

# ***Coming Back*** ***(A Screenplay)***



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***To Earl, my earth angel***

***and***

***To Julie, Papa, and all my Angels***

***with eternal love***

## Author's Note

Although this a fiction piece, it uses concepts and research findings from scholarly literature about reincarnation, soul mate angels, guardian angels, aspects of heaven (spirit world), and abilities of spirits, to provide as accurate a view as possible of these phenomena. (The same is true for my other fiction books, [\*Going Home\*](#) and [\*Searching for the Truth\*](#).) Sample scholarly cites:

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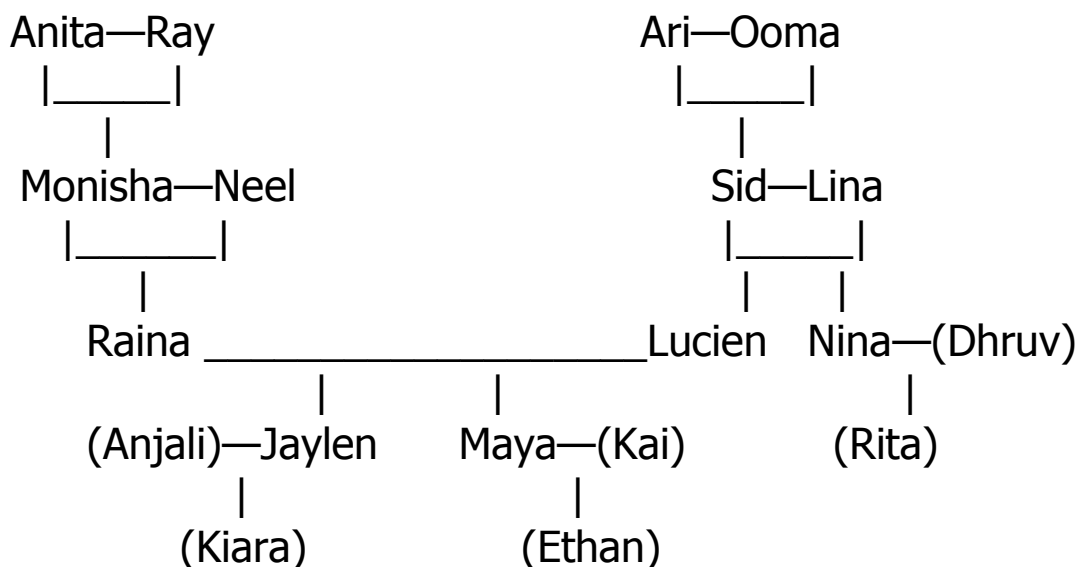
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### Family Tree of Characters

As you come across different characters in the story, it may help to refer to their family tree below, as planned in heaven.

Parentheses show events (marriages or births) that did not happen as planned.



## Coming Back: *A Screenplay*

Pratibha A. Dabholkar, Ph.D.

### FADE IN

#### EXTERIOR: LIBRARY PARKING LOT (LATE MORNING)

It is a bright, sunny day. The sky is a deep blue. The trees are flowering. Spring is in the air. A small, silver-colored sedan pulls into the parking lot of the local library.

A young woman gets out of the car. She is casually dressed, in a pleasing, modest style. Her long, curly ponytail swinging, she walks jauntily to the beige-colored, brick building.

#### INTERIOR: LIBRARY (CONTINUOUS)

As she comes in the door, we see that the library is modern and clean. A few patrons are sitting at the tables, reading. A smart-looking young man, working on a library computer at the checkout counter, looks up and grins at her.

She smiles back, but continues walking past him. He gazes at her admiringly, then gets back to work on the computer.

#### INTERIOR: CHILDREN'S SECTION (CONTINUOUS)

The young woman walks into the children's section. It is brightly colored, with a few small chairs and tables, and some toys on a long, low shelf. But no children are there at the moment.

She goes to the bookshelves and starts picking out a variety of books. She flips through them to choose those that interest her and piles these on a table.

### INTERIOR: MAIN LIBRARY (A SHORT WHILE LATER)

She is now at the library checkout counter, with a huge stack of books. The librarian, a middle-aged woman, is helping someone else. With the computer not working, she is checking books out with a hand-written list.

The patron being helped has only two books, but the process seems to be taking an extraordinarily long time. The young woman notices this, but nevertheless places her books on the counter. She then goes back to the children's section to get a second pile of books, which she sets near the first one.

The young man, still working on the computer, looks at her tottering towers of children's books and is intrigued. He notices she doesn't have a wedding band.

Young man (unable to contain his curiosity): Pardon me, but I'd never have guessed you have children old enough to read.

Young woman (her eyes bright with laughter): I don't have any children.

He (inexplicably relieved): Oh, so you're a school teacher?

She (laughing): Wrong again.

He looks expectantly at her.

She: I'm planning to write books for children and this is part of my research.

He (impressed): I see. Good luck.

She: Thank you.

He (to librarian): The computer is fixed now. You can start using it to check books out.

Librarian: Thanks, that was quick. I wish we'd called you earlier.

He gets up and starts to leave, looking back to smile at the young woman again. She returns the smile, grateful that her books will now be checked out efficiently.

But as he walks out, she looks at him a bit wistfully and keeps watching him till he is out of sight.

Meanwhile, the librarian has started checking out her books.

Librarian: Sorry, but we're out of bags.

She: Oh, that's okay. I should have brought a backpack. I meant to. Now I'll just have to make two trips.

The young man comes in the door again.

He (tentatively): Do you need help carrying the books?

She (happy to see him): Indeed I do. Thanks so much.



## EXTERIOR: PARKING LOT (CONTINUOUS)

They come out of the library, each holding a precarious pile of books. They walk toward the silver sedan, parked under the flowering trees.

He: I remembered hearing the librarian tell someone earlier that they were out of bags. So I came back to help.

She: That was very kind of you.

He helps her put the books in her car.

As they stand a bit awkwardly, wondering whether to say goodbye, they hear the loud honking of geese and look up. A huge flock of geese in a perfect V-formation appears over the trees and flies low over them silently. They both are enchanted.

She: Wasn't that amazing?

He: I'm glad they didn't honk as they flew over us. I heard their wings go swish-swish. It was marvelous.

She: Now that you mention it, I heard that sound, too. Seems like a heavenly gift.

He: Yes, indeed. I'm glad we shared that moment. (Pause) I'm thinking of getting a bite to eat. Would you care to join me?

She: What did you have in mind?

He (pointing across the street): How about pizza? It won't be crowded this early.

She: Perfect. I love their pizzas.

He (holding out his hand): I'm Lucien (*pronounced as Loo-see-en*) Roy. I work for Computer Magic. We provide tech support for businesses around here.

She (shaking his hand): I'm Raina (*pronounced as Raa-ee-na*) Chitré.

Lucien: Raina? As in *Arms and the Man*?

Raina (laughing): Yes! You've read Shaw's best play, then?

Lucien: I have. It was part of my English Lit course as a freshman.

Raina: Did you like it?

Lucien: Very much.

Raina: Good. I read it when I was twelve. I loved it. It was my parents' favorite play. That's why they picked that name for me.

They start walking across the street, laughing and talking.

### INTERIOR: RESTAURANT (CONTINUOUS)

The restaurant is casual, and brightly decorated. The music is soft and unobtrusive. They are sitting at a quiet table near a window, with a view of white pear trees in bloom.

Raina: I recently graduated from Eleanor Roosevelt University.

Lucien: I went to Eleanor Roosevelt, too. I studied computer science and graduated a year ago. When did you graduate?

Raina: A few months ago, English major.

Lucien (sympathetically): Must be hard to find a job with that major.

Raina: I don't know. I didn't look. I always wanted to write children's books.

Lucien: Hmmm. So, you live with your parents still?

Raina (face clouding over): I lost my parents two years ago. I live with my grandparents.

Lucien: I'm terribly sorry for your loss.

Raina: Thank you.

Lucien looks uncomfortable.

Raina: It's okay. I'm close to my grandparents and grateful to live with them. I'm sure you find that odd—a young person still living at home.

Lucien: Not at all. In fact, my sister and I still live at home.

Raina: Really?

Lucien: I think the pandemic changed our view of what is considered normal. We took our courses online for a couple of

years. After staying home with the family that long, we realized that we liked it. Neither of us is into the bar scene or partying. We do go out with friends or on a date occasionally, but nothing serious.

Raina looks happy on hearing this.

Raina: What does your sister do?

Lucien: Nina's a junior at Eleanor Roosevelt, a library science major.

The pizza arrives. It is a large pizza, loaded with a cornucopia of vegetables, light on the cheese, and has a multigrain, thin crust. They grin at each other and start eating.

Raina: This is delicious.

Lucien: Yes. It's very good. And there's plenty of it.

Raina (laughing): I think we can handle it though.

Lucien: Undoubtedly. So, what made you decide to write books for children?

Raina: I've always wanted to. Not sure why. I want to write engaging books, but with important lessons about how we should live. And it's never too early to start learning, so I gravitated to children's books.

Lucien: I see. Have you started on one?

Raina: Kind of. I have several ideas. I checked out all these books to make sure no one else has already written books touching on my plots. And also to see what kind of sketches look appealing. Then I can return them quickly so children can check them out.

Lucien: That's thoughtful. How many plots do you have so far?

Raina: Three. (Pause) What about you? What made you choose computers?

Lucien (shrugging): I don't know. I was always good at it. I've never had a driving urge for a particular career.

Raina: Well, it makes sense to work in an area you're good at.

Lucien: Yes. I've also always wanted to help the disadvantaged. So I decided to get a job I could handle easily and still have some free time to help feed the hungry.

Raina (impressed): How?

Lucien: By helping out at soup kitchens.

Raina: How good of you. I'd like to do that some time.

Lucien: You can come with me if you like.

Raina: Yes, I'd like that.

Lucien: We can make a day of it on Saturday, if it works for you. Have an early lunch together, then help out at the soup kitchen, then walk in a park.

Raina: Sounds wonderful.

Lucien (frowning as he looks at his watch): Oh no, I lost track of time. I have to get back now and work overtime this evening. But I'm glad we'll see each other Saturday.

Raina: Yes, me too.

They quickly exchange phone numbers. Lucien pulls out his credit card and starts looking for the server.

Raina: Can we go Dutch?

Lucien: No, this is my treat.

Raina: Thank you. I enjoyed it very much.

Lucien: So did I. I'll see you Saturday. I'll call you to set it up.

Raina: I look forward to it.

### EXTERIOR: OUTDOOR RESTAURANT (LATE MORNING)

A crowded café, with outdoor seating. People are enjoying the sunny day and the cool breeze. Lucien and Raina are sitting at a table. They have tall glasses of ice water with lots of lemon, but no food as of yet. The atmosphere is noisy but vibrant.

Raina: Maybe we should have gone somewhere else. This place is too popular. Who knows when we'll be served?

Lucien: I think it'll be okay. It's quite early yet.

Raina: Did you have a good week?

Lucien: Yes, work went smoothly. And this may sound strange, but I've told my family about you. They're eager to meet you.

Raina: I'd love to meet them.

Lucien: Maybe this evening after our walk? Unless you have other plans.

Raina: I *do* have other plans.

Lucien (disappointed): Oh.

Raina (laughing): It's not what you think. I told my grandparents about you, too. They want you to come for dinner tonight after our walk in the park. It'll be a simple meal.

Lucien: I'd love to. (Pulling out his phone) I'll let my family know so they won't expect us.

Lucien walks away from the noise to talk briefly on the phone.

The server arrives with steaming plates of sautéed vegetables, wild rice, and black bean burgers. He sets them down, nods at Raina, and leaves. Lucien returns and looks appreciatively at the platters.

Raina: The food looks scrumptious, doesn't it?

Lucien: Indeed, and so colorful. Bon appétit!

They eat quietly for a few minutes. It's clear they are enjoying the well-prepared food.

Raina: I do feel a bit guilty to eat such good food and then to go to the soup kitchen and see poor people unable to feed themselves.

Lucien: Enjoy the food. You'll need the energy.

Raina: Energy?

Lucien: It can be pretty draining if the lines are long. And they usually are.

Raina: Oh.

Lucien: But we're doing a good thing helping them. Remember that.

Raina: Thank you. That makes me feel better.

### INTERIOR: SOUP KITCHEN (SHORTLY AFTER NOON)

It is a large room with many long, wooden tables, with low wooden benches on either side. There is a table near a wall with steaming pots of soup and platters of bread.

The room is crowded. The lines are long and the tables are half full already. The wall clock shows that it is 12:15.

Lucien, Raina, and two other volunteers are busy ladling soup into bowls for the hungry and putting bread on side plates, which they also hand out.



A few recipients nod briefly. Most are expressionless. No one speaks to the volunteers. They go to the tables, sit, and eat—some hungrily, others listlessly.

The camera moves to the wall clock and it is now 2:30. There are no more lines.

Lucien (turning to look at Raina): Oh, you look exhausted. We should stop. Only a few stragglers may come now and the crew here can handle it.

Raina: Are you sure? I do feel tired.

Lucien (taking off his apron): I'm sure. Come on.

Raina (taking off her apron): Okay.

Lucien (to the volunteer near him): We're leaving. Take care.

Volunteer: You too. Thanks for helping out.

### EXTERIOR: PARKING LOT (CONTINUOUS)

Raina and Lucien come out of the soup kitchen. It is an old, run-down building, with no trees near it. They walk to Lucien's parked car, a small, deep blue sedan.

Raina: I don't know why I feel so tired.

Lucien: Well, we've been at it for more than two hours. I told you it can be draining. (Smiling) But, help is at hand. I have some granola bars in the car. Instant energy!

They get in the car. Lucien pulls out the granola bars from the console and offers them to Raina, who takes one gratefully. He starts to pull out of the parking lot.

Raina (munching on her snack): What about you?

Lucien: I'll have mine at the park.

### EXTERIOR: CITY ROADS (CONTINUOUS)

Lucien and Raina are driving to the park. The traffic is light. Pink crabapple trees border the road. Raina gazes at them as she finishes her granola bar.

Raina: I wish I could say this was a fulfilling experience. But I don't feel uplifted as I expected to. It was so depressing to see the blank, hopeless faces.

Lucien: I know what you mean. I keep myself mentally distant from them and just focus on the fact that helping them is a good thing. But I don't think you can do that.

Raina: I can try. I'll do better next time.

Lucien: No. Forget the soup kitchen. It's not a good fit for you.

Raina: I think you're right.

Lucien: There must be some other volunteer work you can do. It should be something where you can interact with people and be rewarded with happy faces.

Raina (amazed): How come you know me so well, so quickly?

Lucien smiles enigmatically.

Raina: It's true. I do value interaction and I thrive on seeing cheerful faces.

Lucien grins.

Raina: There *is* a volunteering opportunity that might work. I've applied and I'm waiting to hear back. It's to teach English as a second language to refugees, mostly women.

Lucien: That sounds perfect for you. I hope it works out.

### EXTERIOR: RIVER PARK (CONTINUOUS)

They arrive at the park and get out of the car. Lucien takes a granola bar for himself and they sit on a bench overlooking the river. The trees and bushes near them are freshly green. Tall, colorful grasses grow in patches here and there. There are a few kayakers and many ducks and geese on the river. On the opposite side of the river is a high cliff with a scraggly rock face and some vegetation. They gaze at the scene serenely.

Lucien: Your grandparents are retired I suppose.

Raina nods.

Lucien: What did they do earlier?

Raina: My grandfather, Ray, is a civil engineer. He worked with the city government for decades. My grandmother, Anita, has always been a homemaker.

Lucien: Just like my Mom.

Raina: They're my mother's parents. My father's parents died when I was very young. I don't remember them.

Lucien: All my grandparents died many years ago, too. I don't remember any of them. (Throwing his wrapper in a trash can) Shall we walk?

Raina: Yes, let's.

They start walking along the river's edge, admiring the view and pointing things out to each other. They stop now and then to look closely at the wildflowers.

Lucien: Do you have other relatives?

Raina (shaking her head): Both my parents were only children. And I have no siblings. So my grandparents are my only relatives.

Lucien: I'm glad the three of you have one another.

Raina: Yes. It was so important in dealing with our tragedy.

Lucien (gently): Do you want to tell me about it?

Raina (nodding): My parents, Neel and Monisha, were infectious diseases doctors. They met in med school and married early.

They worked at different hospitals in the city as needed. They were home a lot and we had a contented life.

Raina stops her narration and looks sad. Lucien waits patiently for her to go on.

Raina: Everything changed with the pandemic. They worked around the clock to try to help as many people as they could. None of us realized how bad it would get.

Lucien gently takes her hand and holds it as they walk.

Raina (sighing): They were so tired all the time. They helped many people recover, but contracted the virus themselves, got very ill, and died.

Lucien (sadly): How terrible. I'm so sorry.

Raina: Thank you. At the start of the pandemic, I still lived at home with my parents. I did my college work online as you guys did. Later, when my parents were working long hours, they wanted me to have a normal life and insisted I move to my grandparents' house.

Lucien: Did you agree right away?

Raina: Yes. I think they were also concerned about exposing me to the virus, coming home every night after treating patients. I didn't want to add to their worry.

Lucien: I understand.

Raina: Anyway, so I moved. (Slightly bitter) That was to be a temporary thing.

Lucien (squeezing her hand): I cannot imagine the pain you must have been through.

Raina (with great sadness): They took every precaution but you can't escape the virus if you're constantly exposed to it.

Lucien shakes his head gravely.

Raina: It was such a shock when they got ill and a nightmare when they died. We couldn't even be with them. But my grandparents and I supported one another and we made it through the grief and the healing.

Lucien (with admiration): Your courage and fortitude pulled you through.

Raina: Thank you. But I'm still angry at everyone who made the pandemic worse.

Lucien: You mean people who didn't wear masks or social distance?

Raina: Yes. And the politicians who encouraged them. No sense of responsibility toward others at all.

Lucien: I agree. It was shocking to find so many selfish people, especially in supposedly advanced societies.

Raina: They're nothing but spoiled brats. Imagine valuing personal convenience over other people's health and safety.

Lucien: Even health organizations deliberately gave wrong directions off and on, based on misguided motives of looking out for people's convenience, rather than the community's health.

Raina: I know. And it led to more ignorance. People didn't seem to understand that they could spread the illness even while they themselves were asymptomatic.

Lucien: Some even took pride in ignoring science. They indulged themselves, flouting urgent societal needs during a pandemic.

Raina: It's best for our peace of mind not to think of any of them. I've coped by focusing on my grandparents.

Lucien: That's the wise thing to do.

Raina: I remind myself not to be angry. (Pause) All this while I thought my name meant "serene," so I've tried to live up to that.

Lucien: Good for you.

Raina: The funny thing is, I looked up my name a few days ago, and it means "queen."

Lucien (smiling): Your parents' little princess.

Raina: I was indeed. But I doubt they knew the meaning. I think they just liked the name, because of Shaw's play.

Lucien: Probably. Anyway, it suits you. You have a calm, regal bearing.

Raina: Thank you.

Lucien: I don't even know what my name means.

Raina: I do. I looked both our names up. "Lucien" means "light."

Lucien: Really?

Raina: Yes. And to me, "light" is associated with God and goodness.

Lucien (laughing and hugging her): I will try to live up to that.

Raina (hugging him back): You already do.

They continue walking, holding hands comfortably.

Raina: Nana, Papa, and I knew instinctively that my parents were fine and with God. We just needed time to get over our shock at losing them so suddenly.

Lucien nods as he looks at her compassionately.

Raina: As for the sadness, it never goes away. (Pause) But it is tempered with peace, knowing we'll all be together eventually.

