

Patti's Song

To: Patti

From: Andrew Parker

Just me and you, Mom, in that ol' brown Buick, Radio low, watching the day drift by. No dad around, but you never let it break you, You carried double weight, still kept us steady inside. We made our sacrifices, we both understood, But I never felt like I was missing anything good. Didn't need the newest shoes or clothes to feel whole, I had your love and laughter — that was more than enough to hold. Every dollar you earned, every hour you gave. You made a house a home, kept the fire in the flame. Supper at Nana's, swimming till the sun went down, Wet towels on the porch, bare feet on the ground. Nana in her chair, pajamas on, TV glowing bright, Price Is Right in the daytime, Jeopardy every night. Paw Paw in the back room, door always cracked, Late-night bowls of ice cream after everything went quiet. Those nights felt safe, simple, and true, And all of that came back to me through you. Blue Sky playing, windows rolled down slow, Red Jetta parked where the front door glows. With a key in my hand, that lock gave way, Cameron Woods came alive that day. Every steady choice, every quiet stand, Every hard thing handled with a calm hand. Wherever I land, whatever I call home, It looks like you — it always has, Mom. Hot dogs and potatoes, both frying in the pan, Simple nights at the table, doing the best we can. Sports bags in the backseat, you cheering in the stands, Every game, every practice — always there, always planned. AT&T for twenty-seven years, steady and true, You gave me everything you possibly could do. Through every door we ever had to leave behind, As long as I had you, I was doing fine. You kept me close to church when I was young, Taught me right and wrong, to care for everyone. You made sure I knew where I came from, too, Granny and Uncle Walter, always close to you. Trips to Florida, keeping family near, My brothers and my dad still felt right here. You wanted me rooted, wanted me to know, Love doesn't leave — it just finds a way to grow. Blue Sky playing, windows rolled down slow, Red Jetta parked where the front door glows. With a key in my hand, that lock gave way, Cameron Woods came alive that day. Every steady choice, every quiet stand, Every hard thing handled with a calm hand. Wherever I land, whatever I call home, It looks like you — it always has, Mom. You saw a future I couldn't see yet, Handled the details, made sure I was set. Applications filled, doors held wide, You believed before I ever tried. You gave me a sister, a beautiful surprise, Madison's got your heart and your loving eyes. Blue Sky playing, windows rolled down slow, Red Jetta parked where the front door glows. With a key in my hand, that lock gave way, Cameron Woods came alive that day. Every steady choice, every quiet stand, Every hard thing handled with a calm hand. Wherever I land, whatever I call home, It looks like you — it always has, Mom. All those rooms, those nights, that steady love, They're still with me now — they always were. You were there for me from the very start, And I'll be there for you — with the same steady heart.

Swoonsong