

BRIXEN BRESSANONE  
**WATER LIGHT  
FESTIVAL**

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**THE STARDUST  
MEMORY PROJECT**

2026

**Greta**

*walking  
home, those are  
our first steps  
like walking  
like talking  
from the place that held you*

Greta was born at noon. Seven years had passed since the first son was born, and everybody was overjoyed at the pregnancy. One morning, the expectant mother woke up in severe pain. It was early morning, perhaps six o'clock. She was twenty-three weeks along, in the middle of her sixth month of pregnancy. The woman could feel that something wasn't right. Her husband was out of the country, and she called a friend who was also a midwife. They went to the hospital.

I need help, said the woman and knocked on a door. They went to the obstetric unit, and eventually the woman lay there and had her belly examined. The obstetrician became worried and went to get another doctor. The pain was labour. Her cervix was fully dilated, her body ready to give birth. Nobody could tell why. The doctor ordered her to go straight to the delivery suite, and then he was gone. Before she went in, they asked the woman if she agreed to them not attempting resuscitation.

The birth was painful, and a hole grew in her belly. It was noon. Her name was supposed to be Greta, said the mother, and the midwife said, This is Greta.

Some time passed until the mother was allowed to look at Greta, touch her. Later came her sisters, her husband and son. Greta was small. She was wrapped in a pink crochet blanket, and they held her for a long time. Later that evening, the family walked home. Greta was stillborn. With her, grief entered the life of the family, and the mother couldn't sleep for a very long time. It took time for her to come fully back to life, almost a year. There are two little footprints of Greta on paper. She is present in some everyday activities, in encounters, in the bond. Sometimes I say that I have three children, said the mother. A few years later, a daughter was born. When she was three years old, she mourned the sister she was never able to play with.