Lucien: That's a good way to think about it. It makes sense that people who love each other deeply will be together in eternity.

They stop and gaze at the sparkling river.

Lucien: Look! There are the geese that flew over us!



They both laugh.

Raina: Tell me about your family.

Lucien: My dad, Sid, is an executive at the electric company. He likes his work but never works overtime. He likes to be home as much as possible. My mother, Lina, is a homemaker and enjoys making life pleasant for her family. My sister Nina and I help out as much as we can.

Raina: Your family sounds terrific. I look forward to meeting them.

Lucien: Maybe tomorrow?

Raina: Why don't we wait to see how late it gets today? Call me tomorrow morning if you're still open to another hectic day. And check if your parents and sister are free.

Lucien (laughing): Okay.

**A succession of shots:** Ray, Anita, Raina, and Lucien are sitting at the dinner table, enjoying the food, talking, and laughing.

The four are walking around the house. Ray and Anita point out to different trees as they stroll leisurely. Lucien admires the trees as well as the colorful flowers growing near the front door.

There is a large screened porch. They sit on the porch and have dessert. It is clear the grandparents like Lucien and he likes them. Raina looks pleased.

Later, Raina walks Lucien to his car. Before he leaves, they gaze at each other and engage in a long, tender kiss.

### INTERIOR: BEDROOM (MORNING)

It is a pretty bedroom with a lovely view of white and pink dogwoods. Raina is sitting in a comfortable chair, talking on the phone, as she looks out the window.

Raina: Me, too. But you're sure you're not too tired for all this?

Lucien's voice: I cannot imagine doing anything else today that would give me more pleasure.

Raina: Wonderful. See you after lunch.

### EXTERIOR: RIVER PARK (AFTERNOON)

Raina and Lucien are walking along the river in the same park again, holding hands. They stop frequently to admire the beauty of a flower, a bush, or the sparkling water.

Raina: What a lovely day. And it's nice there aren't too many people about.

Lucien: Yes, makes it peaceful. Everyone who's here early seems to cherish the peace.

Raina: Nana and Papa liked you a lot.

Lucien: I liked them too. Gracious and loving.

Raina: Thank you. You know, I don't think they've ever approved of anyone else I've dated. Not that there were many. But no one seemed praiseworthy to them.

Lucien (teasingly): But *you* found them praiseworthy?

Raina (laughing): They weren't totally bad. But not right for me either. What about you? Have your parents liked your girl friends?

Lucien: I never brought anyone home. Any time I thought someone looked promising and invited her out for a date, I quickly realized there was no meeting of minds.

Raina: So this is a great honor for me. And a new experience for your parents.

Lucien: I guess so. But I know it'll go well.

They sit on a bench to watch a flock of geese resting on the water. They sit close together, still holding hands.

Raina: You liked the flowers near our front door, I noticed.

Lucien: Yes, very colorful and pretty. And the whole mix nicely planned. So who's responsible for them, Anita or Ray?

Raina: Me!

Lucien: You? More hidden talents!

Raina: Thank you. I took it on as a project to help my healing. The bushes near the front door had died due to neglect when we

were all grieving. I was determined to rejuvenate that area and studied flowers, their planting and care, and did it all myself.

Lucien: That's remarkable.

Raina: I used perennials so I wouldn't have to keep planting every year. And now it's real easy to take care of. Nana and Papa love the flower patch too. We often sit on the stoop to enjoy the flowers.

Lucien: You brightened up their front door, just as you did their lives.

Raina (touched): Thank you.

**A succession of shots:** They are at Lucien's house. His parents and sister seem to be warmly welcoming Raina.

Raina walks about comfortably, looking at photographs and knickknacks and admiring the views from the windows.

All of them sit around the dinner table and enjoy the meal. There seems to be good conversation and a lot of laughter. The family and Raina obviously like one another. Lucien seems delighted.

Later, Lucien drives Raina home. They hold each other tight and kiss passionately when he drops her off.

**EXTERIOR: LAKE PARK (EVENING)**

Raina and Lucien are sitting on a park bench looking at the full moon rising, pink-gold, with its beautiful reflection shimmering in

the large, placid lake. It is an enchanting evening. Raina's head is resting on Lucien's shoulder, and his arm is around her.

Raina: It's hard to imagine we didn't know each other two months ago.

Lucien: On one level, I feel as if we've always known each other.

Raina: Yes, I feel it, too. I can't tell you how thrilled I am that we're going to marry.

Lucien: So am I, darling. I'm looking forward to building a wonderful life together. (Pause) Are you ready now to tell our families?

Raina (nodding): Nana and Papa will miss me, but they do want to see me happily settled. Besides, I plan to visit them, almost daily at first.

Lucien raises his eyebrows.

Raina: I can go over right after teaching my ESL classes. It's become a routine for us, my sharing what happened in class each day. They enjoy hearing about people from different countries.

Lucien: I'm so glad your volunteering is turning out well. It's just that...

Raina: What? Do you mind that I'll visit them daily?

Lucien: No, not at all. But with only my income between us, we may have to settle for a one-bedroom apartment.

Raina looks amused.

Lucien: You may find it cramped and you won't have your own garden. I guess we can find a place that has pretty grounds for you to enjoy.

Raina: That's sweet, but I have another idea. You see, when my parents passed away, I inherited all their savings and their house. And when the pandemic was over, I sold the house. So I have a nest egg at an early age.

Lucien quietly absorbs this information.

Raina: That's why I didn't have to look for a job. I could stay with my grandparents and write books for children at my own pace. I could volunteer whenever I wished. (Smiling) Now I can use some of that money to buy us a house.

Lucien (hesitating): Are you sure this is what you want to do?

Raina: I'm sure. I would much rather my parents were here still and I'd be content to live in a tiny apartment with you. But they're gone. And I knew I didn't ever want to live in that house—too many sad memories. So I sold it.

Lucien: I understand.

Raina: Now we can get our own place and make new memories. We can look for a small cottage with a pretty garden and huge, old trees.

Lucien: Sounds perfect. Not just for us, but for raising a family.

Raina grins.

Lucien: No rush on that though. We should have some time to ourselves at the start.

Raina: I agree. I've loved all our weekend trips. I hadn't realized there were so many naturally beautiful places within driving distance. (Gazing dreamily at Lucien) And it's been a good way to get to know each other.

Lucien (kissing her): We should keep taking short trips even after we're married. It's refreshing to get away and explore new places. (Kissing her again) And build joyful memories.

Raina (laughing): Don't you think our families already know, after all our weekend travel?

Lucien: Probably. But they'll be glad to hear we're ready to take the plunge.

### EXTERIOR: RIVER PARK (LATE MORNING)

It is a beautiful, sunny day, with a bright blue sky. The wedding party is standing under a large, shady tree, close to the river. The water is rippling, indicating a pleasant breeze. Both families are present and a few friends. Everyone looks happy.

Raina is wearing a soft, pale pink dress and Lucien a light, cream-colored suit. The ceremony is performed by a justice of the peace, and the couple says their own vows. Their faces are glowing with love and joy.

A large flock of geese flies low over the group the very instant the couple is officially wedded. The geese honk loudly and everyone looks up amazed. It is an enchanting moment.

### EXTERIOR: COTTAGE AND GARDEN (EVENING)

A lemon-colored cottage is seen, with many windows and a welcoming stoop. There is a colorful garden, made of flower patches all around the house. Huge shade trees add to the beauty of the scene.

Raina is tending a flower patch near the front. She is immersed in the task. Lucien pulls up in the driveway. Raina looks up eagerly and stands up. Lucien gets out of the car and walks over to her.

They kiss, then start to walk to the house.

Raina: Did you have a good day, honey?

Lucien: Yes, lots of people asking for computer help. And I was able to help them all, pretty easily. How about you?

Raina: I had a good day, too. The ESL class was particularly fulfilling.

Lucien: Smiling faces in the class?

Raina (laughing): Yes. They're all, well most, so hopeful and cheerful. And guess what? I finished drafting my first book.

Lucien: Oh, darling, we should celebrate! Let's go out to eat.

Raina: Okay, but read it first. I'm finally ready for you to see it.



## INTERIOR: LIVING ROOM (CONTINUOUS)

The living room looks inviting. The furniture is modern but comfortable-looking. There are many lamps emitting a warm light. Lucien is sitting in a large chair, reading the draft.

Raina is pacing on the wooden floor, glancing at Lucien from time to time. She stops now and then to look out through the windows at the gorgeous flowers in their garden.

Lucien (looking up): It's very good, honey. The plot is clever. And the moral is clear.

Raina (pleased): Thank you. And the characters? Are they likeable?

Lucien: Well, Ziggy is. (Smiling) But many are not meant to be so likeable, I think.

Raina (laughing): That's right. But are they believable?

Lucien: I'm sure they will be—to children. I liked the sketches too. But they seemed rough.

Raina: Yes, they're just ideas right now. I also need to revise the book a bit. And then print it all with a professional look. So, it's not quite finished.

Lucien: But we should still celebrate tonight.

Raina: Of course!

## INTERIOR: RESTAURANT (CONTINUOUS)

The restaurant is formal, with artistic décor and an elegant atmosphere. Raina and Lucien are dressed up, and enjoying a fine meal. Suddenly, Lucien becomes serious.

Lucien: I have some news, too. Rupert said I could apply for a promotion.

Raina: So this is a double celebration! How come you didn't say anything earlier?

Lucien is quiet.

Raina: What's wrong?

Lucien: I'm not sure it would be right for me.

Raina: Why not?

Lucien: It's a supervisory position, managing other techs. It *does* mean more money and prestige.

Raina: But you're worried you won't enjoy it.

Lucien: Exactly! I wouldn't be working on computers myself.

Raina: Then don't apply. Do what you enjoy.

Lucien: Thanks for understanding, honey.

Raina: Ask for a raise if you think Rupert likes your work. But don't change your job.

## EXTERIOR: LAKE PARK (EVENING)

It is a peaceful and pleasant evening. Lucien and Raina are sitting on a bench, hugging each other, and gazing at the calm, silvery lake. The crescent moon and a few stars are visible already.

There is a cool breeze blowing and the unmistakable cry of a loon in the distance. The couple smiles at each other.

Lucien: Isn't it exciting? Your first book is about to come out.

Raina: What a relief that someone wanted to publish it, after all the rejections.

Lucien: Oh, what do those others know?

They laugh.

Lucien: I'm so proud of you, honey. Even while it looked like there would be no takers, you happily worked on your other two books this whole past year.

Raina: I enjoyed it. And now that this publisher has first option on my future books, I'm all set for publishing these two when they're done, which should be soon.

Lucien: It's interesting that the three plots you created about the same time will see the light of day fairly close to one another.

Raina: Yes, I'm grateful for that. And things have worked out for you, too.

Lucien: I'm glad Rupert understood my rationale for not applying for the supervisory position at first. And he gave me a raise anyway.

Raina: Because he appreciates your work.

Lucien: And it's ironic that when the guy he hired for the position left, I ended up as supervisor anyway, with yet another raise.

Raina: You accepted only because he changed the job description.

Lucien: True. If I could continue to fix computers in a limited way, I didn't mind supervising the other techs.

Raina: And isn't it funny that the techs call you when they encounter a roadblock?

Lucien: Yes, I hadn't expected that. (Laughing) I feel I fix even more computers now.

Raina: It all worked out. We've been fortunate indeed.

**A succession of shots show the passage of time:** Lucien and Raina visit his family, and then Raina's grandparents. Everyone looks joyful in all the scenes.

Lucien and Raina beam as they hold their baby boy, Jaylen, and later, as they hold their baby girl, Maya (*pronounced as My-ah*), when Jaylen is about two.

Raina and the children are on the sofa, as she reads her books to them. Jaylen is sitting next to Raina, listening intently and clearly

enjoying the stories. He often points at something in the books and seems to be making comments. Raina has baby Maya on her lap. Maya laughs as she looks at the colorful drawings.

### EXTERIOR: THE FAMILY'S GARDEN (DAY)

The flowers in the sunlit spots are abundant and colorful. The huge old trees are magnificent.

Raina and Nina are strolling about. Lucien is playing with the children. Jaylen seems about four years old and Maya about two.

Nina: I know I keep saying this, but you've really done a beautiful job with the garden.

Raina: Thank you. I was fortunate this shady yard had some sunlit areas.

Nina: I love looking at your colorful flowers. And I also love walking in the shade of these old trees.

Raina: Come as often as you wish. Consider it your second home.

Nina: I will. (Pause) I do.

They sit down on a bench under a profusely flowering tree.

Raina: How was your date last night? Look promising?

Nina: No. It was like all the others. I think I'll end up an old maid.

Raina: No, you won't. You have so much to give someone.

Nina: Do you think I'm too picky?

Raina: Not at all. It *has* to be the right person to be happy for the rest of your life.

Nina: Like you and Lucien.

Raina (smiling): Yes.

Hearing his name, Lucien, who is playing with the children, looks at them. Raina shakes her head at him quietly. He goes back to playing with the children.

Nina: You and Lucien have set the standard of happiness for me. I will wait till I find my special someone.

Raina: I hope you meet him soon.

The children start running around happily. Lucien walks over to the ladies.

Lucien: Mind if I join you?

Nina: Not at all.

Raina and Nina make room for him between them. Lucien sits down, stretches his legs, and gazes up at the tree. He laughs as some dainty flowers fall on his upturned face. Raina smiles.

Nina: So, are you still enjoying work?

Lucien: Yes, I am. But I want to spend some time helping the needy again.

Nina: Back to the soup kitchen?

Lucien: No, something bigger. We've been thinking of working with the U.N.

Nina (alarmed): The U.N.? You guys are not moving to New York, are you?

Raina (laughing): No, indeed. I remembered that a student of mine from the ESL class had told me of a lady she knows who works full-time for the U.N. from her home here. So I'm going to do online research on this.

Lucien: It would be a perfect way for me to help the needy. And if they have part-time jobs or short-term projects, Raina could do it as well.

Nina: What kind of projects?

Lucien: It could be about the logistics of getting food to the hungry in different parts of the world...

Raina: Or protecting human rights wherever they're being abused...

Lucien: Or delivering humanitarian aid during catastrophes...

Raina: Or a myriad of other projects to help disadvantaged people all over the world.

Nina (smiling): Helping "your hungry, your tired, your poor"?

Lucien: Exactly.

Raina: And we'd also like to help the blind, and people with other physical challenges.

Nina: Very noble goals. I hope you both can do this. Keep me posted.

Raina: We will.

### INTERIOR: LIVING ROOM (EVENING)

The living room is bathed in warm light as before. Soft music is playing. Lucien is sitting on the sofa, reading a book.

Raina walks in. He puts the book down. She sits next to him and they snuggle up to each other. She sighs.

Lucien (turning the music off): What's wrong, honey?

Raina: You know about Nana and Papa's new neighbors. It's getting worse.

Lucien: Still burning yard debris every day?

Raina: Yes, it's unbelievable.

Lucien: Many people have grown up with the idea that burning yard trash is a good thing.

Raina: They don't seem at all aware that it causes severe air pollution, making it difficult for people to breathe, especially asthmatics and old people.



Lucien: Or that it increases the greenhouse effect and exacerbates global warming.

Raina: Such concepts are far beyond them.

Lucien: So strange, with all the information and evidence easily available today.

Raina: Yes. And on a personal level, it's really bothersome that the smoke fills Nana and Papa's screen porch.

Lucien: It's sad that they can't enjoy their own porch.

Raina: Actually, it's worse than that. The smoke seeps into the house as well. I can smell it in all the rooms.

Lucien: Should we go over to the neighbors and talk to them?

Raina: I went over today. I couldn't wait. I tried to be very calm and explained the whole situation. I told them this is affecting my grandparents' health.

Lucien: And they didn't care?

Raina: Not a bit. They're only concerned about their rights and not their responsibility to others. So, on coming home, I called the county's "clean air" department.

Lucien: Good for you!

Raina (shaking her head): Nothing came of it. Despite the name of the department, they put the rights of homeowners to burn ahead of people's health or the environment.

Lucien: That's too bad. What should we do?

Raina: I want to ask Nana and Papa to move in with us. Is that okay with you?

Lucien: Of course.

Raina: I'm truly afraid that staying in their smoky house is going to hurt them. They're coughing a lot already.

Lucien: That's fine, honey. Let's do all we can to help them.

They kiss tenderly.

### INTERIOR: RAY AND ANITA'S KITCHEN (DAY)

A large kitchen, old but well maintained. Ray, Anita, and Raina are sitting at the kitchen table with cups of hot tea and a plate with crackers and cheese cubes. Ray and Anita look very tired.

Ray coughs. Raina looks troubled.

Raina: I don't understand. Why won't you consider moving in with us?

Ray: We're just not up to moving at our age.

Raina: But you won't have to do anything, Papa. We'll arrange the movers.

Anita: We don't want to cramp your family either.

Raina: We won't be cramped, Nana. I'm going to convert my office into a fourth bedroom. I don't need an office now anyway.

Ray (coughing): Aren't you going to write more books?

Raina: I'm content with my three books. I love reading them to the children, and they want to hear the same stories, over and over. We're having a ball.

Anita: But what if you're granted a short-term project for the U.N.?

Raina: If I am, I'll work on my laptop anywhere—in the kitchen, bedroom, living room. But until then, I'm really enjoying spending time with the children, especially as Maya is not yet in school.

Anita: And you want to mess that up with us in the house?

Raina: Mess it up? You both will add to all the love in the house.

Anita: That's sweet, dear. But your family is contented exactly as things are.

Raina: Lucien and I are not pleased with you both exposed to constant smoke. We want you safely away from it.

Ray (coughing): It's not so bad.

Raina: Then why are you coughing so much?

Ray: A lot of old people cough. I don't even smell the smoke.

Raina: I do. Believe me, it's in here, all the time.

Anita: You're just too sensitive, dear. I don't smell it either.

Raina: What about the screen porch?

Ray: Yes, we do smell it there. But we just don't use the porch anymore, so it's okay.

Raina: Will you think about it? Please?

Ray (trying to control his cough): Okay.

Raina: Do you mean it? Or are you just placating me?

Ray looks uncomfortable.

Raina: Will it help if Lucien comes over and tells you how much we want you to move in with us? He hasn't come over recently, because, frankly, I want to keep the children away from this smoky atmosphere. So he's stayed home with them.

Anita: It's not necessary. We believe you. We know that you both want this.

Raina: Then will you seriously consider it?

Ray (to Anita): I think we should tell her.

Anita (nodding): The fact is we love our home. This is where we've spent our whole married life. We can't think of ever moving. (Holding Raina's hand) Please understand, dear.

Ray reaches out to hold Raina's other hand. Raina looks sad.

Ray and Anita exchange uncomfortable glances. Raina relents. She gets up and hugs them both, her eyes tearing up.

### INTERIOR: LIVING ROOM (EVENING)

A few pieces of furniture are different. But the living room still looks warm and inviting.

Raina and Lucien are sitting on the sofa, reading. Jaylen, aged 6, is also reading a book, while lying on his stomach on the floor. Maya, aged 4, is playing with a doll.

Jaylen finishes his book and sits up. Raina puts her book down to smile at him.

Jaylen: Where is Papa now, Mommy?

Raina: I told you, remember? He's in heaven.

Maya (walking over to her mother): Is he happy?

Raina: Yes, I'm sure he is.

Maya: But Nana is sad, isn't she?

Lucien: That's why she's going to move in with us.

Jaylen and Maya cheer happily. Raina and Lucien smile at each other.

**A succession of shots:** The family is converting Raina's office into a bedroom. A cozy bed is already placed in the center of the room. Lucien and Raina move smaller stuff out of the room and other furniture in. The children run about carrying small items.

