



# **A Chance would be a Fine Thing (The William Knox Journals Book 1)**

*Tanya Allan*

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The world is a cruel place, and in the winter of 1964 -5 a minor tragedy occurs in New York City. A young, single, teen-mother dies giving birth to an unwanted little girl, but the circumstances are not quite normal.

What happens when we die?

This is a question that has haunted mankind ever since he started walking upright. To ex-British soldier and clergyman Gerald Davidson, newly appointed vicar of the Anglican Parish of St Martha's in Lower Chalfont, Buckinghamshire, his view was that of his denomination, and not really open for negotiation.

As he settled into his parish in 1960, he was firmly of the opinion that if the people wouldn't come to the church, he would go to them. He took the time and trouble to visit many of the local people who rarely attended church. One of these was an elderly and rather cantankerous gentleman by the name of William Knox. The first visit was hardly a roaring success, but over the next five years the pair built up a firm friendship. After his experience in the trenches of France and by virtue of what he perceives to have been a great mistake, William is not convinced there is a God. This did not prevent their friendship from growing. Both men had military service in common. For William had seen service in both World Wars and Gerald as an infantry officer in Korea.

On the subject of life after death, however, the pair never agreed. William felt cheated in this life, in as much as he never felt fulfilled and complete. He had born the fact that he had lived his life, through two world wars, in the firm knowledge that he had been born into the body of the wrong gender.

He stated that he rather fancied another chance, to be reincarnated in the correct gender, with the full knowledge of his previous existence. William bet the vicar that if he could, he'd return and prove that it was possible.

The bet? A pint of beer.

Gerald accepted the bet with good humour, as he disagreed that reincarnation could be a realistic possibility, but when the old man died, he thought the argument had died with him.

In 2008, the now retired Gerald opens his front door to an attractive American woman who acts as if she knows him. After proving beyond all reasonable doubt that Mrs Kerry-Anne Phillips had lived a life as William Knox, she says to the stunned retired vicar, "I honestly don't know, but now the mistake has been rectified. Gerald, you owe me a pint."

Kerry begins to tell William's story to a stunned Gerald. She has to return to America before getting very far. Before leaving, she locates a package in William's old home and hands it over to Gerald. After she leaves, he opens it and discovers that the package contains William's old journals. He begins to read and is so taken with the story, he decides to share them.

This book covers the first few journals up to 1917.

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