

## Penny, the coin with a twist

Once upon a time, in a land not so far away, lived a 50 pence piece called Penny. Born at the Royal Mint in 2009, she was a limited-edition Kew Gardens 50p, though in her youth this had no high importance to her. Ever since she first opened her eyes, if indeed she had eyes, Penny felt strong, brave and ready to tackle the world. Disappointingly, the first part of her life didn't have much world to tackle. After being dumped in a container filled with similar 50ps, poor Penny didn't feel particularly special at all. After a long and claustrophobic journey, she arrived at a bank, and before she had settled in, was sent on another journey off to Argos! As you can probably understand, Penny was getting quite sick of travelling and made it her life's ambition to be part of a collection, where she could sit in a little album all day and relax.

It was in Argos where Penny had her first experience of a till. It wasn't a good one. It seemed like years of waiting before a huge, hairy hand hovered above her. She held her breath. Was it finally her turn to be released from the deep, dark underworld of the till into the new, exciting shop beyond? The monster of a limb moved towards her, and, yes! She had been picked! Penny smiled as she sailed through the air on the soft, human flesh. She was free! Before being dumped into a purse as dark as the till. Penny sighed. She was never going to be part of a collection. She sat back feeling sad and worthless.

Years passed. Penny was moved from shop to purse, purse to bank, bank to shop and in the meantime did things which all coins have to do eventually. She played heads and tails. She was delicately placed under a pillow by the tooth fairy. She was mysteriously disappeared by a magician. She was even scarily dropped into the depths of the dreaded sofa. Stuck to bits of fluff and squished against the wooden frame, poor Penny thought this was by far the absolute worst.

One day, inside another dark till, Penny sat feeling disheartened as usual. Once again, she was taken out of her compartment and plonked into a ready hand. Suddenly, the girl holding Penny beamed from ear to ear. She excitedly exclaimed "This is a new one! It's Kew Gardens!" and stroked Penny affectionally. Penny's heart started racing. After all these years, was she finally going to belong to someone? On the trip back to the girl's house, Penny tingled with excitement. For the first time in her life, she felt like she was worth more than just 50p. In her bedroom, the girl examined Penny before placing her in a collector's guide. Penny's heart burst with happiness. For the rest of her life, Penny sat in the treasured album all day and relaxed, just as her dream was all those years ago.