

# SAPPHIRE

Anya and the  
Sparkling Light of Hope

A Tribute to Anya who left as a Star  
to shine on her family forever.



**A** long long time ago, in a time we can barely remember, there was a village of darkness. It hadn't always been a village of gloom but, for what had seemed no reason, light had slowly disappeared in this little peaceful village.

People, submissive to whatever happened to them, gradually got used to darkness; they were training their everyday life with no light.

Everybody in this village was getting along with the change except for Sapphire, a little boy with dark blonde hair and deep blue eyes that proved his love and yearning.

He spent his time looking at the black sky trying to call the stars back. He prayed, asking every and each god to bring some light. He cried, screamed and sobbed night after night. Everybody in the village could hear his sorrow.

Then one night, after he had fallen asleep in between his sobs, he heard knocking at his window. Sapphire opened the window and saw a shadow of a little girl in the dark.

The girl grabbed his hand with her chubby little hand, and told Sapphire to follow her. Their hands stayed sealed together during all the time,



and Sapphire felt this contact as the most reliable he had ever had.

The little girl finally found where she wanted to stop. To Sapphire, due to the dark, the place that had been chosen was nothing special.

The little girl showed Sapphire around in the dark. She revealed where the flowers were, where the river was and where two big rocks were.

The little girl jumped on one of the rocks as if she could see in the dark, she smiled and told Sapphire, her name was Anya and that she was there to make his wish come true. She had been sent to bring the

beam and the glow back into his life.

Sapphire looked at Anya, he didn't believe that she could help but he felt privileged to be with her. He knew a friendship was blossoming and he felt safer.

Anya smiled as if she was following Sapphire's thoughts.

" I know you want light back but you never thought of the reason brightness left your village. I'm here to help you understand and bring it back. What do you miss most, Sapphire?"

"The stars."

"Oh that's easy... look at the sky and think of a cheerful, tender and loving memory"

Sapphire grabbed a stone that was on the rock and started playing with it and thought for a while.

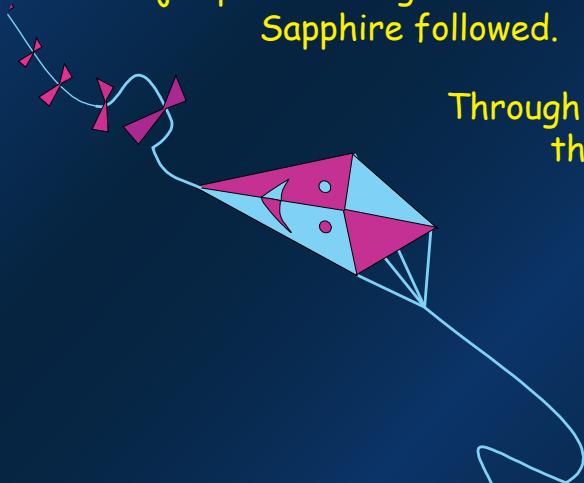
It had been a long time since he had heard someone talking about a warm and loving moment.

He dug up in his memories and recalled a great moment with his brother.

They had gone to the lake to try his new kite. Their mother had made sandwiches, and they went alone over the hill for the whole day. It was a great day.

They laughed of the suspended kite in the air because of the lack of wind and then it started rolling in the grass.

While he was still trying to remember Anya jumped on the grass and started rolling, Sapphire followed.



Through their rolling and their laughter a big shiny star popped in the sky!



Sapphire froze in front of the shiny star.  
He couldn't believe it.

Anya whispered, "you did that, and you  
can do much more"

"How could I do that, maybe you did that"

"In this case you did that! But I can do that,  
everybody can do that. If they only start living  
their loving moments more. People have to point out  
the positive moments of their lives because those  
moments are the compass of the soul, and stars won't  
obviously take the trouble to shine on top of a dull  
and sad world."

"So what can we do? We can't recall all of the stars with our positive moments?"



"No, we have to teach people in your village to do that, but tonight it's just you and me, and it's my turn. I remember when my daddy used to carry me to bed and I would lay my head on his shoulder, I could smell what was left of his cologne; his arms were strong and carried me easily and we both stayed in silence not to break the magic of our special moment together"

In the sky popped another star bigger and brighter than the other.

They had learned a new game and they spent the rest of the night remembering moments.

If you were walking by, you could hear,

" I remember a cup of hot chocolate with my grandma," and bang another star appeared in the sky, or "I recall the smell of my mother's clothes when she came home from Italy," and pop again....

