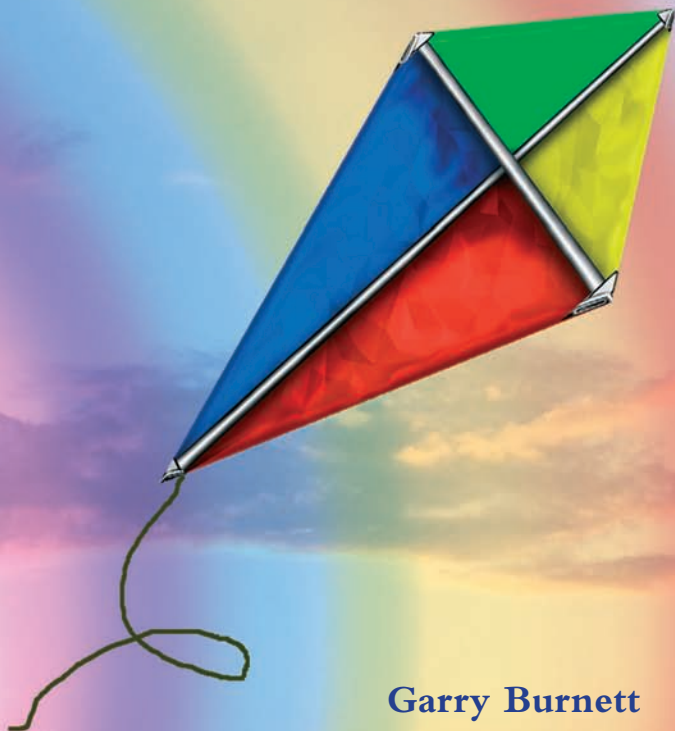


**Mrs Ockleton's
Rainbow Kite
and Other Tales**



Garry Burnett

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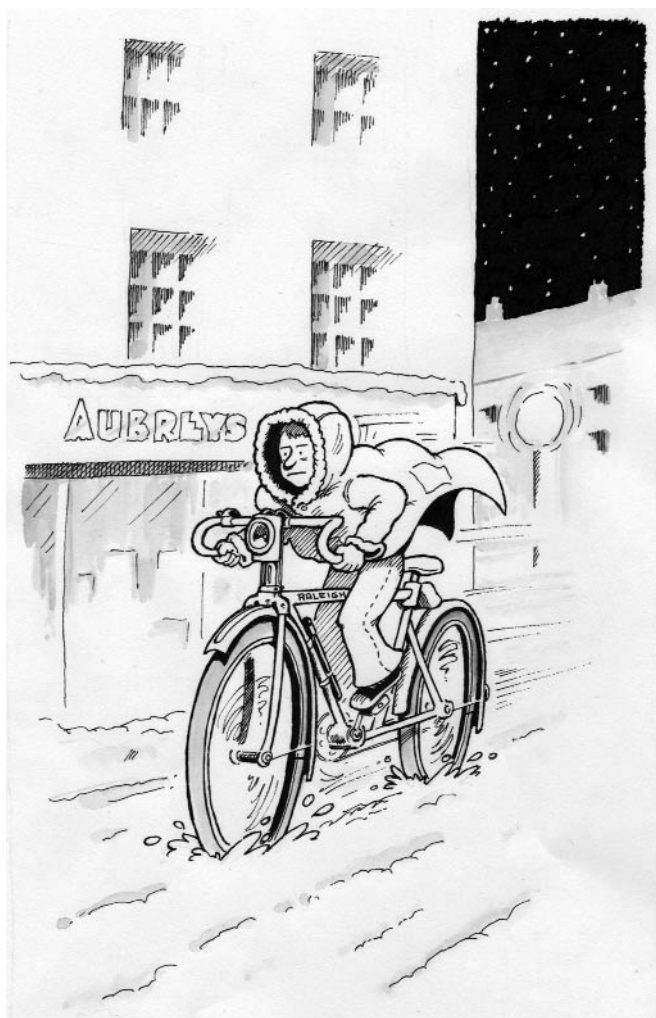
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A Yuletide Tale

The day will come when, after harnessing space, the winds, the tides and gravitation, we shall harness for God the energies of love. And on that day, for the second time in the history of the world, we shall have discovered fire.

PIERRE TEILHARD DE CHARDIN,
French Paleontologist and Philosopher

You could always tell the kids who'd got new bikes for Christmas because at about a quarter to six on Christmas morning they'd be riding up and down the pavements outside our front window, heaving at their pedals, their bums sticking up in the air like jockeys because the seats weren't quite adjusted to their size yet. Mind you, I was no different. I remember the Christmas I asked for a Raleigh Olympus 'racer'. It was the first big bike I'd ever had and it proved to me at last that I must be really 'grown-up'. All the others I'd had would seem like

toys in comparison and for months before I used to daydream about all the places I'd be able to go on my new bike.

But then Christmas always began really early in our house and we always used to build up to it by saying things like, 'In two weeks and three days we'll be able to say "It's Christmas this month"' or 'Tomorrow will be the eve of the eve of the eve of the eve of Christmas Eve.' That's what it was like in our house, we couldn't wait for Christmas.

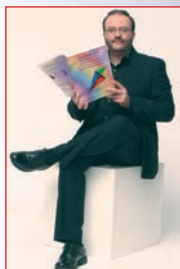
I don't know how our parents managed to give us all they did when money was so tight. 'The good old days?' my Nana used to say, 'They was bad. We had nowt. There were no credit cards or cheque books. We couldn't afford clothes for your Uncle Kevin until he was four, and then we bought him a vest so he could look out of the window.'

I think she was kidding about the last bit.

For six months before Christmas we used to pay a shilling a week into a 'diddle 'em' at my Mum's work. It was our pocket money and a good way, we thought, to save for presents. I always used to wonder why they called it a 'diddle 'em' until one year we didn't get any money because the woman who'd organised it had 'diddled' everyone and spent it on bingo.

When it was finally handed over we would plan our Christmas shopping expedition 'on Road'. It's

Inspired by the music of Gordon Giltrap, *Mrs Ockleton's Rainbow Kite and Other Tales* is an illustrated collection of ten charming short stories by Garry Burnett. Drawing from Garry's memories of growing up in East Hull, these stories deal with a wide variety of themes, including death and bereavement, bullying, friendship, family relationships and growing up. These short insights into an urban working class community and the fantasies and cruelties of childhood will make you think and make you laugh.



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Garry Burnett is an advanced skills teacher at Malet Lambert School in Hull. He is a former Head of English and LEA Adviser and lives in Kirkella, East Yorkshire. www.garryburnett.com

“The craft of the storywriter is to invest the little with significance of the large. Garry Burnett's stories have this discipline of condensed material, making them short insights into large human affairs.”

From the Introduction by Peter Thomas

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Five of the stories in this book are available on this accompanying CD narrated by Garry with music by Gordon Giltrap.

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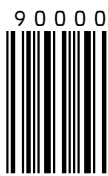
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