

TEN WORD TALES No. 10

All the Difference

by The Story Spinner

CHAPTER 1



At half past five Miss May shut up the bookshop, The Bookworm. She switched off the lights above the bookshelves, picked up a book to be posted to Mr Walker and locked the door.

As Miss May walked home she passed the teashop, The Teaspoon, which stayed open until six, in case people needed to buy cakes or biscuits on the way home. “Goodnight Miss May,” shouted Nicki and Vicki who ran the shop. Vicki ran out and gave Miss May a little paper bag containing a gingerbread man, something she did every

day. “Goodnight girls,” called Miss May. “Thank you.” She dropped the parcel in the postbox.

Next she passed the huge bright doors of the hotel, The Majestic. Inside a thousand lights burned in a hundred chandeliers; the guests of the hotel ate and slept in soft pillowy comfort in soft pillowy beds and ate lovely food in the dining room. “Goodnight Miss May,” called Mr Clare, the hotel manager, waving through the window of his office. “See you tomorrow!”

Two roads and a twisty lane later, Miss May came to her own little house. She made macaroni cheese and put it in the oven and poured a cup of tea. She read her post, leaving a large blue envelope till the last. On the outside were the words *The Booksellers Association*.

“But I don’t belong to The Booksellers Association,” said Miss May, opening the envelope curiously. Inside was a white card with gold edges. “Congratulations,” it said. “You are a finalist in ***The Best Bookshop Award*** and are invited to the celebration dinner.”

Miss May was so surprised she felt quite faint: she took a steadying sip from her tea and bit off the head of the little gingerbread man. A finalist!