

# The Memory Box

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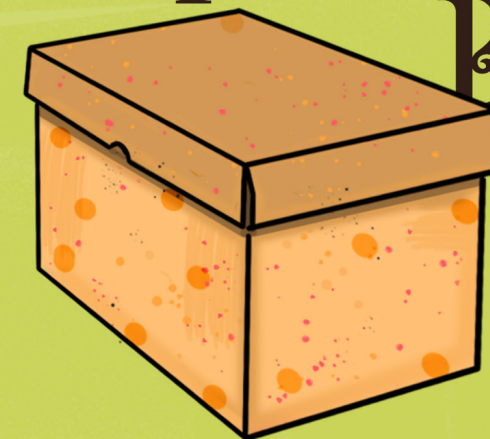
**Charlotte's  
Big Surprise**



**Homer L.  
Hartage**



# The Memory Box



To my uncle Jonah, for your love of life, family, and the enduring  
memories. You are my inspiration.  
**Stay strong**

For the cherished memories of my brother Alonzo,  
**Love ya man**



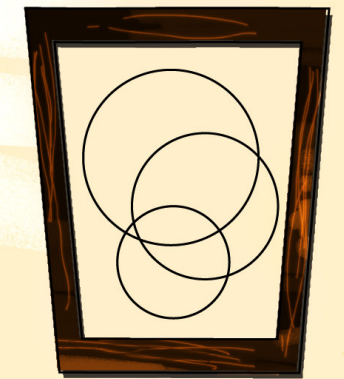
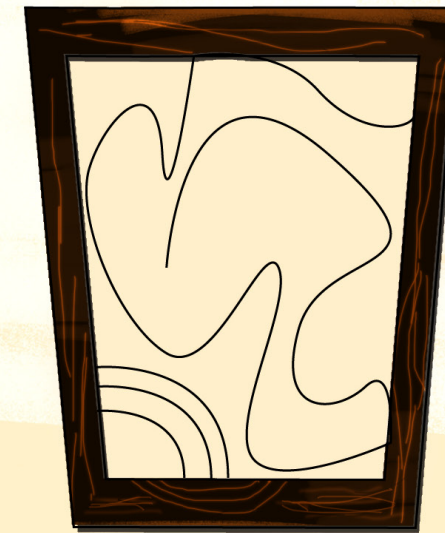
What was the big surprise?  
Mom had been hinting for three days now about a big surprise.  
What could it be?





It was Friday and I rushed home from school.  
Again and again, I pleaded with her.

"What is the surprise?"



Mom just smiled, with a funny twist to her mouth.

"I will tell you today when your dad gets home from work."  
I sighed, crossing my arms over my chest.



I watched the clock, waiting for it to turn to 6:00.  
When Dad finally burst through the door, he didn't  
give a hint of anything special.

He kissed Mom, and then he picked me up and spun  
me around.



But what is the surprise?

I waited patiently for  
Mom and Dad to settle down.

What could it be?