

Once upon a time there was a lovely, regal Lady called Edna who lived in the Kingdom of Adelaide. Lady Edna lived with her dear husband Lord John on their estate in the Kingdom. Lady Edna and Lord John had a large family and loved nothing more than to have their loved ones drop by the estate for visits and to watch their many grandchildren playing. Lady Edna would cook up glorious feasts for everyone and they would all sit around and have a wonderful time together.

Lady Edna also liked to collect various treasures which she loved to have around her in her home and would often look at one precious trinket or another and remember where she had discovered it. Each and every one had its own special meaning to her.

One day Lady Edna and Lord John went to the field in the woods where the Kingdom's local football team, the Crows were playing their powerful rivals from the nearby Port. It was a fabulous victory to the Crows and Lady Edna was very happy as she left the field. She decided to let Lord John drive the carriage home while she walked home through the woods.

She was not far from the estate when a bright light appeared in front of her and as she shielded her eyes from the light, suddenly emerged the most beautiful tall angel with white, feathery wings. "Fear not, Dearest Child of God", said the angel, "I am the Archangel Michael, and I am here to take you on a journey to revisit the wonderful life you've led so far". Lady Edna was a bit shocked and overwhelmed by the appearance of Archangel Michael but since she spoke to God so often, she was so pleased that he had sent his messenger to visit with her. The angel held out his hand to her and she reached forward and took it. They gently lifted off the ground and were soon making their way through the air.

In next to no time they were across the other side of the world, floating effortlessly over the rolling green hills of Yorkshire. They touched down on a big tree branch next to a nesting bower bird where they could look down upon children playing by a little cottage. It took Lady Edna a moment to realise that this in fact was her family's cottage from her childhood and that the children playing were herself and her brother and sisters. She looked to Archangel Michael for an explanation. "Dear One, we are taking a visit through your life and where better to start than your childhood? Now come, it's time to move on." She stood up on the branch in time to see her parents at the cottage door calling them in for tea and then they were off and into the sky again.

Each time Lady Edna looked down there was a different but familiar scene beneath her. Her family, now a little older, skating on the dyke, then she was at a dance that she attended with Keith. She flew over their wedding day where she stood so young and positively beaming, the births of her children – each one so special to her. She held tight to Michael's hand as he flew her over a boat at the dock and she watched as she and her family embarked on their voyage to Australia. Archangel Michael put his arm around her as they flew over the sad day when she lost Keith and he whispered to her "He is with you often Edna, he watches over you and the family from Heaven." They hovered over the home she shared with her children and watched them for a while, before continuing on to her first date with her dear John. She smiled as she remembered she had wanted to marry him that very day! She watched herself meeting his children and then their wedding which she remembered fondly.

All of these scenes taking place before her were making her head spin but it was so wonderful to look back on it all. It certainly had been a fulfilling life, sometimes hard, always rewarding.

"Edna, we have one more stop to make on this journey and then of course the rest is up to you." Archangel Michael said as they flew over a family gathering. They came to touch down back at her estate where there seemed quite a bit of activity going on. "Don't let anyone know I've told you, but they're planning a big party for your birthday." Archangel Michael said with a wink. Lady Edna thanked the beautiful angel for taking her on such a special journey and gave him a hug goodbye. It felt so peaceful being in that embrace and she thought she could stay there forever but apparently she had a party to attend.

As she walked up the path, Lady Edna was inundated with running grandchildren all yelling out "Happy Birthday!" She saw gifts and food piled high and all of her children and her friends were there. She looked back along the path to see if she could see her angel and with a wave goodbye she saw him vanish. She looked up into the tree where the angel had stood and saw a bower bird nesting with her chicks. It looked just like the one she'd seen in Yorkshire but surely that couldn't be. Then with a smile she realised that only yesterday she would have said the same about the journey she'd just taken and realised that nothing was impossible.

As she looked lovingly around everyone gathered around her, she knew that no matter what was ahead of her she had everything she could possibly want and was certain she would live **happily ever after...**