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Once upon a time, in a land far, far away, there was a happy town by the coast. It wasn't a dull country village surrounded by green and brown patchwork fields like the kind of place where children grow up all over England, this was a village where magic and the real world mixed together and nobody thought it was unusual. In the wild places beyond the town, you could find ogres and fairies and fire-breathing dragons. It was a dangerous world indeed, but in this town everyone was safe and happy. The happiest member of this village was Bella, the daughter of the lady who ran the local tavern, The Bell.

Bella was eleven and three quarters, and the most spirited girl in the entire town. Bella wouldn't go to bed on time, and snuck downstairs to steal chocolate from the cupboard in the middle of the night. Bella frequently thought she got away with it, but her parents always knew what she was up to. She could also be grumpy when she had chores to do around the house which she didn't want to do. But Bella had a different side to her. She could also be a headstrong and confident girl, who many times stood up to bullies in the playground, and who wasn't afraid to answer back to adults. This confidence made the other boys and girls want to trust her.

Her mother put this down to the fact that they lived without her father. Her mother always said the absence of her father meant that Bella had to grow up very quickly. Which is why she talked back to adults, who were frequently shocked that this little girl would give them lectures on how they should behave. She could stand her ground too. The other boys and girls loved it when she put the school terror, Raymond, in his place. Raymond's behaviour was frequently appalling, but Bella stood up to him.

Bella loved her mother. She grew to love her more and more