

Daniel lived with his mom and Rachel. Rachel was his sister. Daniel's father had died when Daniel was four. Daniel did not remember his father much. There were pictures of him all over the house. Daniel wished he had not died. Some nights he heard Mom cry. She did not know that Daniel was still awake.

One night Mom had a date. She said she was going out to dinner. A man rang the doorbell. Daniel opened the door. Daniel said hello. "Hello. You must be Daniel. I am Tom James. I am a friend of your mom's. It is nice to meet you," the man said. He shook Daniel's hand. Daniel did not like the idea of Mom going out to dinner. He did not know why. He just did not like it. He kissed Mom good-bye.

That weekend Tom came over again. "Do you like to play ball?" he said to Daniel. Daniel said yes.

They went out to the yard. Tom threw Daniel the ball. Daniel had fun. Soon they cooked out dinner. Tom let Rachel help. He held Rachel over the grill. She flipped the hamburgers.

Soon Tom came over every night. He ate dinner. Daniel liked Tom. Mom seemed happy, too. One night Mom asked Daniel and Rachel to come into the kitchen. Tom was in there, too. "We want to tell you something," said Mom. "How would you like to have a new father? Tom has asked me to marry him."

Daniel did not speak. He liked Tom. But he did not want a new father. Maybe Mom loved Tom more than Daddy. Daniel was sad.

Later, Mom talked to Daniel. She said that she still loved Daddy. But Daddy had died. Now she loved Tom. She wanted to marry him. Tom would

live with them. "I will always love you and Rachel the most," said Mom. "But I love Tom, too. You do not have to call him Dad. You can call him Tom. Daniel, he loves you and Rachel. I think we will be happy."

Daniel went to sleep. When he woke up, he went to the kitchen. He told Mom that he liked Tom. "I know you want to be happy. I like Tom. I think that he will be a good father. I think I will call him Daddy. I will still love my Dad, though," said Daniel. "I will, too," said Mom.

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