The family helps Anita move in. She looks much older than when we last saw her. Lucien carries her bags. Raina helps her into a chair. The children welcome her with great joy and affection. She seems touched. Raina and Lucien look pleased.

**A succession of shots show the passage of time:** In the first scene, Anita has difficulty walking. Lucien and Raina are trying to help her. In the next one, Anita is using a walker. In the scene that follows, she's in a wheelchair.

### **INTERIOR: LIVING ROOM (NIGHT)**

Only one small lamp is on. Raina and Lucien are sitting on the sofa. Raina's head is on Lucien's shoulder, and his arm is around her. They look pensive. The house is quiet.

Raina: First Papa got emphysema. Now Nana has so much trouble breathing. What smoke can do to people's health.

Lucien: But she doesn't want to get tested.

Raina: I don't blame her. The tests and the treatment didn't really help Papa. It eased his coughing, I admit. But all the side-effects of the medicines were horrible.

Lucien: Besides, I think she's lost the will to live since Ray's passing.

Raina: You're right. She's aged so much, so quickly. I think she's waiting to join him.

Lucien: I'm glad she's not alone in that house though. We'd be sick with worry.

Raina: Yes, it's good she's here with us. Once he was gone, it didn't seem like their paradise anymore to her. She agreed to move here pretty readily.

She sits up straight and then stands up, stretching.

Raina: Want to come with me to peek in on her before going to bed?

Lucien: Yes, good idea.

### INTERIOR: GUEST ROOM (CONTINUOUS)

The room is dark. Lucien and Raina peek in quietly. We cannot see much of the room, but we see Anita is in bed and awake. She turns her head and sees them. They walk in.

Raina: Are you okay, Nana? Do you need anything?

Anita: No, no. Everything is okay now. Ray was just here.

Raina and Lucien exchange quick glances.

Raina sits on the bed and takes Anita's hand. Lucien pulls a chair close and sits down.

Raina: It's okay. We're here now. Shall I sleep in here tonight?

Anita (happily): He was glowing with light. He looked so healthy, so joyful.

Raina and Lucien exchange glances again, but a bit unsure this time.

Anita: He said he's been watching over me, these past few months. He said it won't be long now. He's waiting for me.

Raina (sadly): Oh, Nana.

Anita: He said we'll be together forever.

Raina strokes Anita's head. Anita closes her eyes and falls asleep. Raina makes sure she's breathing well. Then she and Lucien quietly get up and leave the room.

### INTERIOR: MASTER BEDROOM (MORNING)

The room is dark. Daylight is just breaking. We see it is a spacious room with minimal but tasteful furniture and a comfortable looking bed.

Lucien is lying alone in bed, awake and listening. Raina walks in, crying softly.

Raina: She's gone.



Lucien quickly gets up, goes to her, and hugs her. Raina clings to him. He walks her to the bed and they both sit down. She lays her head on his shoulder.

Raina: She was breathing so nicely last night. What happened?

Lucien: I don't know.

Raina (sadly): Did she have trouble breathing? Did she call out and I didn't hear?

Lucien: What was her expression like?

Raina: I don't know. I never turned the light on. I could tell in the dim light that she wasn't breathing, so I touched her hand. It was so cold, I knew she was gone.

Lucien: Let's go and look at her face. I think that'll tell us if she went peacefully, or if she was struggling for breath.

### INTERIOR: GUEST ROOM (CONTINUOUS)

Lucien and Raina walk in quietly. Lucien turns on the light. The appearance of the room fits the rest of the house, warm and uncluttered.

Anita looks as if she is sleeping peacefully. She has a slight smile on her face.

Lucien feels her hand to make sure she's really gone. He nods.

Raina (mixed emotions): She looks so peaceful. That helps a lot.

## INTERIOR: LIVING ROOM (EVENING)

As always, the living room looks warm and cozy. Raina and Lucien are sitting on the sofa, with the children between them. Everyone is wearing formal clothes.

Lucien: I'm glad we had the memorial on the river bank.

Raina: Me, too. It was so beautiful. And very comforting to share all the lovely memories we had of Nana with her friends.

Maya: But where has Nana gone, Mommy?

Jaylen: She's in heaven. Right, Dad?

Lucien: That's right.

Maya: But is she happy?

Raina: I'm sure she is. She and Papa are together now.

The children look pleased. The parents hug them.

Lucien scribbles something on a piece of paper and passes it quietly to Raina. The children don't see any of his actions.

Raina peeks at the paper, and the camera focuses in on it.

We see the words "I wonder if Ray really came that night to fetch Anita."

Raina's eyes grow wide and she smiles at Lucien.

## INTERIOR: MASTER BEDROOM (NIGHT)

Raina is in bed, working on her laptop. Lucien gets into bed and looks quizzically at her.

Lucien: What are you working on so intently?

Raina: Wait, I'm nearly done.

She shuts off the laptop and puts it away.

Raina (excitedly): I searched for "visions before dying" and discovered that the phenomenon is real. It's called "death-bed visions" and has been recorded for a very long time.

Lucien: How wonderful!

Raina: People often see their loved ones right before they leave the earth. In the past this was easily accepted. Today, many of the dying are heavily medicated, so they miss out on this. And when anyone does report it, others write it off as hallucinations.

Lucien (smiling): So, Ray really did come for Anita.

Raina (hugging him): Yes. Thanks for suggesting it earlier.

Lucien: And you did well in researching it so quickly.

Raina: It's magical that they're together, right from the moment she crossed over.

Lucien: I *know* now that you and I will always be together.

They kiss. Then Raina snuggles up and rests her head on Lucien's shoulder, as he hugs her.

Raina: I realize now that Papa really had been watching over Nana these last few months.

Lucien: Yes, he was her guardian angel.

Raina: So have my parents been watching over me, too?

Lucien (eyes widening): I think you're right.

Raina: Do you think they gave us the heavenly gifts of geese?

Lucien (laughing): Yes, I think so. They're your guardian angels.

Raina: Ours. (Looking up) Thank you, Mom and Dad, for watching over our family.

Lucien (sincerely, with his eyes closed): Yes, thank you.

### INTERIOR: RESTAURANT (EVENING)

It is a different restaurant, busy but not loud. Soft music is playing. Raina and Lucien are enjoying a quiet dinner.

Raina: It's so good of Nina to babysit for us so we can go out by ourselves sometimes.

Lucien: Yes, it is. But she very much enjoys spending time with the children, as you know.

Raina: True. I also appreciate her bringing books from the library and reading to them.

Lucien: But she says the children like your books best!

Raina: My biggest fans!

Lucien (teasing): What about me?

Raina (smiling): It's a tie.

Lucien: I'm glad you've been able to teach ESL classes again, ever since Maya started preschool.

Raina: I feel good to be helping people. Besides, I'm able to pick Maya up after preschool, and Jaylen too, after his school, so it's all working out. I even have time for gardening.

Lucien: And let's not forget the short-term U.N. project you did.

Raina: I hope to do more.

Lucien: I'm sure you will.

Raina: It was disheartening at first to find out that neither of us had the preferred majors that the U.N. wants for their employees.

Lucien: But you applied anyway.

Raina: Yes. After all, most of their employees work from home and not everyone would have the preferred majors.

Lucien: That was a smart move. Apparently, they give short-term projects to anyone who has basic college education, a respect for diversity, and a caring attitude.

Raina (smiling): And we both fit that.

Lucien: Unfortunately, they do want their preferred majors for their full-time positions. So I can't hope to get one.

Raina: But you could also do short-term projects with them.

Lucien: How could I do that and continue my full-time job? I don't want to sacrifice my time with you and the children.

Raina (bubbling with excitement): But darling, I have an idea.

Lucien: What?

Raina: You know that Nana left their house and savings to me. So my nest egg is even more substantial now. You could quit your job and just do short-term projects with the U.N. from home.

Lucien: Quit my job? That's a huge step. We would need to figure out the finances.

Raina: I've been working on it. Their house is already on the market. And even before it sells, we have enough money to support us.

Lucien: What about health insurance?

Raina: I've researched that too and we can do it. It's affordable.

Lucien: I would love to work for the U.N. from home on worthwhile projects. But you need to show me the numbers so I can be sure this is feasible.

Raina: Be glad to.

Lucien: And even if it's feasible, I won't quit my job until I get a good U.N. project.

Raina: I understand. But we can move toward that goal.

They grin at each other, anticipating a new future.

### INTERIOR: SID AND LINA'S KITCHEN (DAY)

The kitchen is large and airy with several huge windows overlooking the backyard.

Sid and Lina are at the kitchen table with Lucien and Raina, drinking coffee. A plate with crumbs from cookies is on the table and two empty glasses with traces of milk. The four of them talk as they watch Jaylen and Maya playing in the backyard.

Sid (to Lucien): What do you think of Nina's fiancé, Vik?

Lucien: I didn't really get to know him well. He seemed reserved.

Sid: He is. Too reserved, I think.

Lucien: He's a lot older than her, isn't he?

Sid (nodding): Twenty years older. He's closer to my age than to hers.

Lina: But does that matter? She hadn't found anyone she liked all these years. She's 30 now, you know.

Raina: Besides, Vik seems to dote on Nina. That makes me feel good about him.

Lucien: You're both right. He may be the person she's been waiting for all these years.

Lina: I had almost given up on her ever finding someone, but now she has. It's such a relief. I didn't want her to be alone.

Sid: I guess he's not a bad sort. And if he makes her happy, that's all that matters.

Raina: And you know what? Vik has seen how close Nina is to all of us and he doesn't seem to mind.

Lucien: Yes, that's good, too. He's not possessive.

Lina: So can we expect to see a lot of Nina, even after the wedding?

Raina (hugging her): I'm positive we will. She's even said so.

Everybody looks relaxed as they watch the children playing happily outdoors.

### EXTERIOR: COTTAGE (MORNING)

The yellow cottage looks as welcoming as always. The weather seems perfect.



Lucien is whistling while he loads the family's car, a little pale blue sedan.

The children run in and out of the house excitedly, carrying little bags. Jaylen now looks about 8 and Maya about 6.

Raina comes out smiling, carrying a picnic basket.

Everyone settles in the car. It is clear the family is going on vacation and eagerly anticipating a good time.

#### EXTERIOR: EXPRESSWAY (CONTINUOUS)

The family is in their car on the expressway. There is not much traffic. Beautiful trees line both sides of the expressway.

The children are busy in the backseat with their books, but look out a lot, too. Lucien is driving. Raina smiles at him frequently.

Jaylen: When will we get to the beach, Dad?

Lucien: It's still a long way off. We only just started. You need to be patient.

Raina (looking back at the children): Why don't we sing songs?

She and the children sing their favorite songs. Lucien smiles as he drives.

But soon they pass through an area where workers are cutting huge swaths of trees on both sides and in the median.

Raina (alarmed): What's going on? Why are these beautiful trees being cut to the ground?

Lucien: Must be some special contract obtained through a private connection with the local authorities.

Raina: But why?

Lucien: Just for profit to their buddies. Done by people with little regard for nature.

Raina (disgusted): It looks like a war zone.

Jaylen (looking out): I don't like it.

Maya: Me neither.

### EXTERIOR: ANOTHER EXPRESSWAY (DAY)

The family is still on their way to the beach but the scene is hauntingly similar. Workers are cutting huge patches of trees on both sides and in the median as well.

Raina: This sacrilege is being repeated in every state we've passed through! Wonder what's going on? Is it a national thing?

Lucien: I don't think so. It has all the shades of an underhanded local contract.

Raina: Maybe they're stupidly trying to stop trees from falling on expressways during tornadoes.

Lucien: Mass destruction on this level? Tornadoes have never caused extensive damage on expressways.

Maya: Maybe it's all a bad dream. Is it, Mommy?

Jaylen: But whose dream is it? Are we all sharing a dream?

Raina and Lucien smile at each other, then become serious again.

Raina (sighing): I wish it was a dream, my sweeties. But I'm afraid this is all too real.

Jaylen: Dad, look! Now they're cutting the branches off the trees in the back.

Maya: They look like lollipops. But ugly!

Lucien: You're both right. They're cutting off the lower branches and the trees do look like ugly lollipops. Besides, they're making those trees top heavy, and more likely to fall.

Raina (distressed): They're removing or mutilating thousands of beautiful trees.

Lucien (sadly): Trees that have graced the expressways for years.

Raina does a quick online search on her phone.

Raina: I found a blog about a family who sued and won 7 million from a southern state because a pine tree fell on their car and killed some family members. Do you think that's the reason?

Lucien: It may be, although each state seems to be spending billions on this, so it would be an extreme reaction.

Raina makes a phone call and talks quietly. Everyone else is silent. She finally hangs up.

Raina: Virika, my arborist friend, said many states, especially in the southeast, are doing this. Some misguided person in a state government started it and other states are following suit.

Lucien: But why?

Raina: They say it's because almost 500 people in the U.S. are killed every year, driving off the expressway and hitting trees.

Lucien: That's crazy. Nearly 40,000 people die every year in vehicular accidents in the country, and little is done about that.

Jaylen: What could they do?

Lucien: Use the billions that funded this butchering of trees to hire more state patrol officers to catch and ticket reckless drivers.

Raina: I wonder what the real reason is. Their stated reason seems to be a cover.

Lucien: I agree. It's possible someone in a local government saw this as a way to benefit their buddies in the tree-cutting business and put forward the stated reason as a ploy.

Raina: It's definitely a ruse. What about roads going through the mountains? There are cliffs bordering those roads. Would they tear down cliffs in case someone drives into them and is killed?

Lucien: I agree. The whole thing is a sham.

Raina: And not one person argued against it?

Lucien: Maybe some did. But the powerful ones overruled them.

Maya (staring at the bleak landscape): I miss the trees.

Jaylen (sighing): Me, too. I love to look at trees.

Lucien: Trees are God's gifts to people and other creatures.

Maya: Birds. Right, Daddy?

Lucien: Correct.

Jaylen: And squirrels.

Lucien: Yes. And many other creatures benefit from their shade.

Raina: How is it that no one objected to such a horrible project?  
The trees made peaceful avenues for drivers for decades.

Lucien: True. And now we're blinded by oncoming headlights.

Raina: The landscape is being devastated. And they're taking  
away the natural solace trees provide on road trips.

Lucien: And look at all those houses now exposed to the  
expressway. They've lost their sound barrier...

Raina: ... and their shade.

## EXTERIOR: BEACH (DAY)

The family is relaxing on the beach. It is a pristine beach with cream-colored sand. The ocean is a lovely shade of blue with frothy, white surf.

The children run back and forth from the ocean to where they're building a sandcastle. The parents are sitting on beach chairs, enjoying the sight and sound of the waves lapping the shore.

## EXTERIOR: EXPRESSWAY (MORNING)

The family is driving back from their vacation. At this point they have not yet reached a stretch where the tree cutting is going on. So everyone is peaceful and contented.

Lucien: That was a wonderful vacation wasn't it?

Jaylen: Sure was.

Maya: It was fun!

Lucien: We can thank Mom for planning it.

Raina: I'm glad it turned out so well.

Jaylen: Can we come here every year, Dad?

Lucien: Great idea, Jaylen. We'll make it an annual tradition.

Raina (turning around to look at the children): When we get back, you can make a scrapbook of all the drawings you both made on our vacation.

Jaylen: But you took so many photos, Mom.

Raina: Yes, and I'll put them in an album. We'll make an album just for vacations.

Maya: I'll help.

Raina: Thank you, sweetie. We can look at it over time to see how you two have grown, and relive old memories.

Lucien: But I like the idea of a scrapbook, too.

Raina: Yes, we'll do that as well. (Turning around) Your drawings will be very special to look at in the years to come. Each year you can draw pictures or write short essays about what you enjoyed on our beach vacations.

Maya: Yeah! I love to draw.

Jaylen: Me, too. And writing will be fun, too.

Raina and Lucien exchange smiles.

There is much more traffic than on the way down. It is moving fast, but in an orderly way. Lucien is driving in the middle of three traffic lanes.

Suddenly, all three lanes of traffic start braking. Lucien and Raina notice a trucker speeding behind them, and exchange worried glances. He is still far away though.

Lucien signals to change lanes first to the left and then to the right, but no one lets him through. Raina looks back at the speeding truck.

Raina (getting panicked): What's wrong with him? He's going to hit us!

The children look back and are frightened. Maya starts crying.

Lucien (grimly): I think his brakes aren't working. He's trying to change lanes but no one's letting him through.

Jaylen: But why change lanes, Dad? He'll still crash into someone.

Lucien: No, he can avoid it if he can get off the road. He can do that from the other two lanes, but not from the middle lane.

The trucker now honks in desperation as he tries to change lanes. But no one seems to understand the urgency of the situation, each one absorbed in their own world. He seems to be hurtling toward their car.

Raina (terrified, to Lucien): Should we get the children in front with us?

Lucien (thinking fast): No. Children, take off your seat belts and crouch down between the backseat and our seats. Quick!



Jaylen quickly scrambles down, and then helps Maya get off the seat and crouch down.

Lucien (hoarsely): Brace yourselves!

Raina (screaming): Help us, dear God!

The trucker crashes into their car. It turns into a multi-car accident, but the only horrific damage is to the little blue sedan.

**EXTERIOR: THE SCREEN IS COMPLETELY DARK (CONTINUOUS)**

Slowly, a pinpoint of bright light appears in the distance. We seem to be racing toward the light. Soft, angelic music is heard.

The light gradually becomes bigger. We sense we are rushing through a tunnel.

Raina's voice: Where am I? What's going on? Where's Lucien? And Jaylen and Maya?

The light grows larger and larger until suddenly we seem to be inside the brilliant light.

**EXTERIOR: BRILLIANT NATURAL SETTING (CONTINUOUS)**

A beautiful nature scene with many flowers and trees. Everything is shimmering with light. The angelic music continues.

Raina's voice: What a gorgeous place. What is it? (Pause) I feel so loved, so peaceful, so safe. I feel as if I'm home. (Pause) Is this heaven?

Two fuzzy, glowing figures appear and now we see Raina as well. She is dressed as she was before the accident but light emanates from her.

The two figures become clear and they emit brilliant light. We see they are a couple in their mid-40s, casually dressed and smiling benevolently on Raina.

Raina: Mom! Dad! Is it really you?

Monisha (hugging her): Yes, darling.

Neel (also hugging her): Welcome to our eternal home, Raina.

Raina (anxious again): But where's Lucien? And the children?

Monisha: They're all here. Everyone's okay.

Raina (greatly relieved): Oh, I'm so happy.

Neel: You'll see them soon. But first each of you is being met by loved ones here to acclimate you to being back in heaven.

Raina: Back? Of course! That's why I felt like I was home.

While Raina is talking with her parents, they keep changing in appearance in subtle ways until they end up looking as young as she is. They are now dressed in flowing garments which seem to be made of light.

Raina: What's going on? You both look so young now.

Monisha: Spirits, or angels, choose the age they want to present.

Neel: Most choose their early 30s.

Raina: But when you first arrived, you looked just like you did when I saw you last, when you were still healthy.

Monisha: Yes, we did that to make you comfortable.

Neel: Now we're back to our preferred appearance. Do you like us this way?

Raina: I love it! We all look the same age now.

Monisha: Yes. And it reinforces the fact that we're all the same age in eternal terms.

Raina: Terrific. And you changed your clothes, too. You look wonderful.

Monisha: You can change yours too, if you like. Just think of how you want to appear.

Raina closes her eyes and focuses. Her clothes change to beautiful flowing garments of light.

Raina (looking at herself): How amazing!

