

The Ultimate Gift by Carol Sandford

It was a magical time. It was a time I would never forget; Our first Christmas together as man and wife. I couldn't help smiling as the words flitted through my mind; man and wife. We had waited so long, so so long and we both frequently asked why, but we always came up with the same answer; we never had one, ever.

There had been no excuse, no logical reason other than our own stubbornness to deny ourselves a chance of happiness, and to deny a bond that had no intentions of giving up on us.

And thank God it hadn't.

Laying on the thick soft sheepskin rug in front of a roaring log fire, a Christmas tree so high it touched the ceiling, its branches laden with glittering baubles, red velvet ribbon bows and make-believe snow. Soft background music; a choir singing Carol's as old as time itself.

But as I lay here, within my husbands arms, I truly feel the meaning of Christmas. Of its peace, its love and its memories. Memories of the past, our present, and our future.

Pushing myself up onto my elbow, I lovingly looked down into Will's face, the dancing shadows of the flames making his eyes twinkle like twin stars, and in them, I find assurance, like I'm in my rightful place. Like I've come home, and its a wonderful feeling. A beautiful feeling.

There is nowhere I'd rather be, or want to be. There is nowhere that could make me feel safe and secure. Loved or cherished. Will stares intently into my eyes, pouring his love from his soul to mine. I'm not sure how he manages to find enough room for more, but he always does, because in moments like this, my heart soars to another dimension in time, a time from long ago. A time only witnessed by us and God.

I find myself drowning in the aftermath of his thoughts and I know he has just given me the ultimate gift once more. For some it is found in the carefully wrapped presents beneath the Christmas tree. For others it is found in the sanctity of the Lord's love.

For me, its found within Will's arms. It is found within his eyes as they look into mine and tell me in silence what I mean to him. Its found within his fingers as they touch my body. Its found within his words, even when he simply says, 'Hi' But most of all, its found within his heart; a heart that is shared with mine, forever and for all eternity.