

Shenfield you lived in Ardleigh Court then to Herongate
A baby you both wanted but struggled to create

It began with a vasectomy, the tale I will never mourn
The fact I cost you money long before I was born

And so to Malwood we all went and a family we became
A tight pack of three and life was definitely never the same

A toddler I then was and the apple of your eye
You loved to take me dancing under the Caribbean night sky

You loved all your holidays and taught me how to dive
Your hours stood on the poolside marking me 1 to 5

Longboat Key had your heart and all the friends that you made
Those memories you always cherished and those never fade

Your love of days at the beach as years went by
From eating red snapper and swordfish always finishing with key lime pie

Me running across the beach boardwalk after learning my exam grades
The proud hug you gave me has stayed with me for decades

From Sarasota to Vale de Lobo and the fun times went on
The love and memories stay with us even though you're now gone

You were Victor Meldrew to my friends and always made them giggle
From embarrassing dancing to Steps songs and the in joke 'give us a wiggle'

Doing your Sunday crosswords that were always a must
A coffee in hand and a dictionary which never gathered dust

Your love of golf, football and pretty much all sport
Special days going to Wimbledon and being on centre court

You and mum went to many parties and danced the night through
Having fun through the years with the very best Brentwood School crew

You packed me off to uni to study English and this and that
I came away with a degree and a handsome chap called Matt

And so Matt and I got married and you walked me down the aisle
To All I ask of You from Phantom with a mix of a cry and a smile

And then came along Maya Bee and our little Evie Pie
The blue eyed blondes and the new apples of your eye

Your granddaughters always did have you wrapped around their finger
And when you opened a bar of chocolate they would always stay with you and linger

And then you got poorly again after having your nine lives
So it was sadly no more holidays and no more high board dives

And this is where mum tackled her hardest role yet
Caring for you so deeply until the last moment was met

You died in her arms and that's where you felt safe
At home with your favourite and you died with good faith

Your memory lives on, through us all forever more
Your crossword dictionary now packed away in the kitchen drawer

I would give anything for you to come to mine again and have you walk through the
gate

I would even be happy to watch your rendition of Steps' 5,6,7,8

You had poor choice in music, Josh Groban I never got
But you would have wanted him singing now and that I never forgot

I will watch all your favourite films again especially Carousel
You'll never walk alone even after the ringing of the church bell

Your friends described your time together as being a blast
They will never forget those times even though they have now passed

In the end you said that you were ready to move on
You will be loved forever and a day even though you're now gone

We really do love and miss you and as the crying among us stops
We will celebrate your life now dear dad, Mike and forever the girls' Pops



REFLECTION

All I Ask of You-Phantom of the Opera

TRIBUTE
'POEM FOR POPS'

Written by Maya & Read by Matt

We miss you Pops and that will never change
Being at your house without you feels ever so strange
We loved being with you and sharing chocolate and sweets
You always gave us extra so we knew you were for keeps

You always tested me on numbers and all about books
I knew you were proud of me in the way you smiled and looked
You always said Evie was as pretty as can be
You also always said how much she looked just like me

You said we reminded you lots of our mummy
She also liked sharing your chocolate straight into her tummy
Evie misses your hospital bed and going up and down
We will also miss seeing you in your old dressing gown

You always wore slippers and that made me laugh
You wore them everywhere you went except in the bath
You and daddy always talked sport and who was the best
I can confirm it's Ipswich over Colchester in their blue vests

You loved watching The Chase with me when we got things right
Beating The Vixen was easy but The Menace was a fight
We will look after Nana and give her lots of cuddles
We will also take Maggie for walks and jump in muddy puddles

You were always so kind and showed how much you care
It's now so hard for us to know you're no longer there
Pops, you were really always such lovely friend
And I know our time together will never truly end