

TEN WORD TALES No. 4

# Blackberry-on-the-Mead

by The Story Spinner

## CHAPTER 5



Before she left, the Queen posed for a photograph that captured the amazing moment.

The youngest child in the school, holding the hand of the oldest child, gave the Queen a bunch of beautiful flowers. The Queen said, “Thank you.” She climbed in her car and the door was shut. The silver car set off. The Queen’s face was quite invisible through the

dark glass of the window but her pale hand could just be seen, still waving.

It was over.

Of course there was some clearing up to be done and the children wrote about the visit in school. Antoine became haunted by a nightmare in which the whole royal family and all their friends came to the village and he could not manage on his own, so he asked Mia to join him in his restaurant. She was an excellent cook and a brilliant friend. He never had the nightmare again. A new boy, called Kali, brought the fish up from the sea on his scooter.

After a week, the only things to show that the Queen had visited were Kali's scooter, making a *phht phht* sound on it way there and back, the stories on the classroom walls, and the photograph, which was copied many times and could be seen in every home.

The village seemed to go back to sleep almost at once.

But the Queen had not forgotten their kindness. A letter arrived from the palace, addressed to everyone:

Dear All,

I am writing to thank you for the beautiful day you gave me last week. You rescued me in an emergency. You gave me delicious food, beautiful flowers and charming chat. If anyone ever tells you that you are a sleepy village, you should reply that, when it mattered, you woke up and welcomed the Queen. I am sure that we will meet again. I will always remember you.

Love from The Queen

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