once we
 have done our job, we can go back to
 our spiritual home. That is when we
 shed our skin, just as that caterpillar
 will do some day."
 "When the caterpillar sheds his skin
 and leaves it behind, magically, out
 comes a beautifully colored butterfly.
 The butterfly flutters freely away,
 happy to fly off to his new home.
 Rosie, this is what happened to
 Graeme's spirit. It left behind his
 body, just like the butterfly left
 behind it's skin and flew away."



Rosie didn't want to say
 goodbye to Graeme, but he had been
 sick and the grown-ups had told her
 that he would be going to heaven soon.
 Just as Rosie was getting out of bed
 this morning, she heard her mother tell
 someone on the phone that Graeme
 had died. This frightened Rosie.
 What did dying mean anyway?
 Did it mean that she wouldn't
 ever see her friend again, not
 ever? She wished she was older
 so that she could understand.



Graeme Goes Home

Maggie Pitkethly

Illustrated By Suzanne Farmer



She had stopped crying
 and much more cheerful now
 the butterfly had explained
 everything properly to her.
 "I understand now,"
 said Rosie.
 Graeme still lives on, just in a
 way - and in a different
 place to explain that to the
 grown-ups. "We don't have to say
 goodbye to Graeme, we just have to
 be doing such a wonderful
 job as he was the kindest and
 our friend ever!"



Rosie's butterfly friend
 flew upwards in circles and danced
 around the garden, as if to show
 Rosie how free and happy Graeme
 was now. Landing on top of the lilac
 bush, that was showing off its big
 purple blossoms, the butterfly told Rosie.
 "Most creatures don't even know
 what their special job is, but that
 doesn't matter. All we need to do is
 do the best we can do, and be the
 best we can be. If we are kind to all
 living things, we are doing the most
 special of jobs."

"Graeme Goes Home"
 Author, Maggie Pitkethly
 teaches children that death
 doesn't mean life ends, merely
 that it transforms -
 "like a caterpillar into
 a butterfly..."

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Rosie waved goodbye
 to the butterfly, watching him
 disappear into the sunlight. She
 sat quietly, smiling to herself.
 She turned her face up toward
 the sky and felt the warmth of
 the sun on her face.
 Then Rosie jumped up. She
 decided she had better go indoors
 and have a chat with her mother.
 She was sure her mother would
 feel much better, too, once she
 knew that Graeme had
 only shed his skin,
 and flown back
 home.