

Mary's mother was nearly seventy, and Mary and her husband wanted to give the old lady a nice birthday present. She liked drinking tea, so Mary ordered an electric machine which made the tea and then woke you up in the morning. She wrapped it up in pretty paper and brought it to her mother on her birthday. Then her mother opened the package. Mary showed her how to use it.

'Before you go to bed, put the tea in the pot and the water in the kettle,' she explained to the old lady, 'and don't forget to switch the electricity on. Then, when you wake up in the morning, your tea will be ready.'

After a few days, Mary's mother rang up and said, 'Perhaps I'm being rather silly, but there's one thing I'm confused about: why do I have to go to bed to make the tea?'