

looking at) pictures of her and her daughter, my mother and aunt, and her two birds back a lot when I was younger and she was still living. I instinctively connected my grandmother with these kinds of birds from an early age. Whenever a cardinal flew past or landed on a tree branch, she would point it out and talk about it often. She loved them, and she had little stickers of the red bird all around her house, like greeting cards and little magnets.

I was reminded of my grandmother's words of warning as one of these birds when she passed away in the early months of 2016. Even though I was upset because I was mourning my grandmother's passing, I had hope that one day I would see her in the bird she constantly mentioned. As the years went by, my aunt started to mention them frequently, saying that these birds were good luck and that they should make a wish. In that way, they were like cheering men. I connected my grandmother and aunt with the northern cardinal earlier.

Because of their holiday associations, these birds—which I also associate with my grandmother and aunt—also evoke feelings of nostalgia. The cardinal is frequently connected to the holiday season in addition to reminding me of my grandmother. These birds were frequently covered on ornaments, wrapping paper, holiday cards, and much more! The memories of going over to my grandparents' house and seeing all of the beautiful Christmas decorations come back to me when I see these items. In some ways, this also makes me feel at ease.

To sum up, the northern cardinal was selected to evoke sentiments of comfort,