All night long there



were memories and poppings. The two fell asleep exhausted by the excitement and the tiredness.



They woke up under a dark layer of sky with a small amount of stars. Anya and Sapphire were extremely rewarded by the twinkling on top of their heads.

They felt they were saving the village. But their memories, though impressively genuine and devoted, were not enough to fill up the sky with stars. A lot of work was still to be done and they needed the help of the people in the village.

Sapphire looked at the sky and said, "this night with my friend Anya," and a new star twinkled in the sky. Anya felt all of the loyalty and faithfulness of their friendship in that star.

To keep vivid the memory of the night, Sapphire handed Anya the stone he had found on the rock. He had played with the stone all night and had no idea what it looked like.

To the touch it felt glossy, at some points sharp, and deeply warm. He would have loved to see it. He imagined it was beautiful and shiny and thought it would be a good reminder of the lovely night.

They walked back towards the village and the few stars in the sky made the darkness not as deep as usual. They could hardly see the path, but for the first time after a long time, they could see a little.



While they were heading back they met Alan, the village grocer, running up the hill like crazy. He stopped and showed them the stars, telling them the village was recovering from deep darkness.

Sapphire and Anya giggled, sharing a conniving

glance. Alan looked at them with a defiant attitude, "Do you know something I should know?"

They told him the whole story and he listened carefully until the end when he burst into laughter.

He started making fun of them, not believing they could have the power to do what they had said. Anya, impassive to his words, smiled and said,

"It's not my power or Sapphire's, it's your power too. You are just asked to try and to spread the voice so that people will do it."

The grocer thought it could be a good idea to try, he

had nothing to lose anyway and the little girl seemed reliable. He started searching in his thoughts to find a loving memory and realized the door to his memories hadn't been opened for a very long time.

After a while he looked up through his tears and saw his star popping in the sky. It was all true. He had the power! He tried again and again, and it always worked. He kissed Anya and Sapphire and ran back to the village.



We all know that grocers meet a lot of people because of their job, and that is probably why by the time Anya and Sapphire reached the village, the stars in the sky had multiplied.

All of the village already new about the power of positive thinking and recalling loving memories. They were all thinking of warm moments and watched as their stars appeared. Against a background of jaded people, grew a positive atmosphere where people felt helpful, optimistic, and confident again.

This change had to be celebrated. People decided that there would be a social gathering that same night to appreciate spending time together again.

During the event it was decided to test the Power, and see what would happen if everybody evoked a memory at the same time. People were expecting to see something like fireworks.

At the end of the night, all of the village gathered, holding hands around Anya and Sapphire. They believed that the two had saved them and they probably had.

They then counted "1-2-3" to bring to mind their memories at the same time. They all opened their eyes together to see the moon show up in the air again.



The cheering was loud, the tears and the embraces were genuine, but they were yet to be surprised again. The break of dawn was beginning, and the lazy sun was showing far over the horizon. Morning was starting.



Sapphire looked at Anya. He could finally see her face. Anya's shimmer is heartening and expresses sympathy and harmony, but there was something in her face that surprised Sapphire. He understood that it had come time for Anya to go, and he couldn't accept it.

Anya grabbed Sapphire's hand, as he was about to cry and took him away from the crowd.

"You must remember what we have done together. You know how strong our friendship is, and there won't be any distance that can change the strength of our relationship. Nothing could ever separate something that is so strong and permanent.

I will always keep the stone you gave me to remind me of you!"

While saying this she takes out the stone. With her surprise, the stone is a beautiful blue, see-through stone. It is a velvet-blue gemstone hiding the color



of Sapphires eyes in it.

"Look how could I ever forget you with this stone reminding me of this look you are giving me now?"

"And what will I have to remember you?" said Sapphire through his tears.

Before Anya could answer Sapphire smiled and said, "You gave me back my Starry night. You gave me back my strength and hope."

Hope is a seed you plant in the ground. Hope is a star in the sky. Hope is a light and it can multiply if you pass it from hand to hand and heart to heart.

# The End



Written by  
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**S**anam Bartoletti is the creative writer of the story of Sapphire. From Milan, Italy, she brings her talents all the way to the United States. Her background includes writing, editing, layout, production, broadcasting, and design.

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Sanam received her degree in Public Relations at the University of Milan, she speaks four languages, and has traveled to France and the U.S. in pursuit of her dreams.