Neel: And you can change the setting too, if you like.

Raina: No, I love this setting. But how is it that I see all around me at the same time?

Monisha: In heaven, we see with our consciousness, not with our eyes. So it's all 360 degree vision.

Raina: And everything looks so clear!

Neel: Perfect clarity whether you look at something near or far.

Raina: I love it. But for the future, how would I change a scene?

Monisha: Just think of how you would like it to look. It's all created with our thoughts.

Raina: So does it mean everything here is an illusion?

Neel: It may seem that way. But actually, it's more real than what we see on earth. It's our experiences on earth that are illusory in the grand scheme of things.

Monisha: Remember what Shakespeare said? All the world's a stage and all the men and women merely players...

Neel: We go to earth temporarily, to learn important lessons, and then return to the reality of heaven.

### EXTERIOR: GLORIOUS AVENUE (CONTINUOUS)

Suddenly they are in a magnificent avenue. Tall trees border their path, and we can hear wind rustling through the upper branches.

Raina: This is superb! Did you craft it too?

Neel: Yes. Do you like it?

Raina: Very much.

The three start to stroll along a path bordered by luminous trees.

Raina: What should I call you both?

Neel: You can continue to say “Mom” and “Dad” if you like, and start calling us by our names when you’re comfortable with it.

Raina: It’s a plan.

Monisha: Do you have any other questions?

Raina: Did you watch over us? I had a feeling you might have.

Neel: Yes, all the time.

Raina: Thank you.

She hesitates.

Monisha: Are you wondering why we didn’t prevent the accident?

Raina: No, of course not. I’m sure it would have been too difficult.

Neel: You can’t hide your thoughts in heaven. We know you wondered why we didn’t prevent the accident, despite being your guardian angels.

Raina: It’s true. I had forgotten that you can’t hide your thoughts in heaven. Anything you think of is immediately communicated.

Monisha: Have you noticed *how* we're communicating?

Raina: Oh, I just realized. It's by telepathy, isn't it?

Neel: Yes. All communication is telepathic in heaven.

Monisha: Well, to get back to your unasked question, we *were* watching over the four of you right before the crash.

Neel: Along with all the other angels who love you.

Monisha: We knew what was about to happen.

Neel: We knew that if the four of you were killed, Lina, Sid, and Nina would grieve terribly, possibly for the rest of their lives.

Monisha: On the other hand, if you were hit hard but didn't die, you could be horribly injured, possibly even paralyzed for life. And that wouldn't make it easy for Lina and the others either. They would have to take prodigious care of all of you and would be deeply saddened by your continuing pain and disabilities.

Neel: We could have energized the trucker's brakes to make them work. But angels are supposed to think twice before intervening.

Monisha: You see, we feared he was not competent enough to control the hurtling truck even if we fixed the brakes. If so, he may have slowed it enough to seriously hurt, but not kill, you.

Neel: If we did nothing, he was about to slam your car so hard that there was no chance any of you would survive. Death would be instantaneous.

Monisha: We knew the four of you had planned this as your last incarnation. Here was a scenario where you would all reach the spirit dimension together.

Neel: And you could decide together whether to go through one more incarnation, or to continue in the spirit world with your other loved ones.

Raina: How could you possibly have had time to discuss all this? It all happened so quickly.

Monisha: You've forgotten that the spirit dimension is atemporal. Time is irrelevant here.

Neel: A second on earth can be felt as a second or as a hundred years in the soul world.

Monisha: We could take our time to discuss, plan, and do something and not a moment would have passed on earth.

Raina: Oh, I do remember this magical aspect of the spirit world now. (Pause) But how is it that I didn't feel any pain? Or did I?

Monisha: You did feel excruciating pain. But it was extremely brief due to the nature of the crash. And because we helped all of you get out of your bodies quickly.

Raina: Thank you for all your thoughtfulness and help.

She stops walking and gazes at the beautiful setting.

The others stop too.

Raina: But where is God in all this?

Monisha: God is everywhere, all around us.

Raina looks puzzled.

Neel: Did you go through a tunnel?

Raina: Yes. Does everyone?

Monisha: Most do. But some have different experiences. How did you feel when you came out of the tunnel?

Raina: I felt loved, peaceful, and safe. I felt I was home. I still do.

Neel: You felt God's presence. The abundant love you experienced, and that you still feel, is God.

Raina: Oh, I feel so blessed. Are Lucien and the children feeling this, too?

Monisha: Yes.

### EXTERIOR: GORGEOUS MEADOW (CONTINUOUS)

They come out of the avenue into a beautiful meadow, filled with wildflowers. Everything is luminous. Raina is enchanted again.

Neel floats a few feet up and sits down seemingly in air. Monisha floats up too and sits at the same height as Neel. She nods encouragingly at Raina, who closes her eyes and floats up.



Raina opens her eyes, sees herself sitting in mid-air, and laughs joyously. Monisha and Neel smile.

Raina: But who is with Lucien, Jaylen, and Maya right now?

Monisha: Each of them is being greeted by soul mates as you are.

Raina: Soul mates?

Neel (smiling): It takes a little while after reaching heaven to remember everything, so I'll remind you. There are several of us, including the four of you, who belong to a soul mate group. We're all bound to one another in eternal love.

Monisha: And when some of us plan to incarnate on earth, we plan who will be the parents, how they will meet, and who will be the children. Not all the plans materialize.

Raina: I do recollect all this now, though it's still a bit vague. Do we have to keep reincarnating?

Neel: Once you get to a certain spiritual level, mainly by leading good lives on earth, you have a choice. All of us, your soul mates in heaven, are not planning to go back to earth again.

Raina: You said earlier that we had planned this as our last incarnation.

Monisha: Yes. You were already at a stage where you didn't have to go back. But you chose to go through one more earth life.

Neel: But that incarnation just ended with the crash. So, now you have a choice whether to return to earth or not. You'll have to make that decision together.

Raina: When do the four of us meet?

Neel: When you're all ready to. At that moment, the four of you will be together and all of us greeters will join you later.

Raina: Okay, if I will see you both later, I'm ready to meet Lucien and the children now.

Monisha: Close your eyes and focus on them. When all four of you do that, it'll happen.

Raina closes her eyes and concentrates.

Monisha and Neel fade from view. Raina starts to fade out too.

### EXTERIOR: LUMINOUS GARDEN (CONTINUOUS)

There is a spectacular garden, brightly lit as all things in heaven are. The trees and flowers seem to have light inside them that streams out. The family of four is there, with their eyes closed.

They slowly open their eyes and greet one another with great joy. There is hugging and kissing all around. Jaylen and Maya look like children. Everyone is dressed in flowing garments made of light.

Raina: Together again, thanks to our guardian angels!

Lucien: Yes. I'm glad it all ended so well, after all we feared.

Jaylen: Mom! Dad! Are you ready to see Maya and me as we are?

Raina: What do you mean, darling?

Maya (to Jaylen): Let's show them.

The children's appearance gradually changes so that they end up looking like young adults. Raina and Lucien look delighted. More hugging and kissing, and joyful laughter follow.

Raina: Gosh, I'd completely forgotten that your souls are mature.

Lucien: Me, too. You both look great!

Jaylen: Thanks, Lucien. Or should I call you "Dad"?

Lucien: No, "Lucien" is fine. It'll remind me that all of us are eternal and that most souls prefer to look a certain age, no matter what age we were when we left earth.

Raina: And you can call me "Raina."

Maya: Thanks, Mom. I mean, Raina.

They laugh heartily.

Raina: Wait! Unlike what my parents did, you both couldn't just go back to how you looked at a particular age. So, did you simply create a visual of how you would look when you were grown?

Jaylen: We did. And we understand that people who had physical disabilities on earth can create an appearance of themselves in heaven without their disabilities, strong and healthy.

Maya: You just think of how you would like to look, while still being recognizable as yourself. And it happens.

Lucien: And yet it's not an illusion. It's reality because the spirit world consists of consciousness and energy. Everything we see or present to others is consciousness expressed visually.

Raina: I love it! (Pause) What else can we share? Did everyone go through a tunnel as I did?

Lucien and Jaylen: Yes.

Maya: I didn't. I flew over a field of wildflowers.

Raina: Oh, how lovely! And did everyone hear angelic music?

Lucien: I heard drumbeats, rhythmic and moving.

Maya: I heard chimes, very musical.

Jaylen: I didn't hear anything. It was quiet and peaceful.

Raina: And did you feel flooded with love when you reached heaven?

Lucien: Yes. I understand that was God.

Jaylen: It was an awesome feeling.

Maya: I felt I was home.

Lucien: And the Light itself is God.

Raina: And we're made of light, too!

Jaylen: Because our spirits come from God. We're all part of God.

Raina: But weren't we part of God on earth, too? We weren't luminous then.

Lucien: I think the physical aspects of earth life obscure the radiance. When we're in heaven, our spirits shine freely.

Raina: It's wondrous.

She walks over to some flowers, bends down, and smells them.

Raina: What an intoxicating fragrance!

The others walk over and smell the flowers, too. Everyone looks amazed.

Raina picks four flowers, keeps one for herself, and hands the rest to the others. All of them smell the flowers as they walk.

Raina: Our soul mates produced this fantastic setting for us.

Everyone nods.

Raina: As you know now, my parents, Neel and Monisha, met me.

Lucien: My paternal grandparents, Ari and Ooma, greeted me.

Raina: Did you remember them? You'd said you didn't, when we met on earth.

Lucien: I did remember them. But from my memories in the spirit world, not from my earth experience.

Maya: I was greeted by Anita and Ethan.

Raina: Oh, I can't wait to see Nana, or I should say Anita. Did she look young, too?

Maya: At first she looked like Nana did on earth. But later she took on a young appearance.

Lucien: And Ethan? Oh yes, he...

Maya: ... was planning to come to earth as my son.

Raina: I do remember him now, from the spirit realm.

Jaylen: And I was met by Ray (or Papa) and Kiara...

Lucien: ...who was planning to come to earth as your daughter!

Jaylen: That's right.

Raina: I forgot to ask my parents who greeted them when they came here after their terrible ordeal.

Maya (smiling): It was Jaylen and me.

Raina: How interesting!

Lucien: Of course! You hadn't been born as our children at the time.

Raina: In fact, Lucien and I hadn't even met. So, you were both in heaven, waiting to come to us.

Jaylen: Yes, we were still in heaven. And watching over you both.

Lucien (suddenly sad): I want to look in on my parents and on Nina. I'm afraid they must be grieving terribly.

Raina: You're right. Can we go with you? Can we help them?

Lucien: Yes, let's all go. I don't want us to be apart. Let's all hold hands and close our eyes. And think of Lina, my mother.

They hold hands in a circle and close their eyes.

#### INTERIOR: SID AND LINA'S BEDROOM (NIGHT)

The bedroom is dark. We can just about see Lina sitting up in bed. She is crying.

Four dimly lit figures (of Lucien and the others) slowly appear in the room, whispering. But Lina cannot see or hear them.

She picks up a family portrait of Lucien, Raina, and the children.

She gazes at it, kisses it with great feeling, and sobs even more.

Raina: This is too sad. We *must* help her. And your father and Nina as well.

Lucien: But how?

Maya: Give her a dream visitation.

Jaylen: And tell her we're all okay.

Lucien: Good idea. I'll try.

Lucien focuses on Lina.

In a moment, Lina slowly slides down in bed and starts going to sleep. Lucien keeps concentrating on her.

The other three fade out.

#### INTERIOR: SID AND LINA'S LIVING ROOM (CONTINUOUS)

We see the living room is well furnished in the dim light. The three angels (Raina, Jaylen, and Maya) materialize slowly.

Sid is pacing up and down. He does not see the three of them. He looks miserable and is muttering angrily under his breath.

The three spirits watch him for a few moments, looking disturbed. Then they gradually disappear from view.

#### INTERIOR: NINA AND VIK'S BEDROOM (CONTINUOUS)

It is a different house. The bedroom is dark. We barely see the three angels fading in. Nina is sitting by her bedroom window. She does not see them. Her husband Vik is asleep in bed.

Nina's face is tear-streaked. She looks up at the stars and starts sobbing quietly.



The three spirits look troubled and fade out.

**INTERIOR: SID AND LINA'S BEDROOM (CONTINUOUS)**

The three angels slowly appear in the room. Lina is fast asleep.

Lucien is at the foot of the bed, with his eyes closed.

He opens his eyes, looks at them, and shakes his head.

Lucien: I tried several times. But I can't get through to her.

Raina: Keep trying. Be calm and confident.

Jaylen: We'll go back to your Dad, and maybe Nina, and see if we can reach them.

Maya: But they don't seem ready to go to sleep. And I don't think we should scare them by appearing as visions.

Jaylen: No, we shouldn't. But we could try telepathy.

Lucien: Agreed. No visions. Meanwhile, I'll keep trying with Mom.

The three spirits fade out.

Lucien closes his eyes and seems to be in deep concentration.

**DARKNESS CLOSES IN. THEN LUCIEN'S HUGE, SMILING FACE APPEARS, SURROUNDED BY ETHEREAL LIGHT.**

Lucien: I'm okay, Mom. We're all okay. Please don't grieve.  
(Pause) We'll always love you, Dad, and Nina.

### INTERIOR: SID AND LINA'S BEDROOM (DAWN)

We see through the windows that it is slowly getting light outside. Lina wakes up. She is euphoric.

She grabs her dressing gown and runs out of the bedroom.

### INTERIOR: SID AND LINA'S LIVING ROOM (CONTINUOUS)

The room is dark, but the light through the windows shows that day is breaking. Sid is fast asleep on the sofa.

Lina (rushes in): Sid! Sid!

Sid (starting to sit up, alarmed): What is it, dear?

Lina (excitedly): Lucien came to me in a dream.

Sid looks troubled as he stands up.

Lina (hugging him): It was *real*. He told me they are all okay.

Sid (sadly): It was just a dream, dear.

Lina (emphatically): No. I've had many dreams of them since they've been gone. Some were even of happy times. But this was no ordinary dream.

Sid looks disbelieving. Lina picks up the phone and calls Nina.

Nina's voice: Mom, what's wrong?

Lina (excitedly): Lucien came to me in a dream. They're all okay.

Nina's voice (flat): We all want to believe that, Mom.

Lina (firmly): It was *real*.

Nina's voice (hesitating): What makes you so sure, Mom?

Lina: All I saw was his face. He was bathed in a divine light. He was smiling. He told me not to grieve.

Nina's voice: Oh, that does sound different. Almost like a real visit.

Lina: It was. I felt his presence. He seemed angelic. He said they're all okay and that they love the three of us, and always will. I felt flooded with peace.

Nina's voice (excited): How wonderful! I'll be right over.

Lina looks exultant. She comes to Sid wordlessly and hugs him. Sid holds her and pats her, but still looks unsure.

The scene fades out and back to show a slight time lapse.

Sid and Lina are now on the sofa. Lina is talking intensely to Sid.

Nina rushes in. Lina stands up excitedly to greet her. Nina hugs her mother warmly. Lina looks ecstatic. Sid watches them and hesitates. Nina extends an arm to lovingly draw him to them.

Nina: Come on, Dad. Recognize it when something miraculous happens.

Sid relents, stands up, and steps over to them.

Sid (hugging them both): I guess it was real, after all. How did Vik react?

Nina: Oh, I didn't wake him. I just dashed over.

Sid: Do you plan to tell him?

Nina: I don't know. Maybe not. He's too rational. Doesn't believe in miracles. Besides, he and Lucien were not so close.

Lina: Also, Lucien only said they love the three of us.

Nina: You're right. If Vik asks, I can tell him I came over to be with you because I couldn't sleep. I knew you both would be awake, too.

Sid: Good plan.

Nina: I'm so thankful they are all okay.

Lina: Now, we can start to heal.

### EXTERIOR: LUMINOUS GARDEN (A SHORT WHILE LATER)

The four angels are back in the soul world, in the same fabulous garden they had left earlier. All of them look joyful.

Raina: Isn't it great that you got through to Lina?

Lucien: Yes. Their grieving was so painful, not just for them but for us.

Maya: Now they can focus on healing, knowing we're all well and together.

Raina (suddenly sad): I wonder why my parents didn't come to me in a dream visitation.

Jaylen: They tried. But you were not only grieving...

Maya: ...you were very angry at those who exacerbated the pandemic.

Lucien: I keep forgetting. You both were here in heaven at that time.

Jaylen: Yes, we were with Neel and Monisha.

Raina: It's so good to know they tried.

Maya: Monisha even tried to get through to Anita and Ray, her dear parents.

Jaylen: But that didn't work either.

Raina: I guess they were angry too.

Maya: Yes. The combination of grief and anger can shut out angelic communications.

Raina: And yet, the three of us *knew* my parents were in heaven.

Jaylen: Yes. It was partly your beliefs that helped you.

Lucien: And perhaps the spirit communication did get through at some level.

Maya: It did. (To Raina) The three of you were open enough that we could work with Monisha and Neel to make you peaceful.

Raina: Thank you, my dears.

Lucien: I wonder if all of our loving greeters know what we've been doing.

All the soul mate angels, who had acted as greeters, fade in at once. There is much joyful hugging.

Raina: Anita and Ray, is that you?

Anita and Ray: Yes, it's us.

Raina: I'm so happy to see you both. How young you look!

Anita: It's lovely to see you, too, my dear.

Ray: Welcome home, all of you.

The other soul mate angels also interact happily with the ones they had not greeted earlier. There is laughter and joy.

Monisha (to Lucien): You were very fortunate to get through to Lina so quickly. Many spirits try in vain to reach the bereaved and cannot.

Neel: Mostly because many bereaved people are not open to spirit communications. Your mother thankfully is very open. And now they can all heal.

Raina: Nina was open too. She helped support Lina's experience and convince Sid.

Lucien: I'm very grateful for all this.

Jaylen: We all are.

Maya: It was heartwarming to see them change from being depressed to joyful.

Monisha: They will not be joyful all the time. They still have to heal.

Anita: But now they're on their way. You gave them the start they needed.

Raina: It's so good that we could do that.

Lucien: I just realized that my maternal grandparents, Lina's parents, are not here. Of course, I don't really remember them.

Raina: You're right. And neither are my paternal grandparents, Neel's parents.

Neel: Those four souls are not part of our soul mate group. We often link with people other than soul mates in earth lives because everything cannot go exactly as planned.

Monisha: Or, because no soul mates were ready to fill those roles.

Lucien: But, my parents and Nina *are* part of our soul mate group, right?

Ari: Right.

Lucien: I suspect Nina and Vik are not soul mates though.

Ooma: True. Nina never met her planned husband-to-be, Dhruv.

Ari: She's been depressed about not finding her special someone for a long time.

Kiara: But Nina and Vik are reasonably happy together. And so are Dhruv and his wife. So, it's okay.

There is a moment of silence as the newly arrived spirits think over what has been said.

Ethan: This might be a good time for the four of you to go through your life reviews. You can catch up with us later.

Raina: Life review. That sounds scary.

Ray: It *can* be for many spirits. But not for any of you. You're all very good souls.

Kiara: In fact, Jaylen and Maya's life reviews will be very brief. You weren't there that long. Think of Ethan and me when you're through, and we'll be there instantly. We can stay with you till Lucien and Raina are done.



Anita (to Raina and Lucien): You both could think of Maya and Jaylen when you're through. That way you will be together at once. The four of you have a lot of planning to do about whether to incarnate again.

Neel: Or you can think of any of us, if you have more questions about this dimension.

Monisha: Or you can think of each other if you want some time to yourselves.

Lucien and Raina look at each other and smile. They hold hands and reach out to Jaylen and Maya.

