

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

CHAPTER 3



Miss May was shocked again. “Why? What did I do?”

“When I was about 11 my mum brought me into the shop and asked you for help because I didn’t like reading. First of all, you didn’t talk to my mum as if I wasn’t there. That’s always the sign of a good grown-up. You didn’t push me to buy a book about trains or football or spies or magic. You just talked to me. You asked what interested me and you told me to come back the next day. You had really

thought about all I told you. You suggested exciting books of adventure, but not long ones, and there were true books and I liked those, with facts and information.”

“How did that make you a hotel-opener?”

“Firstly you made me comfortable. You thought about what I needed. It’s a wonderful feeling. That’s what a good hotel does. You gave me a variety of things to try, and some of those books taught me about planning and hoping. That was very useful. After that, I often came to the Worm or went to the library when I needed a book to help me.”

“The Worm?!”

“That’s what we all called it at school. We loved it. We thought it was funny. Children are very fond of worms remember. Now it’s been delightful to chat but I have to dash. See you at the banquet.”

Miss May went home all of a flutter, remembering to post Mr Walker’s parcel. She was feeling a little afraid now: ‘banquet’ sounded so grand. Nicki, Vicki and Mr Clare insisted they had not put her name forward for the Award so the mystery remained. Who had?