

TEN WORD TALES EASTER SPECIALS

Guava Palava

by The Story Spinner

CHAPTER 1



Nick and Norma Mole were very excited. In exactly three weeks and two days they would be going on holiday for the first time in years.

Nick and Norma lived by the river in London. They had a tiny house with a gigantic greenhouse. Usually, people who have big greenhouses live in even bigger houses, but not Nick and Norma. The old house next door had sold off bits of land, including the land

with the greenhouse. It was perfect for Nick because Nick's passion was growing fruit. In his greenhouse were orange and lemon trees, papaya and passionfruit, apricots and apples, three kinds of mangos and four kinds of melons. Nick's favourites were his guavas. He grew seven varieties. He had recently won the Great Guava Trophy, beating a gardener from Kew Gardens. Nick encouraged his plants to cover the greenhouse windows. He liked to keep his gardening secrets secret.

Norma was an artist, specialising in painting the flowers of exotic fruits. Most mornings, once Nick had watered everything, Norma could be found with her easel, paints and pencils, painting in the greenhouse or the garden.

Their holiday was happening because Norma had been offered a special job, to visit a tropical island where a new variety of guava had been discovered, and to draw the flowers. Nick was very excited at the news of a new guava, but at first he refused to go. Norma understood that Nick was worried about what would happen to his greenhouse when he was not there. So they made special arrangements. Eventually Nick agreed that if Mick and Melanie, their friends and neighbours, would guard the greenhouse ... and water the plants ... and not touch anything else ... and never allow anyone into the greenhouse except themselves, then he would go.