The four fade out of view, holding hands in a circle.

#### EXTERIOR: RADIANT PARK (LOOKS LIKE DAYTIME)

Raina is alone in the gorgeous park. There are flowering trees that seem to be at their peak, with bright spring blossoms.

She gazes at the scene serenely.

Suddenly a huge panoramic screen comes into view. Raina sees moving pictures of herself as a baby at the left end of the screen. The pictures progress through childhood, teenage years, and adulthood all the way to the right end of the screen.

Raina watches the screen attentively. Her expressions keep changing as the scenes keep moving along.

Two figures of light are standing by.

## EXTERIOR: DAZZLING MOUNTAINS (SOME TIME LATER)

Majestic, purple mountains surround a field of brilliantly colored wildflowers. The sky is a deep blue.

Lucien and Raina fade in.

Raina (delighted): Oh, darling! You thought only of me, didn't you?

Lucien (laughing): Yes. And I see you thought only of me. Good idea of Monisha's.

Raina: Yes, wonderful.

They hold each other and kiss for a long time.

Lucien: How was your experience?

Raina: Very interesting. I couldn't believe how every single incident and interaction in my life had been catalogued. So many things I'd forgotten.

Lucien: Amazing, wasn't it?

Raina: I was able to see what I did that made others feel good. A few incidents showed how some people reacted negatively to something I said, but in each case, it was really their problem.

Lucien: It was very similar for me.

Raina: And there were two spirits, or angels, present throughout.

Lucien: I had two beings of light, or high-level spirits with me, too. They were there to help if needed.

Raina: Should we wait to discuss the details until we see Jaylen and Maya?

Lucien: Good idea. We can all learn from each other's reviews. (Smiling) And we can use our time together now to enjoy heaven.

Raina (excitedly): Okay. Then, let's fly over this beautiful scene.

Lucien: Perfect!

Raina: I understand you and I fashioned this setting together, synchronizing our minds.

Lucien: Yes, I know. It *is* gorgeous, isn't it?

They link arms and fly easily over the glowing field of wildflowers. Their faces show their utter delight.

Later, they lift up higher and fly over the brilliant mountains, laughing with joy. They are literally and figuratively in heaven.

### EXTERIOR: AUTUMNAL NATURE SCENE (LATER)

Jaylen and Maya are spending time with Ethan and Kiara in a beautiful, natural setting. They are experimenting with changing the setting and enjoying the effects. The latest is an autumnal scene, with fallen leaves but some trees still of brilliant color.

Raina and Lucien appear into view, holding hands.

Maya and Jaylen rush forward and hug them.

Ethan: I guess we'll see you later.

Kiara: Enjoy your time together!

Ethan and Kiara slowly disappear.

Lucien (to Jaylen and Maya): Well?

Jaylen: My review was pretty short. I saw how I made all of you and the rest of the family happy. But there was one time when I suddenly felt jealous of baby Maya and was mean to her. You both felt bad about it too. I'm sorry, everyone.

Maya: You don't have to keep apologizing, Jaylen. You're forgiven. All is well.

Jaylen: That's what my spirit guides said, too. They said it was only one incident, and a relatively minor one. Besides, I learned not to do it again, so it is fine.

Raina: Yes, I recall it was only once. The rest of the time you were an ideal big brother.

Lucien: I remember the incident too. Maya was happily crawling toward a doll she loved and Jaylen kept pulling it out of her reach. She became terribly confused and started to cry.

Raina: Lucien and I explained to you how wrong you were to tease her. How we expected you to be a loving brother, always.

Lucien: You were immediately sorry and never teased her again.

Jaylen: In my life review, I vividly felt the hurt and confusion Maya felt, and the sadness and disappointment you both went through.

Raina: How interesting that you didn't just experience Maya's feelings but ours, too.

Lucien: It's really "do unto others" in every little action, isn't it?

Maya: What a perfect way to learn how to be a good soul.

Jaylen: True. And some people already know this. Maya had no bad parts in her life review. She was a good little girl.

Raina (smiling): We know.

Lucien: Shall we walk?

They start walking, looking at the colorful autumnal trees, and listening to the sound of crunching leaves.

Raina: My goodness! Did you program sounds into this setting?

Maya: Yes. Kiara and Ethan showed us how.

Jaylen: You just have to think of the sounds you want along with the view, and it all happens naturally.

Raina: I wonder if smells work the same way. In that case, our soul mates created those intoxicating flower fragrances in the setting they made for us earlier.

Maya: Definitely. And we asked for smells in this scene too.

Lucien: I do smell a lovely pine tree scent. Do you?

Raina: Yes, I do now. It's somewhat faint, yet unmistakable.

Jaylen: I'm glad you both are enjoying this setting. Want to tell us about your life reviews now?

Raina: I saw how I made all of you, as well as my parents, grandparents, and Lucien's family happy. I also saw how I helped my ESL students and the children who enjoyed my books.

Maya: Nothing bad?

Raina: Sometimes, people misunderstood or resented what I said. But the guides said it was *their* problem.

Jaylen: Really? That's interesting. What's an example?

Raina: Well, sometimes people who didn't think climate change was real commented on how cold it was in winter and so the warming climate change could not be true. I explained that climate and weather are two different things. The warming climate could result in even colder winters, hotter summers, more horrific storms, and so on. Some were enlightened by this.

Jaylen: And others were not?

Raina: No. They felt resentful that I had debunked their basis for pooh-poohing climate change.

Lucien: My experience was almost exactly the same as yours. I saw how I made all my family happy, and typically even my colleagues and customers.

Maya: And did anyone resent or misunderstand what you said?

Lucien: Yes. For example, my colleagues often talked about some game on television, and someone would ask me if I saw it. When I said no, they asked me what I did instead. Sometimes I told them I was working at the soup kitchen. They felt I was showing them up as being self-absorbed while I was helping others, and they resented it. I realized this and learned to avoid the situation.

Jaylen: Good for you.

Maya: So, we all had good life reviews!

Raina: Yes. This is why we don't *have* to go back.

Lucien: We need to keep that in mind when we consider another life on earth.

Raina: Instead of thinking about another possible earth life right now, let's spend some time with our other soul mate angels first.

Even as the other three nod their agreement, the other soul mates in heaven fade in. There is much joy in greeting them.

The scene changes to early autumn. The leaves are at their peak of color, with brilliant hues of red, orange, yellow, and purple.

Maya: Oh, how lovely!

Monisha: How were the reviews? Great, I'm sure.

Raina: Yes, all our reviews went very well.

Ooma (smiling): That's not surprising.

Lucien: But I have a question. How exactly is everyone's life review created? I was amazed at the details captured.

Neel: Well, each moment in your life on earth can be seen as an event. Every object (which includes every person) has what is called a world line, stretching from the past to the future. It is a complete history of "events" related to that object or that person.

Monisha: The universe is set up to automatically record all the world lines. It is part of God's plan, and linked to life reviews.

Kiara: This way even the bad actions of a person that are not known to anyone else are recorded.

Anita: And they have to be experienced by the doer in terms of their effects on others.

Ray: No one gets away with anything, even when they think they have.

Lucien: Thank you. It is all so remarkable.

Jaylen: I have a question, too. Where exactly are we?

Ethan: We're in what people on earth call dark energy. Dark, in this context, simply means unobservable or unknown.



Kiara: Dark energy represents more than two-thirds of the universe. It is present all over the universe, including the earth.

Neel: When physicists try to calculate the energy in what they see as empty space, they are perplexed to see astronomical numbers.

Monisha: This is because the so-called empty space is the spirit dimension, which is full of vibrant energy.

Maya: But how do we get around this enormous space so easily?

Ari: In the 4-D space-time continuum of the physical universe, distance has to be dealt with. So, travel is difficult. But distance is irrelevant in the multidimensional spirit world. We can move instantaneously anywhere through higher dimensions.

Raina: Earlier we were thrilled to be reminded that time is irrelevant here as well. How does that happen?

Ooma: Both space and time are tied to mass or matter. The spirit realm has consciousness and energy but nothing material. As a result, both distance and time are irrelevant. We can go anywhere instantly and time simply does not flow.

Raina: How fascinating!

Monisha: Isn't it? (Pause) Any other questions?

Raina: Earlier you said the four of us didn't *have* to go back for our last life. So why *did* we?

Ari: I think it would help all of you to know everyone's situation regarding returning to earth. Ooma and I, and Ray and Anita, had

some minor aspects to work on such as learning to be more patient or better controlling anger. But we learned this well in our recent earth life. Now we don't have to incarnate any more.

Ooma: The same is true for Sid and Lina. They went to earth this time to connect with Ari and me and to work on something personal. They've led very good lives, and don't need to go back.

Ray: But Monisha and Neel did not need to go even for their latest earth life. They came just to help us. Their secondary soul purpose was to become doctors, dedicated to healing people.

Anita: As you know, they did this superbly. One might say they gave up their lives, helping sick people during the pandemic.

Raina hugs Monisha and Neel. They smile as they hug her.

Monisha: You and Lucien did not need to go back last time either. You, Raina, came to help us, and Lucien, to help Sid and Lina. Equally important to you both was to find each other.

Neel: And you both had worthy secondary soul purposes as well. Lucien wanted to help disadvantaged people and you wanted to teach people to be better souls through your writing.

Ethan (to Jaylen and Maya): You both also didn't need to return to earth. You went just to connect with Lucien and Raina. And as your ancillary soul purpose, you planned to help the environment.

Kiara: Even Ethan and I don't need to incarnate any more. We were planning to go simply to connect with Maya and Jaylen. We hadn't picked a supplementary goal yet.

Lucien: What about Nina?

Ari: She also did not need to go back for her current life. She went mainly to connect with Sid, Lina, and you.

Kiara: And equally or perhaps even more important to her was to find and connect with Dhruv. She had no other soul purpose.

Ooma: Dhruv has to work at something personal and Nina very much wanted to help him. But actually, he's doing fine so far, so this may be his last incarnation, too.

Raina: Thank you. This should help us a lot when we discuss whether we should go back or not.

Ari: We'll take your leave then. (Smiling) Remember to take time out from your discussions to enjoy the spirit dimension.

All soul mate angels, except the four, disappear from view.

### EXTERIOR: GLITTERING LAKE (CONTINUOUS)

Suddenly, they are in an open, grassy space, filled with wildflowers, and bordering a glittering lake. There are purple mountains in the distance. The air is filled with birdsong.

Everyone gazes at the view around them, completely entranced.

Maya: Who made this gorgeous scene? I even feel a cool breeze.

Raina: It was me. I'm glad you like it.

Jaylen: I also hear birdsong. But the birds are not real, are they?

Raina: The birds, their songs, and the breeze are all part of the setting I created. We can take turns at producing the settings.

Lucien: Great idea.

Raina floats up and sits in mid-air above the shining water. The others smile and follow her lead. They sit in a circle above the lake and continue the conversation.

Raina: Did any of you ask your spirit guides any questions?

The other three nod.

Raina: I asked my spirit guides about people refusing to wear masks or keep social distance during the pandemic, and some politicians deliberately encouraging this uncaring behavior.

Lucien: Let me guess. These people, as well as the politicians who cheered them on, will experience all the suffering they caused by spreading the virus through deliberate negligence.

Raina: Exactly. They will literally feel the illness and physical trauma they caused by their thoughtlessness. They will also feel the mental anguish they caused for innocent people and many healthcare personnel by their reckless attitude.

Jaylen: New Zealand provided the model on how to react to a pandemic. Everyone had to be responsible toward others.

Maya: If everyone had acted in a caring way, 6 million people would not have died worldwide and 1 million in the U.S. alone.

Raina: And some, especially in the U.S., who made a continual mockery of safe behavior in a pandemic, would experience illness and trauma even if they didn't actually cause any.

Maya: I'm sure they won't think that's fair.

Raina: It doesn't matter what they think. The guides said these souls needed to fully learn about being responsible. So, they will see scenarios of what could have happened as a result of the irresponsible actions they practiced and encouraged in others.

Lucien: It's all about reviewing one's behavior and learning from it for the future.

Raina: In addition to experiencing the terrible outcomes of their behavior in life reviews, these souls won't have a choice about reincarnation as we do. They *have* to go back to ensure that they have learned important lessons about taking care of other people.

Jaylen: And if they forget these lessons in their next incarnation?

Raina: They just have to keep reincarnating till it sinks in and becomes part of their soul to be kind and thoughtful.

Lucien: After all, reincarnation is not punishment. It is simply a way for souls to advance. Of course, for some it may take many, many lifetimes.

Raina: Also, it's not enough that they learn these lessons. They have to teach others correct thinking about these critical issues.

Maya: How would they do that?

Raina: Through their behavior and through discussions about responsibilities being far more important than rights. They also need to understand that in fighting for their rights to do as they wished, they were trampling the rights of others to be safe.

Jaylen: It's strange that many people don't understand this. Or perhaps they don't care.

Lucien: Too many people are focused on themselves instead of thinking of what's good for the community, or country, or world.

Raina: The spirit guides also told me that business patrons who killed or menaced workers who asked them to wear masks, parents who threatened to shoot school staff where children had to mask up, and people who planned to kidnap and murder those in authority who mandated masks for public good—all of them would be stuck in their life reviews for eons.

Lucien: That's understandable. What such people did was evil, hurting good people who were simply protecting the public.

Raina: They would experience all the suffering they caused or planned to cause, and feel all the grief their victims' loved ones felt. And eons later, after they get out of their life reviews, they would have to reincarnate as many times as needed until they fully absorbed lessons about being good and caring souls.

Jaylen: An impeccable plan. (Pause) What did you ask, Lucien?

Lucien: About Ray and Anita's neighbors creating all that smoke.

Raina: Oh, I'm glad you did. How callously they ignored my pleas!

Lucien: The guides said these souls would experience all the serious health problems Ray and Anita went through because of the smoke they generated despite your appeals.

Maya: They were focused on their rights instead of their responsibilities, and were totally ignoring other people's rights.

Jaylen: Just like those who worsened the pandemic.

Lucien: They would also feel the grief Anita experienced after Ray's passing and all the anguish we went through.

Raina: And I suppose these souls would also have no choice about reincarnation.

Maya: Would they have to keep going back until they fully learned to take care of the environment and be kind to people?

Lucien: Yes. For some it may take hundreds of incarnations on earth to get to that stage. They would also have to work at spreading the message to others about caring for others and protecting the environment.

### EXTERIOR: STARRY SKY (CONTINUOUS)

Raina smiles and looks up at the sky, which darkens to reveal brilliant stars. The mountains, the lake, and the wildflowers are still visible, colorful, and luminous. The others gaze up at the sparkling stars and smile at Raina.

Raina: Talking of hundreds of incarnations, I asked the guides why so few people on earth seem to know about reincarnation.

Lucien: I did, too. You and I are on the same wavelength.

Jaylen: That's great. What did they say?

Lucien: They said it's a misperception that only few people on earth know about reincarnation.

Raina: More than half of the world population believes in it. It's only in the Western world that very few people do.

Lucien: It's mainly intellectuals and philosophers in Western Europe and the U.S. who comprehend that there *has* to be reincarnation. No one can be assured of being permanently in heaven after just one life on earth.

Raina: Circumstances of birth and life may make it too difficult for many people to attain a high spiritual level in only one earth life. They may be overwhelmed in dealing with their hardships to care too much about other people.

Maya: But most people don't think about such things. That's why they readily accept the notion of a single earth life.

Jaylen: Many people are guided by religion in such matters.

Lucien: Eastern religions are right that there is reincarnation but they're wrong that it is for reward and punishment.

Raina: Souls have to reincarnate for spiritual advancement.

Lucien: Western religions did have reincarnation in their teaching originally, but it was deliberately obliterated by religious authorities for their own purpose.



Raina: For example, Christianity had several quotes in religious texts about the reality of reincarnation. This was noted by the Gnostics, all over Europe, from the first to the fifteenth centuries.

Lucien: But the Catholic Church branded the Gnostics as heretics. And then persecuted and massacred them for their teachings.

Maya: Why did they do such a dreadful thing?

Lucien: The Gnostics rightly believed that man was responsible for his own salvation, and did not need an intermediary between himself and God. This alarmed the Church because above all they wanted power over the people. For that, the masses had to be unenlightened and had to rely on the church to save them.

Raina: Also, by stressing that only one life could determine whether one went permanently to heaven or to hell, people were even more under the church's influence to try to be saved.

Lucien: Those directly involved in the annihilation of the Gnostics, including Pope Innocent III and Pope Gregory IX, who ordered genocides of the Gnostics, are still in their life reviews, having hurt so many blameless and right-minded people so horrifically.

Raina: In later years, quotes not expunged from religious texts were purposely misinterpreted to deny reincarnation.

Lucien: The quote about the need to be born of water and spirit in order to reach heaven is widely recognized by Western scholars as referring to reincarnation. Water in those days referred to life on earth. But religious authorities deliberately added the word

“Holy” before “spirit” and misinterpreted the quote as being baptized for a second time in earth life to assure going to heaven.

Jaylen: No wonder many people became even more focused on belonging to a particular religion.

Maya: Because they thought it would get them to heaven.

Raina: But the fact is that God does not care about religion. The spirit guides assured me that people acting with love and concern for others is what’s important to God.

Lucien: Most people are clueless about how the universe works.

Jaylen: And even when they follow religion, despite the Golden Rule “Do unto others” being in some form in every religion, many people fail to take it seriously or to put it into practice.

Lucien: Actually, no one needs religion to know that we need to treat others as well as we would like to be treated. It should be intuitive that it’s the right way to live.

Raina: Maybe it’s intuitive only when we reach an advanced level of spiritual growth.

### EXTERIOR: SNOWY MOUNTAIN TOPS (CONTINUOUS)

Stunning, snowy mountains are sharply outlined against a bright blue sky. The four angels are floating above them. Small, fluffy white clouds are only a few feet away.

Jaylen: Did you make this spectacular setting, Lucien?

Lucien (smiling): I did. (Pause) Maya and Jaylen, are you ready to share what you asked your spirit guides?

Maya (nodding): I asked about the people who ordered the massive tree cutting along expressways.

Raina: Good for you!

Maya: They said the clear cutting of trees along expressways was totally misguided. It was devoid of head or heart, and was inexcusable.

Lucien: So, was the stated motive about preventing crashes into trees a cover?

Maya: They didn't say. But I got the feeling it was.

Raina: And as Lucien pointed out earlier, the stated reason for the tree cutting doesn't even address the vast majority of accidents on the roads. The whole thing is ludicrous.

Maya: They said someone with authority ought to have realized that this was a terrible thing to do. Trees represent God's garden on earth. Progressive countries evaluate each tree bordering highways to decide which ones are likely to fall and only remove those. That is what should have been done in the U.S.

Lucien: So, what will those who planned this travesty have to experience?

Maya: Those who planned it and those who supported them would all fully experience the shock and pain experienced by people who appreciate nature.

Lucien: There must be tens of thousands distressed by the butchering of the trees.

Jaylen: And many stressed by oncoming headlights.

Raina: And those mourning the loss of the beautiful avenues they used to drive through.

Maya: The planners of this horrible project will have to experience the suffering that each person went through, even when they went through it repeatedly.

Jaylen: Rightly so.

Maya: They will also experience the trauma caused to birds and other creatures that lost their homes.

Raina: I think it's good that souls suffer what they caused for other creatures, too.

Lucien: Yes. It's only fair. People are supposed to be stewards of the earth, to preserve nature and help other creatures.

Jaylen: Will these souls have to go back too?

Maya: Definitely. In fact, they will have to replant all the trees along expressways. And work to educate others about the importance of trees to the earth and to people.

Raina: What about those who actually cut the trees?

