

The Brightest Star

By

Lee O'Connor

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Email: lee.a.oconnor@gmail.com

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FADE IN:

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Young parents MARY and PAUL rest on the floor watching their son JAMES (5) draw a picture of planet earth.

James colours in black around the globe.

MARY

Make sure you leave space for the stars.

JAMES

Mummy, what is a star?

Mary smiles at Paul, taken aback.

MARY

Stars are where we go when we pass away sweetie.

JAMES

Is that where Grandma and Grandpa have gone?

MARY

Yes James. If you look close enough at night you can see them watching over us.

JAMES

But how do you know which stars they are?

MARY

Grandma and Grandpa bought their own stars so we can find them.

James grins.

JAMES

I will leave two big stars for Grandma and Grandpa.

Mary smiles as she strokes her son's hair.

An alarm on Paul's watch BEEPS.

PAUL

Honey, it's time for your medication.

EXT. BACK GARDEN - NIGHT

SUPER: ONE MONTH LATER.

A full moon casts a WHITE glow.

Paul sets up a TELESCOPE with James watching. He directs the scope at the sky, tweaks the knobs then looks through it.

PAUL
Come here son, take a look. That's
your mother's star.

Paul moves aside allowing James to see.

PAUL
Do you think she will like it?

Gazing at the star James nods, excited.

INT. BEDROOM

Paul is perched on the side of a bed with a small GIFT and a PAPER DRAWING.

Mary lies next to him helpless, skin yellow and her eyes sagging, life is not apparent at first sight.

Paul takes her hand. Mary's eyes open.

PAUL
Hello my love.

Paul gives Mary a kiss on the forehead.

PAUL
I've got something for you.

A whisper of a smile appears on her face.

Paul presents her the gift. He slowly rips away the wrapping paper. It's a FRAMED CERTIFICATE. He holds it up for Mary to read. She sheds a tear.

PAUL
I thought I would buy you a star.
James and I saw it earlier, it's
beautiful. It's called "amor meus
in atern" which means "my love
forever"

He props the certificate on the bedside table.

PAUL

James wanted me to give this to you
before he went to sleep.

Paul shows Mary the drawing. It's THREE STARS surrounding earth with the names MUMMY, GRANDPA and GRANDMA above each star.

Mary musters a smile before drifting off to a peaceful sleep.

Paul places the drawing beside the certificate.

He snuggles up to Mary, holding her hand.

INT. HALLWAY - MORNING

Paul quietly shuts the bedroom door, he weeps.

A DOOR opens.

JAMES (O.S)

Daddy?

Paul dries his eyes and looks across the hall.

PAUL

(gentle)

Hello mate. Come here.

Paul kneels, arms open.

James walks into his arms.

JAMES

Has mummy gone to her star?

Paul nods as tears run down his face.

PAUL

She's with Grandma and Grandpa now
watching over us from the brightest
star.

FINAL FADE OUT.