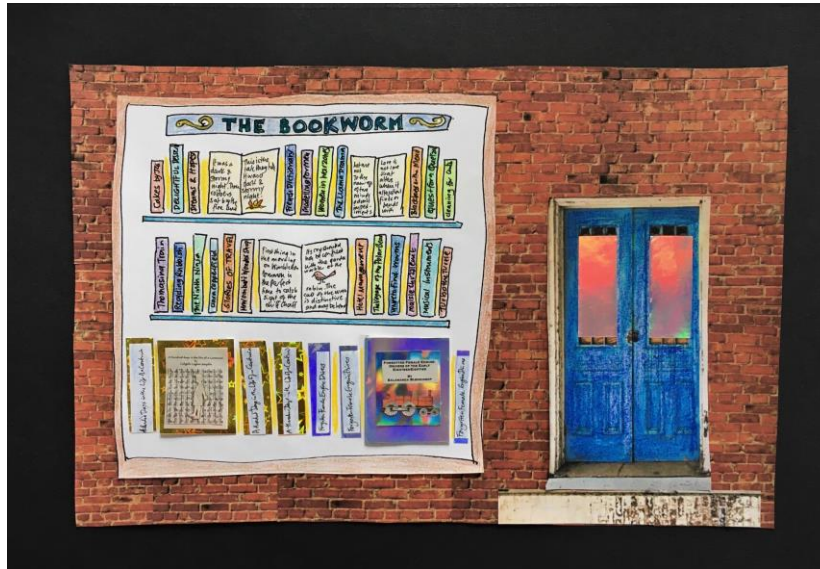


TEN WORD TALES No. 10
All the Difference
by The Story Spinner

CHAPTER 2



All through the night and the next morning, Miss May was haunted by the word *Finalist*. How had that happened? How could she be a finalist in a competition she did not know she had entered?

As she passed The Teaspoon, she popped in to tell Nicki and Vicki all about it. They hugged her and congratulated her. “We’re not

surprised,” said Nicki. “We wouldn’t be running this shop if it wasn’t for you.”

“Whatever do you mean?” asked Miss May, shocked.

“When we were younger and came into The Bookworm, you always tried to find books we would like. You knew we loved baking and suggested books with recipes and then lives of chefs and stories about restaurants. You understood what would make us love reading and love baking! Someone like us must have told the judges all about you.”

Miss May wondered, *Who?* She spent the day as usual in the shop, chatting to parents and children, suggesting books, selling books, packing the next book for sending to Mr Walker.

On the way home she waved to Nicki and Vicki, and received her usual biscuit. She looked up at Mr Clare’s window when she heard his voice calling her name. He came sprinting through the doors of the Majestic. “The girls told me about the Award!” he said, hugging her enthusiastically. “The celebration dinner is being held at the hotel. I’m so excited. I’m sure you’ll win. I would never have opened this hotel if it wasn’t for you and the bookshop.”