



*The man looked shocked. 'I ... I ... can't believe Callum's dead.'*

more than anything, to put the past behind me.'

'Oh, I see,' I said slowly. 'Well, you can't see Callum. He died before I was born.'

The man looked shocked. 'I ... I ... can't believe Callum's dead. How did he die?'

'In a car accident,' I told him.

The man's eyes narrowed. 'Who told you that?' he asked sharply.

'My mum. Callum McGregor was my dad,' I replied.

The man stared at me. 'You're Callie Rose?'

He was making me uncomfortable. 'Who are you?' I asked.

The man replied, 'My name is Jude. Callum is ... was my brother.'

'You're my *uncle*?'

Was this man really my uncle? I remembered that when I was eight or nine, I'd asked Nana Meggie if I had any aunts and uncles except Aunt Minerva. Nana told me that I'd had an aunt called Lynette but she'd died very young, before I was born. And Nana also told me about my Uncle Jude. He was Dad's older brother. Nana said that I couldn't see him because he was so far away. But now he was back – if this really was him. I had to be careful.

'What's your sister's name?' I asked.

'Lynette,' the man replied. 'She died a long time ago.'

A smile covered my whole face. He *was* my uncle! 'Hello, Uncle Jude,' I said.

'I don't know what to say.' Uncle Jude shook his head. 'I ... I'm so happy to meet you – but my brother is dead ...'

'I'm sorry,' I said. His brother was dead and he hadn't even known it. How horrible was that? 'Nana Meggie's not home, but come and see my mum. I'm sure she'd love to see you.'

'No, Callie Rose. Maybe some other time. I've just found