

## Happy New Home

With removal vans on the driveway, boxes filling the hallway, and Mum continually shouting 'Where shall I put this?' the knock on the front door was a welcome relief.

"Hi, I'm Ben from next door, I thought you might welcome a cup of tea." Smiling, he placed the tray laden with steaming mugs and chocolate biscuits, on one of the boxes.

"Oh Ben, you're a saviour" I said, "The kettle's gone A.W.O.L, despite my asking Mum to not let it out of her sight! Thank you so much. I'm Nicky."

"You'll meet my wife Avril later. Our son, Harry was born yesterday. Give me a shout if you need anything."

"Many congratulations. Is he your first?" I gulped the tea.

Ben beamed "Yes, after a very long wait. Just leave the mugs on the porch when you're done. Good luck finding the kettle!"

Mum came from the kitchen, "Is that a tray of tea, how wonderful."

"Yes, delivered by the neighbour. I think I'm going to like living here."

"Oh darling, you deserve to be happy. The break up with 'he whose name I won't mention' was very difficult. You just need to get yourself well now. Have a naughty chocolate biscuit!" she proffered the plate and giggled as we toasted my new home with tea.

Darren only featured once in my dream that night, telling me I couldn't leave him. I woke up with a start, where was I? I became aware of a faint noise, was it a cat? No, it was a baby crying very softly. Oh yes, the new baby next door, was it Henry? No Harry. Going across the landing to the loo, the cries became louder. Darren never wanted children. I thought about Ben and his kind gesture of the tea tray. I just knew he was going to be a great Dad,

Venturing downstairs, ignoring the mountain of boxes, I filled the kettle. Mum had found it on the front seat of her car as she was leaving. The crying was getting louder, like me I thought, he's just settling in. Opening the back door, I looked at the small garden with a lot of potential.

"Hi", shouted Ben over the fence, "I have to pop into town for some baby stuff, do you need anything?"

"No thanks, I'm fine, is everything ok with Harry?"

Ben lowered his voice, "Avril's having trouble feeding him. I'm going to get some baby milk."

I started unpacking in the lounge, there seemed to be a lot of activity next door: knocking, banging, loud voices, then a different cry, not the baby. I looked out of the front window to see a woman being escorted to a police car. What an earth was going on? Switching on the radio in time for the local news, 'Baby Henry has been found safe and well after being abducted from the maternity unit yesterday. A woman in her mid-thirties has been charged with his abduction.'

I sighed, Happy New Home....