

## **TOGETHER FOREVER.**

### **THE FIRST MEETING**

It was 16-year-old Chloe's first time at the church youth club. Her mother had persuaded her to join, saying that she should meet some 'nice boys'. Chloe was shy, so she spent most of her time with the other girls, until, one evening, she met Luke, who seemed as shy as she was.

'Would you like a game of table tennis?' Chloe nodded.

'Sorry I keep missing the ball. I haven't played before. I'm doing my best to score a point.'

'You're scoring lots of points with me,' replied Luke. 'Sorry, that's a bit of a pathetic joke.'

'I like it,' replied Chloe, batting her eyelids. 'Now look. You've made me blush.'

That Sunday, at church, Chloe listened to the preacher. 'Our Lord, Jesus Christ, sacrificed himself for all of humankind.' As time went on, and Chloe's relationship with Luke grew deeper, she understood that Luke would always sacrifice himself for her.

### **THE SILVER WEDDING ANNIVERSARY**

It was the first day of Chloe and Luke's 25th wedding anniversary. Both children had moved away, so the house felt like an empty nest. It was the weekend and Chloe and Luke, as usual, were taking their dog, Eternal, for a morning walk. After 25 years of wedded bliss, they could not have been happier.

‘Let’s hope we have 25 more years to come,’ smiled Luke. ‘It was such great news yesterday.’

‘Yes, the doctor said I’m cleared of breast cancer. It’s absolutely fantastic to hear. The perfect present.’ Then their eyes met, just as they had met all those years ago.

‘It was the best idea ever to give Eternal that name.’

‘Thank you so much, my eternal darling,’ Chloe replied, as a tear ran down her face. Hearing his name, Eternal barked in assent. Chloe and Luke laughed.

‘Remember the time on our honeymoon when you pushed me into the swimming pool. I was only wearing my bikini. And you said I had slipped.’ Luke laughed. It was one of the shared stories that they returned to when they were bonding. It signified the common understanding that they would never separate, together for eternity. As they continued walking, the traffic roared by. At that moment, Chloe’s hand pushed Luke into the road, as if echoing his gesture of 25 years before. It was all over in two horrific seconds.

The coroner decided that it had been an accident. Chloe would have had no reason to murder her beloved husband.

Chloe knew the truth. She had pushed Luke because she had had to lie to him. The truth was that the doctor had told her that her cancer was terminal, and that she only had months to live. She knew that Luke could not bear to live without her, so she had sacrificed any thoughts of her own conscience to do what was right by him. This was not betrayal, but self-sacrifice, knowing that they would shortly meet again in Heaven, together for eternity.

**THE MEETING IN HEAVEN...**