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## Mother's Sweet Surprise

**She never expected to find the treasure buried beneath her backyard.** It was a Sunday morning when Elsa found a wooden box buried in her backyard while digging a hole to plant some marigold flowers on her mother's death anniversary. The box had some gold coins and a letter from her mother saying that she hid the money because she was afraid that if Elsa found them before her death, she would have wasted them for her mother's treatment, which her mother wanted to use to repay the debt Elsa took to publish the song she wrote. The letter made Elsa's eyes wet, and she decided to visit her mother at her grave with some marigold flowers.

After visiting the graveyard, Elsa noticed that the weather was getting darker, and it was better for her to stop somewhere before it started raining, so she went inside a cave near the graveyard. From the cave, Elsa saw an old man coming toward her mother's graveyard. **As the storm raged on, he huddled inside the cave, trying to stay warm.** Elsa approached him to ask how he knew her mother. When the old man heard that Elsa was Jenny's daughter, he couldn't control his tears. He told Elsa that his name was Jim and that he and Jenny studied together in high school and were very good friends since childhood when he had to leave his studies to look after his younger brothers and sisters after their father's death.

The weather was getting better, and they decided to go hiking to the top of the mountain. **The sun was setting as they reached the top of the mountain, exhausted but exhilarated.** After they descended the mountain, old Jim invited Elsa to his house later that evening to meet his wife and have dinner together. While Elsa was on her way to Jim's house, memorizing her mother, she heard the radio. **She couldn't believe it when she heard her song on the radio for the first time.** Her mother's last wish got fulfilled on her death anniversary. Nothing could have made her mother happier than her daughter's song playing on the radio. On the other hand, Jim was eager to surprise Elsa with all the belongings he had kept of her from her very childhood.

It had gotten late, and Elsa hadn't shown up yet. Jim's wife asked him not to wait anymore, as if she was coming, then she would have arrived by now, and it was already two hours past the time Jim gave Elsa for dinner. **He nervously checked his watch, hoping that she would arrive soon.** He thought that she must be facing difficulty in reaching his home, so he decided to go out looking for her when he heard the doorbell. It was Elsa, who looked way happier than she was a couple of hours before. She told Jim about her song getting released. **The old man smiled and handed her a key, saying it was the answer to all her questions.** The key was to the box in which Jim kept all the belongings and memories of Elsa's mother when she was young.

When Elsa opened the box, it had letters from her mother which she sent to Jim, in which she told about her husband's early death and about Elsa. With Jim and Elsa having tears in their eyes, they sat at the dining table for dinner. Elsa realized that the treasure she found in her

backyard was not just the gold coins, but also the memories of her mother that Jim had kept safe for all those years. She felt grateful for the unexpected gift of a new friendship and the chance to learn more about her mother's life. Elsa was full of these thoughts while **they sat in silence, watching the fireworks light up the night sky.**