



Bird

AVA is in social care. She is meeting her mum, Claire, again for the first time since she was taken into care three years ago.

AVA: I sent you letters.

I didn't have your number.

(No response)

I would have texted.

It felt weird.

Posh like.

Sending you letters. I put 'Dear Mam'.

I thought if it was a text.

I think I would have put, 'Alright' or something like that.

But with letters.

It's weird init?

Did you get them?

| never knew.

So I just kept writing them.

Like on them shows when they gets lost family together and stuff they says that don't they.

They says, 'For years I got you a birthday card' and they shows them a big pile of cards and Christmas presents and stuff.

When is your birthday?

I was thinking I don't know when your birthday is.

I know it's March some time but I don't know exactly when.

Cos we could do something couldn't we. We could do something nice.

Did you get the letters?

(Claire confirms that she did)

I didn't know.

(Claire says she can't read well)

I didn't know that.

I never knew that about you.

I didn't think.

It makes sense.

Now I'm thinking of it, that makes sense of a lot of things.

Forms an' stuff.

It makes sense.

Anything official.

I can help with that.

Paul likes his forms.

Me and Tash. She's my friend.

Me and Tash laughs about that.

But he's alright is Paul. They're not all like him.

Social workers. But he is.

He'd help you. With your reading an' that. Forms.

I thought you could come by, you know and or we can do this.

Meet. And. Start. It's a start.

| thought. | thought it would be.

Get back to normal.

Then in time, you know.

(Claire says that she has to go)

Got things to do have you?

It's been three years.

It has, yes.

(Claire asks her age)

Fifteen.

I'm sixteen next month.

I need to talk to you. I'll be sixteen and it all changes. You know.

Will you give me your number?

I could text you.

By Katherine Chandler