Maya: They will also have to go through all of this. It is not just the planners. The business owners who took on these projects and their employees had a choice to refuse this violent plan against nature. So in their life reviews, all of them will experience the suffering they caused and then have to return to earth to remedy the problem they created.

Raina: What about low-level employees who had no other employment?

Maya: If they abhorred this plan and seriously looked for other employment but didn't find any, their life reviews would be tempered accordingly. But those employees who simply didn't care about destroying God's garden on earth would have to experience all the pain they caused others.

Lucien: And reincarnate as well?

Maya: Yes.

Jaylen: As many times as needed till they get it right?

Maya: Absolutely.

Raina: I remember that my friend Virika told me that some state governments said their projects were arborist approved. Clearly these arborists were not acting in good faith.

Lucien: And I recall that some states had also cut down small flowering trees that could not have hurt anyone. If any arborists approved this, they were definitely doing so for the money.

Maya: Everyone involved in these ways will also have to go back to earth as many times as needed.

Lucien: That is heavenly justice.

Maya: On another topic, although you and Raina tried to protect Jaylen and me from bad news, we heard in school about all the mass shootings in the U.S., so I asked about that.

Jaylen: I'm sure the shooters will have to suffer every distress their victims suffered.

Raina: And all the grief the victims' loved ones experienced. For as long as they grieved.

Lucien: And all the stress people felt on just hearing this type of horrible news.

Maya: You are all correct. But in addition, the gun manufacturers, the NRA, the congressmen and political leaders who rejected gun control outright, and everyone who voted against sensible gun control, will also have to suffer all the trauma and grief.

Lucien: In Western Europe, they don't have the gun violence prevalent in the U.S. For example, it is unlawful to own a gun in Scotland. So there is very little crime there using guns.

Raina: And New Zealand showed the world how to enact gun control after its mass shooting.

Maya: Exactly. The guides said this is among the many aspects in which the U.S. is backward.

Jaylen: I assume all these people will have to incarnate over and over till they learn these lessons.

Maya: Yes, indeed.

### EXTERIOR: COLORFUL GORGE (CONTINUOUS)

The gorge has brilliant colors on the sides of the cliffs. A shimmering river runs below and it is making babbling sounds as it creates small waterfalls in going over stones and rocks. The spirits are floating above but close to the river.

Jaylen: Maya, did you craft this?

Maya: Yes. Do you like it?

Raina: It's a beautiful sight. And such soothing sounds.

Everyone looks peaceful as they enjoy the surroundings.

Lucien: Well, Jaylen?

Jaylen: I asked my guides if the trucker who crashed into us would have to experience our pain in his life review.

Raina: But our pain, though horrific, was very brief.

Maya: That was because our soul mate angels took us out of our bodies so quickly.

Lucien: Yes. It could have been quite different, pretty gruesome.

Jaylen: The guides said that if the trucker knew the brakes were getting worn and had not replaced them, he would experience all the pain and trauma we went through. And the trauma we might have gone through, had we become horribly injured but not died.

Raina: That seems appropriate.

Jaylen: He would also feel the grief that Lina, Sid, and Nina experienced and the sadness they will continue to feel.

Lucien: Of course. That's only right.

Jaylen: But if the brakes failed suddenly, despite regular maintenance, he would not be culpable.

Maya: Would his trying to change lanes to avoid the accident work in his favor?

Jaylen: Not if he knew the brakes were getting bad, or had been negligent in any way. It would be too little, too late. Everyone needs to be far more thoughtful and responsible than that.

Raina: Did the guides say if the trucker knew about the brakes?

Jaylen: They explained that he didn't know about the brakes, but that doesn't absolve him. The reason is that as an owner-operator he had skipped some maintenance checkups just to save money. So the brakes failed due to his neglect.

Raina: In that case, I assume the trucker will go through our pain and the family's grief. (As Jaylen nods) And will he go back?



Jaylen: Yes. The life review would not be enough. It would be a major step in his learning, but he would have to go back and use his next life, or lives if necessary, to learn to be truly responsible.

Maya: That makes sense.

Jaylen: The guides also said the trucker missed early warning signs with screeching brakes. And he failed to quickly slow the truck down when the brakes failed. He should've immediately put the truck in low gear and slowly pressed the emergency brake.

Lucien: So in his future lives, he'll have to be much more responsible and responsive, and teach others to do the same?

Jaylen: Yes, he will. (Pause) I want to ask you something related to our accident, Lucien. I hope you won't take it amiss.

Lucien: Not at all. (Laughing) Wait, I can read your mind. You're thinking that if I *had* been able to change lanes, the people in the car in front of us would have been killed instead.

Jaylen: Yes. I wondered if saving your family condones that.

Lucien: It's a good question, Jaylen. The spirit guides told me I was doing the right thing in trying to save my family. I would not be culpable for the harm that may have been caused to others, as long as I did not crash into someone.

Maya: Oh, good.

Lucien: And you'll *all* be pleased to know that even my thoughts at the time were recorded, and the guides said my thinking was commendable, especially in such a harrowing situation.

Jaylen: Good for you. Do tell us about it.

Lucien: I was thinking that if I *was* able to change lanes, I would let that other car merge in front of us. You see, directly in front of that car was a huge tractor-trailer. If the trucker had slammed into *that*, it would still be a multi-car accident but most likely, no one would be seriously hurt.

Raina (hugging him): How thoughtful of you, darling!

Lucien smiles as he hugs and kisses Raina. Jaylen and Maya look happy as well.

Lucien: The guides also told me that all the self-absorbed drivers who didn't let me, or the trucker, change lanes would have to experience what we went through, and our family's grief.

Jaylen: But it couldn't have been easy to let the trucker merge into their lane, could it?

Lucien: Any of them could have quickly slowed down enough to create a big space that the trucker could have gone through and onto the shoulder or the median. But they were not paying attention to the safety and wellbeing of others near them. If they had, they could have prevented the accident.

Raina: So many drivers today are absorbed in themselves and not working to make the roadways safe for everyone. It's good to know they have to experience how they harmed others by their indifference. It will help them advance spiritually.

Maya: And will they have to return to earth?

Lucien: Yes. If they could have prevented the accident, but did nothing, they will have to go back to learn to be more caring.

Raina: There's a clear pattern here. In all the situations we asked about, souls who caused harm to others...

Lucien: ...or *could have* caused harm to others....

Raina: True. These souls will have to experience all the injury they caused, or could have caused.

Lucien: And then go back to earth to remedy their wrongs and to teach others not to make the same mistakes.

Jaylen: They would have to reincarnate as many times as needed to get it right.

Maya: Some of these souls may have hurt people in many ways.

Lucien: Yes. I can easily see someone who refuses to wear a mask during a pandemic as the type who would keep burning yard debris even when it is harming other people and the environment.

Raina: And the same soul would be the type that would participate in the thoughtless butchering of trees, and so on.

Jaylen: So these souls would have multiple goals to fulfill in their next life, and could easily not do all that they are supposed to do.

Lucien: This is why they have to keep going back to earth as many times as needed.

Maya: What an amazing setup!

Raina: Planned by God, so it *has* to be perfect.

### INTERIOR: LIBRARY MADE OF CRYSTAL (CONTINUOUS)

The four angels are sitting at a crystalline table. There are many bookcases filled with books. The walls are also made of crystal and the view outside is of a beautiful nature scene.

Lucien: So, who made this lovely setting?

Jaylen: It was me.

Raina: It's exquisite. And it's a nice reminder that Lucien and I met in a library in our last life.

Maya: Do you know that Jaylen and I helped you meet?

Raina and Lucien (together): Really?

Jaylen: We made the library computer develop a problem when Raina was going there to check out children's books.

Maya: We knew Lucien could fix it easily so it wouldn't hurt the library.

Jaylen: We made sure Lucien was on call so he would be the one to come to fix the problem while Raina was there.

Lucien and Raina laugh appreciatively.

Maya: We knew that once you saw each other, it would work out.

Jaylen: Then when it seemed you may not make plans after all, we arranged for the geese to fly over you in the parking lot.

Lucien: That heavenly gift cinched it!

Raina: Yes, we knew then that we *had* to get to know each other.

Lucien: And what about the geese at the wedding ceremony?

Maya: Monisha and Neel did that.

Jaylen: They wanted to continue the magical tradition we had started. Of course, all of us were there and helped.

Raina (touched): Oh, we need to thank everyone.

All the other soul mate angels appear immediately. The four spirits stand up and there is much hugging and joy.

Jaylen looks intently at the table and chairs and the setting changes magically, yet subtly. The table grows larger and more chairs appear. Everyone moves toward the chairs and settles down nicely around the table.

Neel: So are you enjoying the spirit dimension?

Raina: Very much.

Neel: Good, it's important to do that.

Ari: And you can take your time to decide about going back. In the meanwhile, we've been watching over Lina, Sid, and Nina.

Lucien: Are they okay?

Ooma: Reasonably. They have ups and downs. They'll need much more time to heal completely.

The four spirits look sad.

Ari: Your home went to Lina and Sid since Raina has no surviving relatives on earth.

Ethan: They gave it to Nina because they don't need it and because she loves the house.

Kiara: Of course, Nina has her own house, so she is considering renting it out.

Anita: She doesn't have the heart to sell it. And for now, she is not even ready to rent it. It has too many fond memories of the four of you.

Ray: Your savings (mostly Raina's inheritance) have also gone to Lina and Sid. They've put the money in a separate account, and are not sure what to do with it. They don't need it.

Lucien: Thank you for watching over my parents and Nina.

Raina: And for the update.

Neel: Do you have any questions before we leave?

Maya: I have one. Where are the other souls in heaven?

Monisha: They're here. But we typically make private spaces for us, and that's what you're doing too.

Neel (smiling): That's the default option.

Ooma: But if you want to see other souls who are also in this space, you can ask for that.

Ari: And also think whether you want interaction or not.

Ray: Here, let us show you.

He closes his eyes as he concentrates.

Suddenly there are many other spirits in the library, all in flowing, luminous garments. Everyone is busy, doing something on their own or communicating with others. It is still peaceful, because all communication is telepathic.

Maya: Wow! That is marvelous.

Anita: If you want interaction, you can program being open to it. But mostly we don't ask for it.

Kiara: No. It's nice to be in our own special world.

Raina: I agree. But it's good to know how we can do all this.

Ethan: Come on, let's go outside. You can see more of this.

## EXTERIOR: THE NATURE SCENE OUTSIDE (CONTINUOUS)

All of them glide through the crystalline walls of the library to the nature scene outside. It is a grassy area with some very tall, deep green trees, and a bright blue sky.

Other spirits float by. One seems to bend and pick something, as if off a small tree, and seemingly takes a bite out of it.

Jaylen: What was that?

Ethan: Looks like someone created a peach orchard, then flew over it, picked a peach, and ate it.

Maya: Why don't we see the orchard or the peach?

Neel: Superimposing the two scenes would be messy.

Anita: Besides, we just asked to see other spirits, not their settings. The spirits we saw in the library probably had their own settings, too. But we didn't see those.

Lucien: It's certainly uncluttered this way.

Ari: Do any of you crave food?

All four shake their heads.

Ooma: Most high-level spirits have no desire for food.

Ray: But that doesn't mean that soul we saw is low-level.

Kiara: No. Everyone we see is at the same level we are.



Monisha: That spirit may have been experimenting, not craving food.

Maya: And how is this done?

Neel: Just concentrate, think of what you want, and it'll be there.

Maya: Really? May I try something?

Raina: Of course, darling.

Maya closes her eyes and concentrates. Small gold cups, filled with sparkling liquid, float in front of each angel.

Maya opens her eyes and smiles. The others smile too.

Maya: I asked for heavenly nectar for all of us to taste.

All of them hold the cups in front of them and take sips.

Raina: Mmmm, divine mango juice!

Lucien: Heavenly pineapple juice!

Neel: Each soul gets their idea of "the nectar of the gods."

Everyone is appreciative of Maya's gift. Maya is happy.

Kiara: Oh, I thought of one more experience you would enjoy. Let's all hold hands. And close your eyes.

They do so.

## EXTERIOR: BLUE SKIES (CONTINUOUS)

The setting changes to one of endless blue skies. Many luminous spirits are gathered together. They are singing beautifully and in perfect harmony. The music sounds angelic, which it literally is.

The four are fascinated. They listen for a short while.

Maya: This is wonderful!

Lucien: Yes. Now we know how to hear angelic music.

Anita: And you can be part of the singing, too.

Raina: Thanks for showing us these intricacies of the spirit world.

The other soul mate angels smile and wave as they fade out.

## INTERIOR: LIBRARY MADE OF CRYSTAL (CONTINUOUS)

The four spirits drift down from the deep blue skies, and go through the crystalline walls into the library.

Jaylen focuses on the table and chairs and they shrink back to how they were before the rest of the soul mate angels got there. No other souls except the four are seen.

The other three smile at Jaylen for making their space cozy and private. They settle down comfortably at the smaller table.

Maya: I forgot to mention earlier that I saw quick reviews of all my past lives. Did all of you?

The other three nod.

Raina: I saw how the four of us were together in most of our earth lives. And we connected with our other soul mates as well.

Jaylen: Often playing different roles.

Lucien: It was weird in a few earth lives to see you or Maya as a parent to Raina or to me. Of course, you did well in those roles.

Raina: The saddest lives were when none of us met.

Maya: Yes. I'm glad there were not many of those.

Jaylen: It was interesting that we incarnated all over the world.

Lucien: We planned this so we could understand other cultures by living in them.

Raina: It was a good plan indeed. It helped make us more open to differences among people, and more accepting of others.

Maya: I saw that in earlier lives I made more mistakes.

Lucien: Even in fairly recent lives, my light-hearted comments were misunderstood and hurt someone without my knowing it.

Raina: The same with me. We had to learn to put ourselves in someone else's shoes before saying or doing anything.

Maya: And we did learn. With each incarnation I seemed to be a better person. And I'm sure the same is true for all of you.

Jaylen: This is why it's not necessary we go back one more time.

Lucien: For others who still have important lessons to learn, there may not be any choice. They have to keep incarnating till they reach this level.

Raina: If we go back, it has to be to do something we cannot do from here as spirits.

Lucien: The only reason to go back would be to help our soul mates on earth. If my parents or Nina are inconsolable, we could go back to help them. But how would we connect with them?

Maya: You could go back as Nina's baby. Having a baby to love will help all of them. It will make them happy again.

Lucien: But Nina may not want a baby. Besides, I don't want to be separated from all of you.

Raina: If Nina does get pregnant and you decide to go back, so could we all. Then we'll be together again.

Jaylen: But it's hard to think of going back...

Maya: ... when we're all together and so joyful.

Lucien: It's not an easy decision. It's fantastic to be here, be able to go anywhere in an instant, not constrained by physical limits.

Raina: It's also lovely to read each other's loving and intriguing thoughts, and to be filled with peace and love all the time.

Lucien: No illnesses, leaky roofs, horrifying national or international news that we can do nothing about.

Raina: We should go only if Lina, Sid, and Nina don't stop grieving and we cannot help them from here.

Lucien: Agreed. (Sighs) Let's take a break and continue this later.

### EXTERIOR: YELLOW COTTAGE (CONTINUOUS)

Suddenly the four are outside their yellow cottage. The cottage, the garden, and the shady trees look gorgeous.

But Raina, Lucien, and Jaylen look a bit confused. There is something different about the house and its surroundings. All of it seems even more beautiful than they remembered.

Maya (laughing): I made this setting to replicate our cottage, so we could have a lovely break, reliving a happy time on earth.

Raina: What a great idea!

Everyone looks pleased and excited.

Suddenly, a flock of geese approaches, flying around the house, honking. But when they fly close above them, they don't honk. The swish-swish sound of their wings is clearly heard.

Maya: That was lovely! Did you create that, Lucien?

Lucien: Yes. Continuing the tradition you started.

Raina: It makes the point that everything is more real in heaven.

Maya: Yes. The geese and their markings were far more vivid than on earth. I could almost see every feather!

Jaylen: Even their honking and the sound of their wings swishing were crystal clear, just perfect.

### INTERIOR: YELLOW COTTAGE (CONTINUOUS)

The four enter the house and fly joyfully through it. They admire different things, remember happy times, and share memories.

Lucien: Perhaps the four of us should go see the earth house now? Just to see how it looks? And then look in on the family?

Raina: Let's see the family first. Then we can see the house and garden at our leisure.

Lucien: Even better.

The four hold hands and close their eyes.

### INTERIOR: SID AND LINA'S LIVING ROOM (CONTINUOUS)

The four angels materialize in the room, still holding hands.

Lina and Sid are on the sofa, quietly watching a movie on TV. They look sad, but seem to be trying to cope. The four spirits walk about separately, watching them for a few minutes. Their faces show mixed feelings.

Then they hold hands and fade out.

## EXTERIOR: YELLOW COTTAGE, GARDEN (CONTINUOUS)

The little yellow house and the shady garden with enormous old trees still looks the same.

The four spirits appear, holding hands.

Maya (puzzled): Weren't we going to look in on Nina first?

Lucien: She must be *here*. We thought of Nina and arrived here.

Raina: Let's go inside.

They fly separately through the walls and into the house.

## INTERIOR: YELLOW COTTAGE (CONTINUOUS)

Nina is indeed there, walking through all the rooms, crying. The four angels look very sad.

Lucien (telepathically to Nina): My dear sister, please don't grieve. We are here.

Raina: We are with you, Nina. We love you.

Nina does not hear them. She picks up a photo of the children, kisses it, and starts sobbing. Maya and Jaylen hug her, but she does not feel their hugs.

She continues walking about, looking at different things in the house, and weeping.

There is no question now of the four angels using this time to enjoy their house. They are all greatly saddened.

They hold hands and slowly disappear from view.

### EXTERIOR: COLORFUL GARDEN (SOME TIME LATER)

The four are in a garden with a profusion of colorful flowers. But the colors look a bit muted, reflecting the angels' sadness.

Lucien (dejectedly): What can we do to get through to her?

Raina: She was open enough earlier to support your dream visitation to Lina. But now, her grief seems to have increased, and is blocking all our efforts to communicate.

Maya: And even Lina and Sid are unhappy.

Jaylen: We *have* to do something to help all of them.

Lucien (feeling hopeful): We can keep trying to help Nina heal. Also, we may have seen her on a particularly bad day.

Maya: Besides, Lina and Sid are helping her, surely.

Raina: Even Vik must be trying. And Time is the greatest healer.

Lucien: I will also do my part from here. I'm going to try to give her a dream visitation very soon.

Raina (happily): That's a lovely plan. I think it will help her a lot.

The flowers brighten up immensely as the angels cheer up.



Jaylen: Only if we still can't get through and her grief is unending, we can consider returning to earth.

Maya: If we do go, the trickiest part will be for Raina and Lucien to meet.

Jaylen: True. Once you both meet, marry, and decide to have children, Maya and I can come to you.

Lucien (looking at Raina): It would be horrible if we didn't meet.

Raina (shuddering): I don't want to think about that.

Maya: If we decide to go back one last time, all our soul mates in heaven would watch over us.

All the soul mate angels fade in at once. There is much happy interaction, and plenty of hugging and kissing.

Monisha: Of course, we'll watch over you, if you go back.

Neel: But you will not remember us on earth.

Raina: Oh, that makes me sad. Not remembering all of you.

Anita: Nor will you remember your own past lives, not even this latest one.

Maya: That is sad, too.

Jaylen: We don't *have* to go back.

Lucien: No, we don't.

Everyone is quiet for a minute.

Neel: Take your time to consider a possible earth life. Evaluate it carefully and then decide.

