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AFTERLIFE

Debbie could smell cigarettes and she heard a whistle. It reminded her of when she went to the train station.

Suddenly, she woke up. She wasn't at home in bed and she didn't feel sick anymore. She was standing in a line. At the front there was a man with a whistle. The same man who was at the train station.

Debbie looked around in confusion but she was not in the train station. All she could see were loads of people and animals lined up. At the end of the line people were just appearing like magic. She got to the front of the line and, beginning to panic, said to the man

"Do you remember me? I'm the girl from the train station"

She pulled her hands from her pockets to show him the sweetie he had given her before. Then she screamed as she looked at her hands. They were starting to disappear - like ghosts. The man looked at her again.

"I do remember you" he said "It must have been quick for you. It was quick for me. One minute I'm getting someone off the train and the next thing I'm here.....Oh, I see you don't know where you are. Do you?"

"No" she said "I don't"

"You're in the after world" he said calmly.

Debbie screamed.

"I'm not meant to be here!" she said. "I'm meant to be back home with my family!"

"I know" the man said "It can be a surprise to lots of people."

Suddenly, Debbie got a memory. It must have been the last time she was alive. She was in her bed coughing. She remembered hearing the

doctor saying something to her mum and her mum crying. She remembered the sound of the car driving away and her dad coming into her room. She started to cry.

Suddenly, a lady put her hand on her shoulder.

"Can I get through?" she said "I have a son to find"

She looked kind and, although Debbie didn't notice, she had one button missing from her jumper. She started to walk away. She didn't exactly know where she was going or what she was going to do with the rest of her afterlife. She didn't know anyone there.

She felt someone put their hand on her shoulder. Standing behind her was a tall boy. He looked about the same age as her.

"Hello, my name is Pete." he said. "Have you seen my mum? She has one button missing from her coat"

"No" said Debbie. "Sorry."

"What are you going to do after you find your mum?", said Debbie.

"Go to the Great Beyond with her of course!"

Debbie looked startled "What's the Great Beyond?" she asked.

"Nobody knows" said Pete. "I think it will be a place with everything you've ever imagined."

"Maybe one day I'll go to the Great Beyond," said Debbie.

Just then someone put their hand on her shoulder. It was Pete's mum.

She smiled.

"Let's go there together" she said.