

## READING

**1A** Work in pairs. Look at the film poster and the headline of the article. Use the phrases in the box to predict what you think happens in the story.

free innocent brother   shocking story  
elderly neighbour   arrested for murder  
life sentence   had an alibi   trained as a lawyer  
fraudulent evidence   appeal   courtroom

**B** Read the article to check your ideas.

**2** Work in pairs and answer the questions.

- Why did Betty believe that her brother would not be charged with the murder?
- Did she ever believe that Kenny had committed the crime?
- What prompted Betty to go to law school?
- What was the effect of her brother's case on her personal life?
- What evidence did Betty use in order to prove her brother's innocence?
- How did she obtain the evidence?

**3** Discuss. Would you do the same as Betty Anne Waters? Why/Why not?

## VOCABULARY crime collocations

**4** Make collocations by matching words in A with words in B. Then complete sentences 1–8.

A

under   brought (to)   previous   make  
perfect   protest   fresh   early

B

alibi   convictions   (an) appeal   evidence  
release   justice   innocence   arrest

- The prisoners continued to \_\_\_\_\_ their \_\_\_\_\_.
- The police have found \_\_\_\_\_ which proves that Tilly was at the scene of the crime.
- A man is \_\_\_\_\_ following the suspicious death of his wife.
- Simon has obtained an \_\_\_\_\_ from prison.
- He had a \_\_\_\_\_ and the police let him go.
- The crime went unsolved and the perpetrators were never \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.
- My client is planning to \_\_\_\_\_ an \_\_\_\_\_ against his conviction.
- The defendant had no \_\_\_\_\_.

▶▶▶ page 151 **VOCABULARYBANK**

## I trained as a lawyer to free my brother

As a Hollywood film of her shocking story is released, Betty Anne Waters tells us what she went through to free her brother from prison.

My brother Kenny and I were best friends growing up. Although I was younger, he always looked up to me. When he was arrested for murdering his elderly neighbour, it was a total shock. He had an alibi, so we thought he would be coming home. But, although the evidence was fraudulent, he was given a life sentence. He was twenty-nine.

Shortly after his first appeal failed, Kenny tried to commit suicide. I was angry with him, but he said, 'I can't spend the rest of my life in prison for something I didn't do. I'm not going to make it.' I never doubted his innocence. He didn't start trouble and would never have killed this woman. We had no more money for lawyers, so it was then he asked me to go to law school and become his attorney. I was unemployed; I didn't even have a college degree. But I promised him I'd make it happen as long as he promised to stay alive.

Getting Kenny out of prison became my life. I enrolled at the local community college, then went on to law school. I was married with two sons, but home life became very difficult and, when the kids were four and six, my husband and I split up. It was hard, but I took it one hurdle at a time.

After Kenny had been in prison for sixteen years, I heard about the Innocence Project, an organisation that works to free innocent people using DNA testing – something that wasn't available when he was convicted. One piece of evidence at the trial was a bloodied curtain the perpetrator had wiped their hands on. But it was so long since his trial, finding it wasn't easy. By this point, I didn't trust anyone. So, I asked other students from law school to tell the police they were doing a project on the Waters case. Finally, a box with Kenny's name on it was found in one of the archives. My heart was pounding so hard as I opened it. As soon as I lifted the lid, I knew the curtain was in there.

Eighteen years after his conviction, Kenny was released. I remember taking him by the hand and walking out of the courtroom. The sense of freedom was amazing.

When I heard they were making a film of the story with Hilary Swank playing me and Sam Rockwell as Kenny, I was so excited. Watching the film and talking about it with the team was like being in therapy.

This experience has done a lot for me. I have grown in confidence and am proud to be involved with the Innocence Project. My brother was the eighty-third person to be released through DNA testing in the USA. Now there have been 259. I feel lucky to be a part of that.

## SPEAKING

**5A** Work in groups. Choose one of the topics below and discuss it.

- Why do you think the wrong people are sometimes sent to prison?
- Is prison an effective deterrent against crime? Why/Why not?
- Can the public do anything to help reduce crime? What can governments do to improve the situation?
- Why do young people turn to crime? What is the best way to stop them? Who do you think should be responsible for this?

**B** Summarise your ideas and report back to the class.