



[Sycamore Seedlings by Sarah Lovett - Setting the Scene](#)

Johanna Springer, now in her 40s, lives alone in the house she grew up in. One day, a stranger rings the doorbell. She remembers seeing him recently in Marks & Spencer's and the teashop she often frequents. Is he stalking her?

Helpful Vocabulary and Phrases

The doorbell rang insistently
Jo
Fruit and veg delivery
Identification badge
Dinners for one
I've never heard of her
He looked shocked
Slapped his face
Shy, uncertain
He smiled, wistfully
Sandy beach
Too ill now
Could have kicked herself for trotting out such a cliché
Father had left home
Years ago
Until recently
B&B
Guest house
A deep crease of worry between his eyes
To trace
Sycamore Close
Cup of tea
Held up her hand
We'll drink it outside
Kitchen window overlooked the front garden
Sycamore tree
Little seedlings
Plucked one up from the grass