

TEN WORD TALES No. 5

# The Little Things that Matter

by The Story Spinner

## CHAPTER 1



There was once a boy called Mercurio who was awesome at Art. He loved colours and ideas. His mum used to say to him, “It’s the little things that matter, Mercurio,” and he always paid attention to details in his designs.

When he was ten he won a drawing competition: a beautiful bird, shaped like a sparrow but with peacock-coloured feathers. When he was twelve he won a competition making a dress using bin liners and bottle tops. When he was twenty he was making wonderful

wedding-dresses and magical costumes for films, still paying attention, as his mum always reminded him, to little details, like zips, bows, ribbons and lace.

Mercurio became so famous he opened a shop in London. The shop was called Zebra because for the very first year all his clothes were black and white. After this they were all the colours of the rainbow. They always had a tiny leaping zebra embroidered inside, a tiny detail to show where they were from.

Mercurio collected marvellous materials and people for his shop. He gathered silk from China, cotton from India, wool from Wales and alpaca from the Andes. He found English embroiderers, Spanish spinners, Norwegian knitters. In Africa he tracked down people to teach others about dyeing fabric in beautiful patterns. He chose fine tailors and skilled seamstresses from all over the globe.

Mercurio was a world-leader in the world of fashion. Everyone was enthusiastic about his designs. Although he was now a big success, Mercurio always remembered that little things matter.

But one thing Mercurio had not realised was that he was making enemies ...

*Watch out for Chapter 2 tomorrow!*