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Opening extract from
The Gingerbread Star

Written by
Anne Fine

Illustrated by
Vicki Gausden

Published by
Barrington Stoke Ltd

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First published in 2015 in Great Britain by
Barrington Stoke Ltd
18 Walker Street, Edinburgh, EH3 7LP
www.barringtonstoke.co.uk

This story was first published in a different form in
Read Me a Story Please (Orion Children's Books, 1998)

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A CIP catalogue record for this book is available
from the British Library upon request

ISBN: 978-1-78112-499-4

Printed in China by Leo

This book has dyslexia friendly features

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Chapter 1

Wonder



In an earthy burrow at the end of a very long lane lived a plain little grey worm. She was called Hetty. One evening, just before bedtime, Hetty saw a small light dancing in the dark wood.



It danced here. It danced there. It danced all over. The little glow shone in the shadowy places between the tall thin trees.

Hetty watched in wonder. “What is that little dancing light?” she asked her father.

“Why, that’s a glow-worm,” her father said. “It’s called a glow-worm because it has a tiny light hidden inside its body.”

“But I’m a worm too!” said Hetty. “And I don’t glow! Why don’t I have a little light inside my body?”



“Because you’re just a plain grey worm,” Hetty’s mother said. “The sort of worm that can’t fly. Glow-worms are different.”

“Maybe I can’t fly,” Hetty said. “But I still wish I had a little glow of light inside my body.”



“It’s no use wishing that,” her mother said.

Hetty said nothing. But she kept watching the lovely little light between the trees until it danced away.

