

Ann Atkins

The last dance

Lily and Jack met at a dance a
quick step waltzed into romance.
They married very soon after
Within a year they danced together
with their baby daughter, Jack's
dancing shoes were exchanged for
army boots when he was called to
war

Lily wept when Jack left her to raise
their baby daughter. He promised he
would be back and they'd always be
together Nobody thought the war
would last Jack knew he was lucky,
he survived. Lost his best friend, lost
his brother didn't speak of what he
endured.

Glad he was home, Lily was proud of
Jack And the freedom he'd fought for.
They danced all night under the stars and
they promised they'd never part. Danced
every day for sixty five years. As Lily's
sight failed, Jack was her eyes with Jack
by her side, she always felt safe
Until he grew frail and had a fall

Their council found Jack a place in
their local retirement home Lily
wept as Jack left, how would she
cope alone? They begged to stay
together. All the council could say
was, sorry you don't meet the
criteria. Can't you stay with your
daughter?

Lily moved in with her daughter
but that was an hour away, so
she only saw Jack on Sundays
They cried every night looking up
at the stars, wishing they could
be together Surely the right to
family life shouldn't end as we
get older,?