

# Love from Beyond the Grave

Brenda Schmitz, a beautiful, young wife and mother from Des Moines, Iowa, was diagnosed with stage 4 ovarian cancer and told she would die within months, leaving her husband a widower and her four young sons motherless.

She immediately devised a plan to communicate her great love for her husband and children, even from beyond the grave.

Brenda penned a heart-wrenching plea to a local radio station that held an annual Christmas wish contest for deserving recipients. She kept the contents of her letter secret, placing it in the care of a trusted friend whom she asked to deliver her "wish" letter to the station if and when her husband found love again.

In September 2013, Brenda's widower, David, asked his new love, Jayne, to be his wife. Upon hearing the news, Brenda's trusted friend delivered the letter to the radio station.

"About a week and a half ago, a letter was sent to Star 102.5 Christmas Wish," said station manager Scott Allen. "We've been granting Christmas wishes for over 20 years, and I've never read a letter like the one I received from Brenda. Everyone, no matter the age, was moved."

Brenda's letter read, in part:

*I am writing this letter to have it sent to you by a dear friend who has instructions to do so when it was the time. I told her once my loving husband David has moved on in his life and had found someone to share his life with again to mail this letter to all of you at the station.*

*As I was thinking about my last months on earth, I told David my wish after I was gone was that he follow through with the attitude and courage I know he possesses. What a great husband and father he is. I know all of this is extremely hard on him. He is the one making the best decisions for my family and ultimately finding a caring, compassionate, loving woman in time to help raise the boys. She must be quite a lady (I wish I could have met her) to take on the task of raising a large, extended family with unwavering love and devotion and a huge heart.*

*We have four boys – Carter, Josh, Justin, and little Max, the youngest at 2 years old. I was diagnosed right after his first birthday. No child as young as Max should have to lose his mother, and it brings tears to my eyes now thinking of it. God, I will miss seeing him and the boys grow up to be fine men. I have relayed to David to try and not let him forget me. He is such a bright, intelligent, and beautiful boy.*

(more)

*My reason for writing this is I have a wish for David and the boys and the woman and her family, if she has kids also. I want them to know I love them very much and hope they always feel safe in a world of pain. I was hoping that one small act you all could do for me could change their lives forever and let them know I am with them always.*

With those words, Brenda went on to share her wishes. First, she asked for a “weekend of pampering” for David and his new love. Next, she asked for a “magical trip – somewhere they all can enjoy their company and companionship as a family and create those memories that will be with them forever.”

Her final wish was for “a fun-filled night” for the medical staff who so tenderly cared for her in her dying days.

Finally, to David’s new love, Brenda simply said. “Thank you, I love you, whoever you are.”

Jayne Abraham, a mother of two and David’s new love, said the letter had given her strength against “any doubt I might have had” about her new relationship.

David broke down on air at the station as he described his late wife as a loving mother, terrific wife and very strong. Her action, he said, “is not surprising ’cause the last year and a half, she’s shown so many signs that she’s there.”

Brenda’s letter demonstrates that no legacy is as impactful as that of a pure, unselfish love. Nothing can stop it. Death itself cannot extinguish it. Unconditional love is the power to reach the object of its affection from anywhere, even from beyond the grave.

*Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting? (1 Corinthians 15:55 NIV).*

– Beecher Hunter

Mom

love  
you