

WINNER 3rd prize: Brave Words by Elizabeth Cope

BRAVE WORDS

It was brave of her to have agreed, a real test. If it hadn't been her turn to answer the phone it wouldn't have happened. A man's voice, recognisable immediately even after all these years, her heart beat so fast she could hardly breathe. What should she say?

"Is that really you Annie?" his voice soft, seductive.

"Yes, in a way", she replied. She couldn't stop herself wanting to listen even though she knew it was wrong. "Who gave you this number?"

"Your sister-in-law, but she was very reluctant and said you wouldn't want to hear from me. I'm back in the city and I MUST see you. I'm sorry for what happened, I want to explain everything. Be forgiven. Please don't refuse to see me".

This was SO difficult. She had fallen in love with his voice the first time she had heard it, all those years ago, before even meeting him; and when they met it had been electric, passionate, totally overwhelming. They had both been crazed by their feelings. It had ended badly though. She had vowed to forget it and had changed her life completely. She must show him that he must never contact her again. But the temptation to see him once more was too great.

"I've changed my name, its Agnes now and I'm married to someone else. I'll agree to meet you this once and all will be made clear".

She slowly put the phone down and adjusted her habit.