**THERE BESIDE YOU**

**This is more by way of a Screenplay for a video rather than a story-behind-the-song.**

**INTRO AND CHORUS 1**

**Opens on a dull grey, heavily overcast raining sky.**

**Pans down slowly, looking down on a circle of black umbrellas and mourners round a grave.**

**Settles a few yards behind the group viewing a wife, a small boy and a teenage girl.**

**Near the end of the first chorus the view widens and to the right of the screen is a soldier in camouflage uniform but all that we see is his side, an arm and a leg. He is transparent.**

**VERSE 1**

**The people round the grave slowly melt/disappear into the ether until only the 3 family members are left still standing. Mum puts arms round the shoulders of her children and they are suddenly transported into the house looking out of the window at families walking along past the window.**

**CHORUS 2**

**Camera pans to telephone table with lots of mail/bills. Mum collects them and sits to go through them, looking concerned and worried for the future. Looking at job vacancies in the local paper/online. Transparent soldier is sitting beside her.**

**VERSE 2**

**The wife is in a boardroom about to deliver a presentation. Around the table are young eagle types looking at one and other risibly. They have no faith in this older woman. She looks worried and under confident as she is standing by the flip chart. Camera switches to viewing from behind the chart over her shoulder at the lounging young executives.**

**CHORUS 3**

**A transparent hand reaches forward and rests on her shoulder. She straightens ups and starts to talk. Execs sit forward, surprised, then intrigued, then stunned. They applaud and nod round the table. She is smiling, relieved.**

 **MIDDLE 8**

 **Split screen**

**Teenage daughter trying to study alone but can’t concentrate. She’s sitting on her bed crossed legged with books scattered around her. Camera pans back to include the back view of transparent soldier sitting on a chair facing her. She looks up at the empty chair then at her books, takes courage and picks up a textbook with a determined look on her face.**

**At the same time young brother is in his room, on bed, back against wall, knees up, arms round knees, head down on arms. Uncurls, opens his hand to reveal a medal which he cherishes.**

**Camera zeroes into daughter’s eyes. Remembers better times.**

**INSTRUMENTAL**

**This section is full of happy flashbacks of summer holidays, chasing kids, teaching to ride a bike, basketball, jumping in pools, on the beach, sunset, arms round one another.**

**The camera pans out at the end of the reverie, but it pans out of the son’s eyes. He is looking at the medal and closes his fingers around it again. Transparent soldier is sitting with him.**

**VERSE 3**

**The family are out, having to get on with life and face the future, in the car, to the supermarket, neighbours whisper and nod in their direction, sorry for them but keeping their distance.**

**FINAL CHORUS**

**Last chorus. They are in the supermarket carpark unloading a trolley into the rear of the car. Someone drops something, they look at one another and smile/laugh, life goes on. Camera is behind them. It pans back to include the full transparent soldier behind them watching. Camera starts to open wider to show others packing cars with transparent soldiers, male and female, watching. Camera keeps panning out, rises up into the air slowly revealing an entire panorama of people. Some are in the carpark, some walking along the pavement, some playing in a nearby park at the swings, all have a transparent soldier with them. One child is learning to ride a bike solo and is wobbling but the transparent soldier is with them supporting the back of the cycle.**

**Camera pans upwards to a clear blue sky and a few puffy white clouds.**

**END**