

TEN WORD TALES No. 5

# The Little Things that Matter

by The Story Spinner

## CHAPTER 3



The little embroidery girl called down, “Are you OK?”

“Not really,” said Mercurio.

He was going to climb the stairs and tell her about the envelope when the other workers began to arrive in the shop and he told them instead.

“You must keep going!” said the workers, bravely.

For the next week Mercurio kept going. New orders for four royal weddings and five pop-star-tours came in. He was very busy. He had told the police who promised to investigate and keep watch over the shop. The Zebra shop had a policeman outside every day.

Every night, Mercurio went home feeling anxious. His mum would make him a tasty supper and encourage him to eat. She told him even a little food could give a lot of energy. He sat there every night, eating bits of toast or green beans or the occasional sausage and embroidering zebras on his labels, because doing little things *did* help keep him calm.

A week after the threat, he went early to the workshop. The little embroiderer was at her post. Now she was embroidering wild flowers on one of the wedding dresses.

He was just about to ask her to remind him of her name when they both heard a crash downstairs. Someone was breaking into the shop.

***Watch out for Chapter 4 tomorrow!***