

Catching Up

The letter was sitting on the mat when Joanne pushed open the door. It was hidden in the myriad of bills and junk leaflets. She bent to pick them up and rifled through them as she closed the door and hung up her coat. Her bag was already on the telephone table as she hung her keys on the small hook hidden from the door by the cuckoo clock. It chimed six as she looked at one letter in particular. It was one of the many but the only one with a handwritten envelope. These were few and far between these days, so it was the first one Joanne opened. With that one simple action her entire world imploded.

She was still sitting at the kitchen table when the sound of Geoff's key rattling in the lock jolted her back to the reality of the moment. The last twenty two years of her life blurred in her memory as she was whisked to the present. To the prospect of her life changing beyond all recognition.

'Hi, babe.' Geoff wandered in to the kitchen and threw his car keys onto the kitchen table. He started leafing through the days mail. There were various letters for both of them. As well as the colourful leaflets and circulars.

‘You have stuff here too. Didn’t you notice them?’ He glanced at Joanne and then at the open letter on the table. The only one she had opened. ‘Jo? You okay?’

‘You better have a seat, Geoff.’

He did so as she pushed the paper towards him. It took a few seconds for him to read through it all, but he understood the ramifications straight from the opening line.

‘Hello. I’m sorry to contact you like this. Please understand that I have no wish to cause you pain and I have thought about this a great deal for a long time. My name is Amanda. I am your daughter.’

The conclusion to this story can be found in Joshua Gray's *Tea Break Tales*.

Available from [Amazon](#).