Lucien: We will.

Ari: Do you have any questions before we go?

Jaylen: Do you ever see anyone else here who you knew on earth?

Anita: A few times, friends from earth have passed over and when they thought of us, we met and exchanged greetings.

Ray: But such instances are typically brief.

Ooma: Mostly, we spend time with our own soul mates.

Monisha: We do get to see others when we help people on earth.

Lucien: Who do you help?

Neel: Well, so far it's mostly been our own soul mates. But we also help other deserving souls at times.

Ethan: And when all our soul mates are here in heaven, we'll help other souls on earth on a regular basis.

Raina: But how do you know who else to help?

Monisha: We just ask in our minds if any good souls, who don't have soul mates watching over them, need angelic help.

Maya: Why are their soul mate angels not watching over them?

Kiara: They may not have any soul mates in heaven.

Ethan: Or they may, but these souls may be immersed in lengthy life reviews or focused on their learning.

Jaylen: And what exactly does watching over other people include?

Ari: Protecting them from harm, helping them achieve worthy goals, or making them happy.

The setting changes subtly, with new colors creating a different effect. Songbirds are heard. Everyone is enchanted.

Raina: I love this. Even such delicate changes create a totally new setting, like a painting.

Monisha (nodding): Any more questions about helping others?

Lucien: Can you give us an example of someone you helped in this way?

Neel: Sure. When we saw how Anita and Ray's neighbors refused Raina's request to stop the constant burning of yard trash, we could not help, unfortunately.

Jaylen: Why not?

Monisha: Angels are not supposed to intervene unless it is an immediate, critical need. And then, only if it will be for the best.

Neel: So, we asked if there was someone else nearby, good souls in an urgent situation, who needed our help.

Monisha: We discovered that another couple close-by, both good souls, also had an uncaring neighbor. He refused to take down a huge tree leaning precariously over their house. It was mostly on his side, but if it fell, it would have destroyed their home.

Lucien: He refused because there is no legal requirement to take down a living tree, even if presents a danger to someone, right?

Neel: Right. But even when the couple offered to arrange and pay for this, he rebuffed their offer.

Jaylen: Why? Was it a special tree?

Monisha: No. He didn't really care for that tree. He just didn't want to be inconvenienced by having tree cutters on his property.

Maya: Even though it would prevent extensive damage to his neighbors' home? And save them from anxiety?

Neel: It wasn't merely a question of property damage. The way the tree was leaning, it would have hit their bedroom if it fell. They feared for their lives. And they had told the neighbor so.

Jaylen: And still he didn't care.

Monisha (nodding): We understood that during thunderstorms the couple slept in the guest room on the other side of the house

out of precaution. But they couldn't get much sleep there because of the other neighbor's constantly barking dogs.

Raina: Another uncaring neighbor. How sad. What did you do?

Neel: There was a thunderstorm one night soon with strong, gusty winds, and the tree was about to fall on this couple's home. We made it fall instead onto the property of the tree owner.

Monisha: Not on his house. Just on his lawn.

Maya: You saved the couple!

Lucien: How wonderful. A great example of how we can help good souls on earth unconnected with us.

Jaylen: And the neighbor? I assume he will experience the couple's stress and anxiety in his life review.

Neel: And also an alternate scenario where they might have been severely injured or killed because the tree fell on their house. It'll be grueling because he'll have to experience all of this.

Raina: Well, he needs it. How callous people can be about the welfare of others. This will help him learn to be a better person.

Monisha: He'll also have to go back to earth to put the lessons into practice.

Jaylen and Maya (together): As many times as it takes to get it right.

The others laugh heartily at their synchronicity.

Kiara: Yes, he will. Reincarnation is not punishment, but a way to deeply and fully learn life lessons. Any other questions?

Raina: Do souls from other levels ever come here?

Anita: Yes, but just briefly. Souls from lower levels may want to explore, and so they come up in settings that are designated as public spaces by some spirits here.

Ray: But they feel uncomfortable with the higher frequencies of our beings, and return quickly to where they were.

Ooma: When they grow through life reviews and advance by helping those on earth, they can move here comfortably.

Ari: Souls in the level immediately above ours come down to our level and lower levels too, to help with life reviews.

Maya: Do spirits, or angels, at our level help souls in lower levels with their life reviews?

Ethan: They can. But typically they don't.

Lucien: Do souls in our level go to other levels at all?

Kiara: Some do, but they're uncomfortable in other levels and usually return quickly.

Neel: The lower levels are oppressive and feel negative to the spirits here, so they come back. There is not much light there, nor beauty, nor peace.

Monisha: The reason is that even though God is inside everyone, the souls in lower levels are not in touch with their divine aspect. The very lowest levels have souls struggling with horrendous life reviews that play back all the evil they did to others on earth.

Kiara: Other souls there may not even realize they have died. Some of these may be lost souls; others may have suffered a sudden death and had no soul mate angels to help them.

Ethan: But beings of light from the level above ours eventually get through to the latter set. And then those souls can advance.

Jaylen: Does anyone go to higher levels from here?

Ray: To experiment, yes. But the higher frequencies there make us come back. Very few go there to stay. Only those who are ready to love *everyone* as dearly as they do their own soul mates.

Anita: Of these, those that help with life reviews are in the level above ours. The next higher level, which is the highest one, has souls that are ready to merge with God. They don't have a unique visual presence, but appear as spheres of very bright light.

Ooma: Once they merge with God, they cannot come to lower levels, even to help anyone. So there are not many who aspire to reach that level. Only those who have already helped all they can.

Ari: The vast majority of advanced spirits are at our level because they want to continue to be deeply connected with their own soul mates. And we can help deserving people on earth from here too.

Maya: It seems like the ideal level.

Monisha: Yes. Most spirits, even high-level ones, don't find it easy or desirable to love others, but especially evil people, as much as they love their own soul mates.

The four nod as they quietly reflect on this.

Jaylen: It seems strange that souls in the highest level don't have distinctive physical appearances.

Neel: That's because they have gone beyond interacting with anyone. They love everyone equally and spread love uniformly.

Ooma: Spirits in the level above us also love everyone equally, but they do interact with others when they monitor life reviews. This is why they still appear in a visual form, as beings of light.

Ari: But spirits in our level very much want to interact with our soul mates. So we have unique human appearances.

Kiara: This way we can express our love to each other through our eyes and expressions, and with hugs and kisses.

Ethan: Even though we're made of consciousness and energy.

Maya: I'm glad we're at this level.

Raina: Yes. I love the visual and sensory aspects of our beings.

Lucien and Jaylen enthusiastically agree.

Lucien: Thanks to all of you for this enlightening information.

The other soul mate angels smile as they fade out.



## EXTERIOR: EXQUISITE OCEAN (MUCH LATER)

The ocean is sparkling, with a green-blue color and huge waves with whitecaps. There are pelicans and cormorants diving for fish. The loud sound of the surf is soothing. The four float above the ocean and finally sit in a circle in mid-air above it.

Raina: Isn't it breathtaking when we all create a setting together?

Maya: Yes. I love it!

Everyone sits quietly for a while, peacefully soaking in the beauty of the scene.

Raina: Well, we've tried hard for a long time, and in many ways. But we just haven't been able to get through to Nina.

Lucien: I even found it impossible to give her a dream visitation.

Maya: We couldn't make her think about having a baby either.

Jaylen: Interestingly, we got through to Vik about it. (Laughing) Of course, he thinks it was *his* idea.

Raina: But the important thing is that Nina is now open to the idea of having a baby.

Lucien: So, we should plan out a possible incarnation.

Raina: We've agreed that you and I will be the parents again.

Maya: But I'd like to be the older child this time, so I can help take care of Jaylen.

Jaylen: That's fine with me.

Raina: But what if Lucien and I don't meet?

Jaylen: Then Maya and I would have to decide who each of us would go to.

Maya: Or, we may not go at all.

Lucien: If there's a huge chance Raina and I won't meet, we shouldn't go back.

Raina: Agreed.

Jaylen: If we do go, what should we do there? Lucien's primary purpose will be to help Nina, and also to make Lina and Sid happy. Our main purpose will be to keep the four of us together.

Maya: But what else should we do while we're on earth? What should be our secondary soul purpose?

Jaylen: Definitely not business. Even if we do everything honestly, we may become too focused on money.

Maya: Not politics either. We may be constantly thwarted by misguided opponents who hold back societal advancement.

Raina: I don't think we want to be teachers in school or college. We've all played such roles before and realized that you can teach *only* the very few who truly want to learn.

Lucien: In our last incarnation, I had forgotten that my secondary soul purpose was to help the disadvantaged all over the world.

Maya: But even though you worked as a computer tech, you volunteered to help the hungry. So you did help the disadvantaged.

Lucien: But it was not on the scale that I had planned. I would have to program it more deeply in my mind. I know I won't forget that I'm there to make Nina and my parents happy. (Smiling at Raina) And to find you.

Raina: I won't forget either that I have to find you. But as for my other purpose, last time, my plan had been to write engaging fiction to teach people important lessons for soul advancement.

Maya: Well, you did write engaging fiction, and you did try to teach children to be good.

Raina: I think I made a start toward teaching people by writing for children. But it was not at the same level as writing for adults, to help them learn important lessons.

Jaylen: But what would you do to remember that this time?

Raina: I'm not sure. I had programmed this goal deeply last time but it didn't fully work. I guess I could program it more simply this time as "write about heaven."

Maya: But that might get mistranslated as writing about astronomy.

Raina: Yes, I see that it could. Of course, that's not so bad. But not as good as teaching lessons about soul growth.

Jaylen: What lessons in particular would you want to teach? How would you remember life reviews and soul mate groups?

Raina: You're right. I should think of a new secondary plan.

Lucien: I remember you were so excited about working more for the U.N. in our last life, but we didn't get a chance.

Raina: Exactly. I'll have the same goal as you. Work with the U.N. to help the disadvantaged all over the world.

Lucien: Terrific! We can work together.

Raina: And we can also help charities outside the U.N., such as those that help the blind, or other handicapped people.

Lucien: That may be particularly good for you. You could work on short-term projects with the U.N. and with other charities.

Raina: This way I could be with the children when they're little.

Lucien (to Jaylen and Maya): What about you both?

Jaylen: We had planned to be environmentalists last time. We could do the same, I suppose. The earth needs a lot of help.

Raina: But many are doing that already. Also, one cannot reach hard-core polluters, so it may be frustrating.

Maya: What about scientists who study the natural world to increase our knowledge?

Lucien: It sounds good on the face of it, but there are serious problems. For example, capturing and tagging creatures—deer, turtles, birds, butterflies—causes trauma to innocent creatures.

Raina: The information gained on migration patterns is simply not worth it.

Jaylen: Others do studies such as removing bird nests to see how the birds react. They care little about the confusion and distress they are causing to these creatures.

Maya: All such researchers seem to lack empathy.

Raina: If you want to be a scientist who does no harm, consider something like astronomy.

Lucien: But without being involved in space missions. That's a lot of money wasted to do things we can do easily as angels. We can go to any planet instantaneously if we wish. Space science is exciting to people but it hasn't moved humanity forward.

Jaylen: Also, many scientists tend to be reductionists, not believing in anything beyond the physical.

Maya: I never want to forget the truth about the wondrous spirit dimension.

Jaylen: Or that our goal should be to help people.

Maya: And we can do that through the U.N. or other charitable organizations.

Raina: It seems all of us can have the same secondary plan this time around.

Lucien: That should make it easier, especially for you two.

Jaylen: You both will be role models for us, so we won't forget.

### EXTERIOR: BRILLIANT RAINBOW (CONTINUOUS)

The scene is the same, but a huge, brilliant rainbow has appeared over the entire ocean. The colors are far brighter than seen on earth and there is a sparkle to them as well.

Raina: Maya, did you make this? It's gorgeous!

Maya (smiling): I thought we should have a rainbow, but no rain.

Everyone gazes happily at the rainbow and the ocean scene.

Lucien: Well, I guess we have a plan. Assuming that Nina decides to have a baby, of course. So, how would the next life start?

Raina: You and I have to go first, of course.

Lucien: Okay, so I will go to Nina as her son. Sid and Lina would now be my grandparents. I'll be with my soul mates.

Raina: It will be wonderful for them and for you. But what if we hadn't died? Who would have gone as Nina's baby?

Lucien: You're right. There must be someone else planning to go. I'll ask my grandparents.

As soon as he thinks of them, Ari and Ooma show up. They clearly love the beautiful setting. The four float down to them.

Lucien: Did you hear the whole conversation?

Ooma (laughing): No, we just knew you were thinking of us.

Ari: But we also understand what you wanted to ask of us.

Maya: Amazing! Telepathic comprehension from a distance!

Jaylen: Well, can Lucien go to Nina?

Ari: Yes, he can. Rita, the soul who had originally planned to come as Nina and Dhruv's child has already gone to Dhruv. It wasn't clear if Nina would ever marry.

Ooma: You remember we told you that Nina and Dhruv had planned to meet and marry?

Raina: Of course. And it was Nina's main reason for going back.

Ari: But it didn't happen. This is why Nina kept feeling she had not met the right person. Dhruv too felt that way but he got married before she did.

Lucien: Thank you both.

Ari and Ooma smile, wave, and slowly disappear.

The four angels float up again and sit in mid-air above the ocean.

Raina: But who would *I* go to? All my soul mates are in the spirit world. Perhaps I should ask my parents for advice.

Monisha and Neel show up at once and stand on the ocean surface, enchanted at the view.

Neel (smiling): You rang?

Everyone laughs as Raina floats down, and hugs Neel and Monisha warmly. Then the three of them float up and join the circle.

Monisha and Neel seem to know why Raina thought of them.

Neel: We would need to find a good family you could go to.

Raina: Perhaps one where there are already many children. This way I would not usurp anyone's place.

Monisha: That's thoughtful, Raina. And they should be located fairly close to Lucien's family, so you two have a good chance to meet.

Neel: You could plan to meet in college. And there's only one large university, Eleanor Roosevelt.

Lucien: It would be easy for me. Everyone in my family went to college, so I would too. And I would want to be close to my family, so I would choose Eleanor Roosevelt.



Maya: Jaylen and I will help them meet at the university. Actually, that's what we had planned in the last life, but it didn't work.

Jaylen: I think this time it will. I can just see it. They'll often go to the cafeteria at the same time, but never meet. We'll arrange it so that one day there's only one slice of apple pie left.

Maya (laughing): And we'll give them both a craving for apple pie at the same time.

Jaylen: So they'll decide to share the slice.

Maya: And fall head over heels like they did last time.

Everyone laughs. Lucien and Raina hug.

Maya: Wait a bit! What if the only family that meets Raina's criteria is a rural one, where no one has gone to college? How will she end up in college?

Neel: She would have to program going to college in her mind. And convince her parents that this is what she wants to do.

Monisha: And also program going to a university close to home. It won't be easy.

Raina: It would be terrible if I didn't meet Lucien.

Lucien: If that's likely, we just won't go.

Maya: But who would go as Nina's baby?

Neel: There's a soul mate of Vik's who is willing to go, so it'll be okay.

Raina: Thank you, my dears. We'll think about all this some more.

Monisha and Neel hug her, wave to the others, and fade out.

### EXTERIOR: GIGANTIC WATERFALL (CONTINUOUS)

The setting has changed dramatically. There is an imposing cliff with a huge waterfall into the river below. The colors of the cliff and the banks of the river are brilliant. The waterfall's loud roar sounds exciting and yet soothing.

Maya: Raina, did you create this scene?

Raina: Yes. Do you...

The other three: ...we love it!

Raina laughs happily. The others do, too.

They sit on the riverbank near the waterfall.

Lucien: Okay, let's play out a possible scenario. I'll be born as Nina's son. What then?

Raina: You'll be very much loved. Nina will sense the soul connection.

Jaylen: But perhaps your father-to-be, Vik, will be a bit distant. He's not your soul mate.

Maya: Besides, he adores Nina and may resent her constant attention to the baby.

Raina: But Lina and Sid, who'll now be your grandparents, will dote on you.

Lucien: Would they ever suspect I'm their beloved son Lucien?

Raina: I think you'll retain some of your mannerisms and behavior. And the family will say fondly, "He's just like his Uncle Lucien!"

Lucien: But they won't know it's me.

Jaylen: They wouldn't dream of it. They've never thought deeply about reincarnation in this life. They'd just think the similarities are genetic.

Raina: You'll not only make the three of them happy, you'll be moved by the plight of the disadvantaged, even as a child.

Maya: Jaylen and I will help you in your progress if we can.

Jaylen: You'll write a column in the high school newsletter about problems people face all over the world. You'll decide to help the disadvantaged in any way you can.

Lucien smiles as he thinks about all this, but then he frowns.

Lucien: What about Raina?

Jaylen: It's possible she won't have such a good childhood.

Maya: Being the last in a large brood and no soul mate in the family...

Raina: That would be so different from the deep love I had from my parents and grandparents in my last life. I wonder how I'll cope with it.

Lucien: I don't like the thought of your having an unhappy childhood. We don't need to go back.

Raina: But your plan would be so straightforward. Let's think some more about mine.

Lucien: Hey! I just thought of something. When we get married, I bet Nina will give us the yellow cottage as a wedding present. After all, she and Vik have their own house.

Raina: What a lovely thought. I'd be back taking care of my own beautiful garden!

Jaylen: And when Maya and I come to you, we'll be back in our bedrooms!

Maya: And Raina's books will still be on the bookcase they're on now. We'll read them and love them all over again!

Everyone laughs and hugs, greatly tickled by these wonderful possibilities.

Jaylen: I just thought of something. In our last life, Maya and I were supposed to marry our soul mates Kai and Anjali. But they're already on earth as children.

Maya: They didn't even need to go back. They went to people who were not soul mates just to connect with us later.

Jaylen: I remember our searching for loving homes for them, when it was getting time for me to come to you as your son.

Raina: And did you find good homes for them?

Jaylen: Yes. We found two caring families fairly easily, so it all worked out.

Maya: We even made plans about how we would meet. But now we can't connect with them.

Jaylen: Even if we go back, they'll be too old for us to marry.

Maya (laughing): They'll even be older than Lucien and Raina.

Lucien: They will have to marry someone else. Not soul mates.

Raina: That's sad. (Pause) Unless our soul mates, who will stay back in heaven, can get them to meet and marry each other.

Maya: That's a wonderful idea!

### EXTERIOR: DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE (CONTINUOUS)

The four float up and sit in mid-air above the huge waterfall. It is a very different perspective, but just as beautiful and soothing.

Maya: What about Ethan? He had planned to come as my son. And Kiara? She had planned to come as Jaylen's daughter. Would they be willing to incarnate now if we return to earth?

Immediately Kiara and Ethan show up. There is much hugging and laughter, and obvious admiration for the beautiful scene.

Ethan: We heard what you asked and we have a possible solution.

Jaylen: I love this atemporal aspect of heaven!

Maya: Me, too. You thought of a solution and it seems instantaneous.

Kiara (laughing): Even though we gave it a lot of thought.

Ethan: We could be born to your originally planned soul mate spouses, Anjali and Kai, when they grow up.

Kiara: If they marry each other as you envision, Ethan and I would be brother and sister. If not, I could go as Anjali's daughter and Ethan as Kai's son.

Ethan: And in either case, when we grow up, I could marry Maya and Kiara could marry Jaylen.

Kiara: Of course, this will work only if Lucien and Raina go fairly soon. That way, they would be in the same generation as Kai and Anjali, even if a few years younger.

Ethan: And the four of us (Jaylen, Maya, Kiara, and me) can be born within a short span of one another.

Jaylen: What a great idea!

Maya: I love it!

