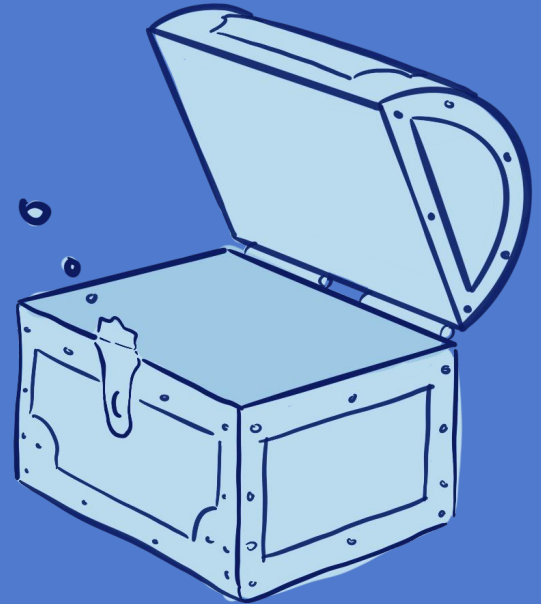


TREASURED MOMENTS

Zoe's story



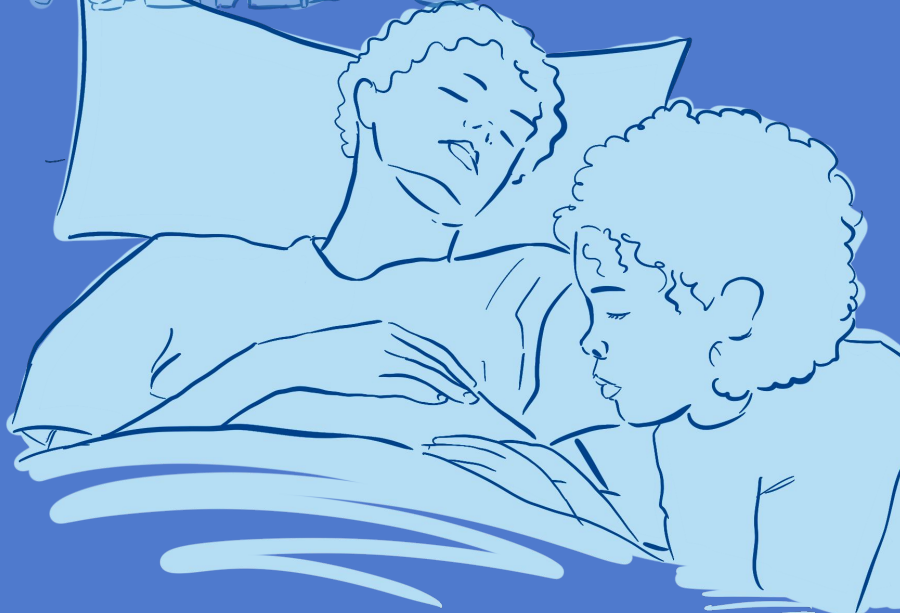
 **TU Delft**

MASTER'S THESIS BY
SWETHA KRISHNAN

This is Zoe. Zoe is now 4 years old. She likes to play with her ball, build with her blocks, and hear stories every night before bed. She plays with her mom, dad, and some friends from school.



Six months ago, Zoe's mom was diagnosed with a sickness called cancer. Sometimes, her mom felt good and played with Zoe, but other days she was too tired and had to rest in bed. Zoe felt sad and wished her mom would get better soon.



Two months ago, Zoe's mom started feeling worse. She couldn't get out of bed and rested most of the day. Zoe missed the days when they played, read stories, and cuddled together. Zoe's dad often asked her to be quiet while her mom slept, and that made Zoe feel sad and a little angry.



One day, Zoe's mom felt very ill and went to the hospital.

Zoe was scared because she didn't like hospitals. The doctors said the medicine wasn't working well and that her mom's cancer was spreading. Zoe's parents were very sad but decided to make the most of their time together.



A psychologist suggested they try something called "Treasured Moments." It was a special memory box shaped like a treasure chest. When they got home, Zoe, her mom, and dad opened the box together. Inside, they found wooden tiles, a board game, and some colorful flags.



Zoe's dad read the instructions. They learned they could fill the tiles with memories. Zoe was excited to try it. She loved playing with new things. Zoe and her mom picked their favorite cards and decided to start with memories from their trip to the beach in Spain.





Zoe talked about the sand and seashells, and her mom wrote it down. They drew pictures and looked at photos from their trip, filling the tile with their favorite moments.

Soon, they had filled four tiles with different memories. One morning, Zoe's mom suggested they play a treasure hunt with the tiles. She hid them around the house and gave Zoe a board with all the flags to find. Zoe was thrilled and used her magnifying glass to find the hidden tiles.





When Zoe found a tile, she called out to her mom, who helped her reach it. They opened the tile and sang songs they liked together. On the weekend, the whole family played the board game, sharing memories and laughing together.

Some days, Zoe's mom was too tired to get out of bed. On those days, Zoe brought a filled tile to her mom's bed, and they shared stories and looked at pictures. Zoe loved these moments.



A few weeks later, Zoe's mom's health worsened, and everyone was very sad. A few days later, her mom passed away. Zoe's dad told her that her mom had died. Zoe didn't fully understand. "How can we get her back?" she asked. "Does it hurt?"



Zoe's dad did his best to answer her questions. Zoe wanted to bring the memory tiles to the funeral and sing a song they sang together. After the funeral, Zoe hugged her dad and said, "Can we play the scavenger hunt again?" She found a tile with a picture of her and her mom at the beach and hugged it tight.



Zoe's mom had left a treasure chest full of memories. After she passed away, Zoe often opened the treasure chest and looked at the tiles. She would hold a tile and think about her mom. Every year on the anniversary of her mom's death, Zoe and her dad opened the treasure chest, set up the board game, and walked down memory lane, laughing and remembering their happy times.

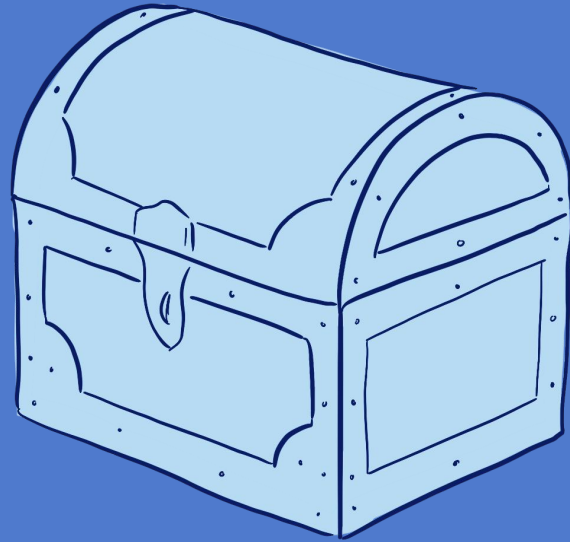


Many years later, when Zoe was leaving for college, her dad gave her a special tile her mom had made for this day. Zoe knew her mom was always with her, cheering her on. She smiled and said, "I love you too, mom."



And Zoe knew, in her heart, that her mom's love was always with her.





Treasure the stories of your relationships