



# SHIRLEY'S PLACE

## *In Our Hearts*

### PREFACE

The loss of a loved one can be an incredibly challenging experience, and when Scott's mother, Marilyn, passed away unexpectedly, it left a huge void in all our hearts. Most of all, we were worried about how his father, Jerry, would cope with the loss. Then came Shirley. She entered our lives at a time of sorrow, bringing with her warmth, love, and a comforting presence. As time went on, Shirley became more than a stepmother to us; she became an integral part of our family, a beacon of love and strength.

### A TIME OF SORROW

Once upon a time, in the wake of loss and grief, there emerged a ray of light named Shirley. She stepped into our lives like a gentle breeze, offering us solace and comfort in the midst of darkness.

Scott's mother, Marilyn, had been the heart and soul of our family. Her passing left a palpable void; especially for her husband, Jerry, who was left to navigate the world without his beloved partner of many years. We worried about him deeply, uncertain of how he would cope with the weight of his grief.



### A NEW LOVE

Then, in a twist of fate, Jerry found love again. Shirley came into our lives like a gift from above; her kindness and compassion a balm to our wounded hearts. Despite our initial apprehensions, Shirley quickly proved herself to be more than just a stepmother.

She became a pillar of strength & a beacon of hope in our time of need. Shirley embraced us with open arms. She treated each of Marilyn's children — John, Tom, Tasha, Jared, and Scott

— as if they were her own. Her love knew no bounds, transcending the boundaries of biology to create a bond that was as strong as any blood relation.

Shirley's presence brought a sense of joy and renewal to our family. Her laughter filled the halls of our home, chasing away the shadows of grief that had lingered for so long. With her by our side, we found the courage to smile again, to cherish the memories of the past while embracing the promise of the future.

What truly set Shirley apart was her love and acceptance. She never made us feel like outsiders or second best. Instead, she welcomed us into her heart with a warmth and generosity that was truly unparalleled. We knew, without a doubt, that Shirley loved our father deeply, and her devotion to him only served to deepen our admiration for her.

### UNITED BY LOVE

In the midst of our grief, Shirley became a source of inspiration — a reminder that love has the power to heal even the deepest wounds. She showed us that it's possible to find happiness again, even in the darkest of times.

Today, as we look back on those difficult days, we are filled with gratitude for the gift of Shirley's presence in our lives. She has become more than just a stepmother; she is a cherished member of our family, a beloved matriarch whose love knows no bounds.

In Shirley, we have found a kindred spirit, a soulmate who understands the depth of our loss and the beauty of our love. She has brought light to our darkest days, and for that, we will be forever grateful. Shirley, with her love and unwavering support, has carved out a special place in our hearts — a place she will always call home.

And it's not just us who have been touched by Shirley's love. Her sons, Christopher and Joel, and their families have become a special part of our family too. Their warmth and kindness have added to the love that Shirley has woven around us, enriching our lives in ways we never thought possible. Together, we are a family united by love, bound by a shared journey of healing and growth. 