Kiara: This way, all four of us will be born to soul mate parents and will marry soul mate spouses.

Jaylen: But who will come as our children?

Ethan: None of our other soul mates in heaven want to incarnate any more.

Jaylen: Well, as this would be our last incarnation, we could simply plan not to have children and dedicate our lives to helping the disadvantaged.

Maya: That's perfect! We'll program that before we go.

Everyone smiles, showing approval for this idea.

Ethan and Kiara wave and fade out.

Lucien: How should we coordinate our births?

Raina: If Nina gets pregnant, you can go to her at once. Then the rest of us will scout around for an appropriate home for me.

Lucien: But what if you can't find one?

Raina: Then I'll just go to anyone nearby, so you and I can meet.

Lucien: No, I don't like this plan. Your life needs better planning.

Maya: Why don't we look right now for a good home for Raina?

Lucien: But even if we find one, you shouldn't go unless Nina gets pregnant. After all, that is the *only* reason we would go back.

Raina: Agreed. Let's see what's available for me.

Raina and Lucien close their eyes and concentrate.

Lucien: There are three possibilities. Three women have recently become pregnant close enough to Eleanor Roosevelt University.

Raina: And no soul mates are ready to go to any of them.

Maya: How can that be?

Lucien: Maybe they didn't make plans for it...

Raina: ... or those soul mates changed their minds.

Jaylen: The good thing is we have three choices!

Raina: But how much earth time do we have to decide?

Maya: Well, spirits don't enter the fetus until about four months.

Lucien: Most people on earth don't know this.

Jaylen: And even after they enter the fetus, many go in and out for a while because they miss the freedom of the spirit world.

Maya: A few change their minds about incarnating, and return to heaven. And that results in a spontaneous miscarriage.



Raina: It's sad for the parents. Most don't understand that the spirit wanted to leave, and so it was for the best.

Lucien: True. (Pause) Well, given that we operate in an atemporal world, we have enough time to figure this out.

Raina: And even considering earth time, it is enough.

Lucien: Let's go ahead and check out the three choices.

They all hold hands and close their eyes.

#### EXTERIOR: SUBURBAN NEIGHBORHOOD (CONTINUOUS)

A suburban neighborhood, with newly planted, tiny trees. The camera zooms in on an attractive house, with a well-kept yard.

#### INTERIOR: PLAYROOM ABOVE GARAGE (CONTINUOUS)

Two boys and a girl are in the spacious playroom above the garage. The boys look about 9 and 7 years old. The girl looks about 5. Toys clutter the entire floor. The four angels fade in.

The older boy yanks the girl's braid hard and she screams. A woman's voice calls out from below to the boy to behave. He answers back rudely. The girl pushes the boy in retaliation and he in turn pushes her roughly and she falls down. She starts crying loudly, but no adult shows up. The other boy ignores all this. Then the two boys start to fight over a smart toy and end up on the floor, hitting each other. We hear the woman, presumably the mother, talking animatedly on the phone on the lower floor.

Woman's voice: Sure. We'd love to go with you guys for a movie tonight. I just have to find a babysitter. (Pause) Well, if I don't, I'll just drop off the children at my mother's. She's never willing to come over and babysit because she says she likes her peace. But she won't say no, if we simply take the children to her house and drop them off. (Laughing) They will liven up her evening I'm sure.

The four spirits exchange glances, roll their eyes, and disappear.

### EXTERIOR: DOWNTOWN (CONTINUOUS)

A residential area in the heart of downtown. The camera zooms in on a pale green townhouse, with brown shuttered windows.

### INTERIOR: KITCHEN (CONTINUOUS)

It is a modern-looking kitchen. The four angels slowly appear.

A woman is cooking a meal. A man walks in, looks at her coldly, and leaves. We hear a door slam and a moment later the roar of a loud car as it speeds off.

The woman starts crying.

The four spirits shake their heads sadly, and fade out.

### EXTERIOR: RURAL LANDSCAPE (CONTINUOUS)

Many farms adjoin each other. The camera zooms in on a particular farm, which has fields, a farmhouse, and a barn. It then zooms in on the farmhouse, which has a bright red, metal roof.

## INTERIOR: LIVING ROOM (CONTINUOUS)

It is an old-fashioned living room, compact and cluttered with a lot of homemade furniture. The four angels slowly materialize.

The family of six is packed into the tiny room. The television is on. The father is sitting on a worn recliner. The mother and the two older children are crowded on a small sofa. All four are engrossed in the television program, a crass comedy.

Two little children are sitting on the carpet, staring blankly at the television. The little boy asks the father a question. The father brusquely tells him to be quiet. The boy looks sad.

The little girl gets up and tries to hug the mother. The mother pats her without looking at her, then gently pushes her away, staring at the television all the time. The child looks troubled, sits quietly on the carpet, and starts sucking her thumb.

The four spirits sigh and slowly fade from the scene.

## EXTERIOR: GARDEN SCENE (CONTINUOUS)

The four angels are in a garden in the spirit world, except that it is *not* colorful and luminous. Instead, the colors are muted and the effect is rather dull. The four look unhappy.

Lucien (firmly): You're *not* going to any of these families.

Maya: No, please don't, Raina. It would be too horrible.

Jaylen: Maya and I may not even be able to keep you safe.

Raina: I agree with all of you. Please don't be anxious for me.

The three look relieved.

Raina: Let's stop worrying about it and correct our setting.

The other three look at the scene and are surprised by the lackluster surroundings, clearly reflecting their emotions.

All four hold hands and close their eyes.

The scene changes dramatically, to brilliantly colored flowers and luminous trees. The four open their eyes and smile.

Raina: Keep in mind that if none of us go, Nina's baby will be Vik's soul mate. It is possible Nina may still be unhappy.

Lucien: That would be sad. But we shouldn't risk your going to an unhappy childhood and maybe even an unsafe one.

Jaylen and Maya nod firmly in assent.

Raina: We can look for more prospects in a month or so of earth time. Perhaps it'll work out.

Lucien: Maybe, maybe not.

Suddenly, Ari and Ooma fade in.

The four angels are happy to see them, but a bit surprised.

Ari: We've come to share some shocking news.

Ooma: Nina has stage 4 cancer.

Lucien: That's terrible! How did this happen?

Ari: Her constant sadness for many years at not finding the right person laid the groundwork for it.

Ooma: And her deep grieving after all of you were hit by the trucker made her even more prone to cancer.

Raina: But she knew from Lucien's dream visitation to Lina that we were all okay.

Ari: True. But she missed all of you terribly.

Ooma: And even though she is grateful that Vik loves her so much, she knows at some level that he is not her soul mate.

Ari: Nina does not want therapy as it is often useless at this stage.

Ooma: Vik is devastated and so are Lina and Sid.

Ari: But Nina is very brave about it.

Ooma: She is focused on what she needs to do before she leaves.

Ari: Needless to say, their plans for a baby are off. Nina has anywhere from a few months to a year left on earth.

Everyone is quiet for a moment.

Lucien: We appreciate your watching over Nina and my parents and for letting us know this tragic turn of events.

Ari and Ooma nod and fade out.

Raina, Jaylen, and Maya hug Lucien warmly. He hugs them back, with equal feeling. All are silent for a while.

Lucien: Well, with this sad news, our plans for a last incarnation are also off. No need to try other prospects for you.

Raina: True. But we can help Nina in every possible way.

Lucien: Yes. We'll watch over her and make her comfortable. In fact, I will try to give her a dream visitation again.

The four close their eyes, holding hands.

### INTERIOR: NINA AND VIK'S BEDROOM (NIGHT)

The bedroom is dark. Nina and Vik are fast asleep.

The four angels fade in.

Lucien stands at the foot of the bed, with his eyes closed, concentrating.

The other three wait silently.

IT BECOMES TOTALLY DARK. THEN, LUCIEN APPEARS, FULL FIGURE AND GLOWING WITH LIGHT.

Lucien: Everything will be okay. We're watching over you.

### INTERIOR: NINA AND VIK'S BEDROOM (DAWN)

Nina and Vik are asleep. Nina slowly wakes up. She looks content. She then peers at Vik, but seems unsure whether to wake him.

### INTERIOR: SID AND LINA'S LIVING ROOM (LATE MORNING)

Sid, Lina, and Nina are sitting on the sofa. With her parents hugging her from both sides, Nina looks peaceful.

Lina: How nice that Lucien came to you in your dream, Nina.

Nina: Thanks, Mom. I'm so relieved.

Sid: I'm glad they'll watch over you, dear. But your mother and I will still be very sad when you go.

Nina: I know, Dad. (Putting her head on his shoulder, and patting his arm) But it'll be okay.

Lina: How did Vik react?

Nina: He doesn't believe it really happened. He thinks it was just a dream.

Sid: But I felt that way too when Lucien came to your Mom.

Lina: But you *did* believe it that same morning, dear.

Nina: Vik is too rational, too closed-minded, to accept that spirit phenomena are real.

## EXTERIOR: EXQUISITE RIVER SCENE (CONTINUOUS)

The four angels are floating in the air near a majestic, sparkling river bordered by green, grassy banks. They are quietly admiring the view. They then drift down and sit on the grassy banks.

Raina: I'm so glad you got through to Nina.

Lucien (suddenly sad): I should have tried harder earlier. So she wouldn't have become terminally ill.

Raina: Please don't blame yourself. You tried very hard earlier. She just wasn't open then because of her intense grief.

Maya: Besides, she was depressed for many years, not having found Dhruv.

Jaylen: That was the basis for her illness.

Lucien: How is it that I got through fairly easily now?

Raina: I think she is somewhat relieved to know she will leave the earth fairly soon.

Maya: And that has made her more relaxed and open.

Lucien: Yes. That's probably what happened.

## EXTERIOR: OCEAN BLUFFS (SOME TIME LATER)

Steep, sharply defined cliffs adjoin a dark blue ocean. The white waves are energetic, and the surf crashes loudly on the huge rocks at the bottom of the bluffs. It is a magnificent scene.



Lucien: How wonderful that Nina gave our cottage to my parents.

Raina: And how perfect that they've donated the house as well as our money to deserving charities already.

Maya: It was so good of Nina, while she still had some energy, to research and make a list of worthy charities worldwide.

Jaylen: She found charities for the hungry, the blind, the handicapped, and the disadvantaged.

Raina: Our money is doing exactly what we would have wanted to do, thanks to Nina's thoughtfulness.

Lucien: Yes. She remembered what we shared with her about our plans to work for the U.N., and acted accordingly.

**A succession of shots:** Nina is in bed. It seems she is now bed-ridden. But she seems to be comfortable, not suffering. Lina and Sid are around to help with her care. Vik helps too.

#### **INTERIOR: NINA'S BEDROOM (NIGHT, A FEW MONTHS LATER)**

It is the guest bedroom in their house, converted for Nina's hospice care. The room is simple and uncluttered, with a comfortable-looking bed. There are hookups for medicines providing palliative care and a small day bed on the side for anyone spending the night there to help Nina.

Nina is in bed. Her eyes are closed. She looks extremely weak and exhausted. Lina, Sid, and Vik are sitting in chairs close to her bed. Suddenly, Nina opens her eyes and looks exhilarated.

Nina: It's Lucien! He's here. Do you see him, Mom? Do you hear the angelic music, Dad? Oh, what a brilliant light!

Then she closes her eyes and her head falls to the side, on the pillow. Sid checks Nina's breath and shakes his head. Lina hugs her and sobs quietly. Vik looks agitated and picks up the phone.

Sid (his voice breaking): She's gone, Vik. Please don't rush to call for medical help. They can't do anything.

Vik throws the phone down and storms out of the room.

Sid puts his arm around Lina. She stands up, hugs him, and smiles wanly through her tears.

Lina (wiping her eyes): I'm so grateful Lucien came for her.

Sid: I am, too. We know now she is in good hands.

Lina: How wonderful that she saw brilliant light...

Sid: ... and heard angelic music.

Vik (walking back in): How can you believe such nonsense? Don't you know she was rambling?

Lina: She was perfectly lucid. And it really happened.

Vik is about to say something, but Sid cuts him off.

Sid: Please let us not argue at such a moment. Let us be peaceful, quiet, and respectful.

Vik keeps silent and sits down. He then covers his face with his hands and sobs violently. Lina goes to him and strokes his hair.

### EXTERIOR: SHIMMERING LAKE (SOME TIME LATER)

A sparkling lake, with colorful wildflowers on its banks. The four angels and Nina are sitting in mid-air above the lake. Nina looks strong and healthy, as she did when Jaylen and Maya were little.

Jaylen: This is great, Nina. You've created a beautiful setting.

Maya: You seem totally comfortable here now.

Nina: I am. I'm so happy to be with all of you.

Raina: It's lovely to have you here. But it's so sad for Sid and Lina. And Vik, of course.

Nina: As I told Lucien when he helped me cross over, I was determined to help all of them cope. And of course, the four of you are helping Mom and Dad as well.

Lucien: Yes, and we'll do more. (Pause) Any progress with Vik?

Nina: No. I can't get through to him, no matter how hard I've tried, not even in a dream. He's so closed, like I was for a while.

Raina: Have you looked in on Dhruv?

Nina: Yes. I'm watching over him and Rita, and also Dhruv's wife. And her angels are also watching over Dhruv and Rita.

Lucien: We'll help you watch over them.

Nina: Thank you. I'd like that.

Raina: Of course. They're our soul mates, too.

Nina: Yes, I know.

Ari, Ooma, and another spirit suddenly appear.

Ari: This is Soren. He's a soul mate of Vik's.

Ooma: He has something to share with Nina.

Nina looks at him expectantly.

Soren (quietly): Vik's here, in heaven.

Nina: Oh! What happened?

Soren: He had a massive heart attack. He couldn't handle his terrible grief.

Nina (sincerely): I'm so sorry. I tried very hard to help him.

Soren: We know.

Lucien: Are my parents okay?

Ooma: They're fine.

Ari: We've been watching over them, while you're catching up with Nina.

Lucien: Thank you.

Nina: I'm so glad they're okay. (To Soren) And Vik?

Soren: He's fine now. He realizes he was wrong about spirit communications. He saw in his life review how much he hurt you and your parents when he refused to realize this.

Nina: I'm glad he understands. It's part of his growth.

Soren: He also knows now that you and he are not soul mates. He never met the soul mate he was supposed to marry. She is still on earth, close to him in age. She is married, reasonably happy, and has a large family. You reminded him of her at some level and that's why he fell in love with you. He knows now that you were never in love with him.

Nina: No, I never fell in love in my recent life. But I did love Vik for loving me so much. That's why I agreed to marry him.

Soren: Yes, he understands that now.

Nina: Does he want to see me?

Soren looks uncomfortable.

Ooma: Actually, he does not. Is that okay with you?

Nina (relieved): Yes, of course.

Ari: He is busy watching over his soul mate on earth and reconnecting with his soul mates here.

Soren: He sends his apologies for the hurt he caused you, and also sends you his good wishes.

Nina: Thank you for conveying all this.

Soren nods and fades out.

Nina: What a relief!

Raina (hugging her): Yes, indeed.

Nina (to Ari and Ooma): Thank you both for arranging this.

Lucien: And for watching over Mom and Dad.

Ari: Our pleasure.

Ooma: And we'll keep watching over them, so the five of you can spend some more time together.

Nina: Thanks so much!

Ari: Just so you know, any time we're all here together, if something distressing is about to happen to our soul mates on earth, we know at once and can go to them instantaneously.

Ooma: That's how we came to help you during the crash.

Lucien: I understand. (Pause) But it's nice to look in on them too, and help make them peaceful when we can.

Ari and Ooma nod and smile, as they disappear.

Lucien: Shall we go check on Mom and Dad?

Nina: Sure. But I want to share something else first. I understand Dhruv's wife may continue her connection with him and Rita in the spirit world.

Maya: Really? Will she become a soul mate angel to all of us?

Nina: No. She has her own group of soul mate angels. But depending on how strong a love connection is made on earth between people who are not soul mates, the connection can continue, if both parties wish it.

Lucien: Kind of like close friends who love each other?

Nina: Yes. Something like that. The same thing will apply to Rita's spouse-to-be and children-to-be.

Jaylen: And to Anjali and Kai's connections?

Raina: If we can get the two of them to meet and marry, they will at least have soul mate spouses. As for their parents, siblings, and children, none of them will be their soul mates.

Lucien: So they will have to decide in each case, whether the love was strong enough to continue the connection at some level?

Nina: Exactly. In some cases, as in mine and Vik's, they may not continue the connection at all.

Maya: It's a good arrangement, isn't it?

Nina (smiling): Yes. (Pause) Come on, let's go check on Mom and Dad. And then look in on Dhruv, Rita, Anjali, and Kai.

The five angels hold hands, close their eyes, and fade out.

### EXTERIOR: PURPLE MOUNTAIN TOPS (A WHILE LATER)

The purple hued mountains are majestic. The sky is bright blue. All the soul mate angels are floating in the sky above the stunning, gleaming peaks. Everyone looks happy and peaceful.

Monisha: It's such a relief that the four of you are not going back.

Raina: We're thrilled about it, too.

Lucien: It's wonderful to stay in heaven together.

Maya: And with all of you. (Laughing) It's "heavenly"!

Jaylen: Besides, our money is doing much good for the needy.

Raina: Nina's thoughtfulness ensured that we are funding all the deserving causes we wanted to help as our secondary purpose.

Nina: I'm glad it all worked out, my dears.

Ari: It's also great that the five of you are using your time here so well. I'm referring to the signs you've given to Sid and Lina.

Maya: They were delighted when we made our photo near their bed glow in the dark. They went instantly from tears to bliss.



Jaylen: And earlier, when they were sad, we made sunlight stream in on them, and they became peaceful at once.

Raina: I'm also grateful they understood all the signs we gave them through butterflies, birds, and other wildlife.

Nina: They realized we were near them and saying hello.

Lucien: And best of all was each time they sensed our hugs as they were falling asleep. They felt deeply loved by us.

Ooma: All of you have done very well in helping them heal.

Lucien: And do you like our plans for my parents when it's their time to cross over?

Nina: Lucien and I will appear in a death-bed vision to Mom, who as we know is supposed to leave earth first.

Raina: And Lina will share the vision with Sid, so he'll know that they both helped her cross over, and that will ease his grief.

Lucien: And when it's Dad's time to come here, Mom will give him a death-bed vision and help him across.

Ari: Your plan is perfect.

Jaylen: Of course, until then we'll keep watching over them. And we'll also take care of Anjali, Kai, Dhruv, and Rita.

Maya: Later, we'll try to get Kai and Anjali to meet and marry.

Raina: And as all of you do, we'll help other deserving souls on earth who don't have soul mate angels watching over them.

Maya: In between, we'll delight in the charms of the spirit world.

Jaylen: Make beautiful, breathtaking settings.

Lucien: Explore the universe and our capabilities as angels.

Raina: And just enjoy being with each other and with all of you.

The rest of the soul mates listen to all this and smile. Everyone looks joyful as they continue to float over the mountain tops.

FADE OUT

### About the Author

**Dr. Pratibha A. Dabholkar** (Ph.D., Georgia State University), emerita professor, University of Tennessee, has made a deep study of spiritually transformative experiences (such as ADCs, NDEs, and DBVs). She writes and teaches about these subjects and related issues to inform and enlighten people. She also writes fiction books to help readers comprehend these important phenomena through engaging stories. In addition, Dr. Dabholkar uses her learning in these areas as a lens to evaluate selected classic and modern films on angels, heaven, and associated subjects. See [www.love-and-learning.info](http://www.love-and-learning.info) for more information on the author, her inspiration, and her work.

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