

## The Knitting Grannies and the great toilet roll shortage!

### Introduction

*For those of you who don't know the Knitting Grannies, here are some things that might help you! There are three knitting Grannies who live next door to me with their cat, Midnight. Each Granny has different coloured hair; Gertie has green hair, Petunia has pink hair and Bluebell (or Bella to the other Grannies) has (you guessed it) blue hair. Along with the quite extraordinary appearance you won't be surprised to be told that, they are not ordinary, nice, fluffy, everyday Grannies! Firstly, they are all phenomenal Knitters which comes in handy when they are out at large, doing what they love to do best.....crime busting! Each story always starts the same way.....*

There was a knock on my front door which made me jump and Frankie, the dog, leaped up from the sofa where he had been snoring loudly! Opening the door, there didn't seem to be anyone there at first, but a sudden sharp pain on my shin made me look down and there, sitting on the door step blowing on his sharp claws, (the reason it seems for the sudden pain in my shins!) and smiling, was a small cat. His fur was as black as the night sky and his eyes as green as emeralds. The most extraordinary thing about him however, was his hat! Yes! you heard me, the cat was wearing a hat! It was green to match his eyes and had two little pockets on the top, to pop his ears in and a strap which buttoned up under his chin!

"Meeow! Meeow! Meeooooow!" he wailed, whilst pointing with his paw towards next doors' house. I had met this little chap before!

"Oh! hello Midnight, you're back are you? I guess the Grannies want to see us? C'mon Frankie, we have been called!"

Grabbing my keys and shutting the door, we followed Midnight to the Grannies house.

"Ahh hello dear, there you are!" smiled Petunia "Do come in, tea, coffee, cake.....carrot?" (this last one for Frankie!)

"For goodness sake Petunia" butted in Gertie, "we don't have time for all of that nonsense, this is an emergency!"

"Hello to you as well Gertie" I put in, "nice to see you back, did you have a good holiday?"

I wish I hadn't said that, for Gertie turned a very peculiar colour as her temper rose, it certainly didn't go with the shade of green in her hair!

"Holiday! Holiday!" she spluttered! "We haven't been on holiday!!! We have been honing our Granny skills ready for more crime fighting! We don't have time for fripperies like holidays!"

"Calm down dear," said Bluebell coming into the room, "getting cross is not good for you!" Looking at me she carried on "we have been learning some extra er, skills, powers whatever you like to call it which should come in useful we hope! It was nice to see the other Grannies....."

"BELLA!" roared Gertie, "That is enough! Loose lips sink ships! Now, can we get on with the matter in hand PLEASE!!"

"Now, now dear, this is our friend and fellow crime fighter, she isn't going to tell people about us, and neither is Frankie pup, but I agree, we mustn't waste time, do sit down dear, alright Gertie, we are all ears, tell us what is going on!"

"Well, it seems the world has gone mad that is for certain! There is a nasty invisible virus around....."

"Oh, I can sort that out dear" put in Petunia, I am a whizz at getting rid of viruses on the interweb!"

"No! No Petunia! Will you listen! The virus isn't on the interNET, it's an illness, spreading across the world, but like viruses on the internet, it is invisible, we can't see it, we don't know where it is or where it will be next. Even us Grannies will have a job to fight an enemy we can't see."

"The Government is telling everyone to wash their hands properly, not just to show them to the tap and run off but to be like doctors and nurses and do every little nook and cranny on your hands with soap and water or that gel stuff. You have to sing happy birthday twice before you can run off" put in Bluebell. "I do like pretending to be an important nurse when I am washing my hands!"

"BELLA! roared Gertie, "Really! This is serious! Yes, yes hand washing is important, I caught you coming in today and you didn't go and wash your hands straight away! You must be more vigilant dearie, we don't want to give the invisible enemy a foothold in our house!"

Bluebell looked embarrassed. "I am really very sorry Gertie, I will try harder, really I will!"

"There, there dear, don't cry now, it's a strange time for all of us. Now, then. All of this is upsetting people, making them panic. Governments all around the world are shutting their countries down and putting their people into lockdown so that the virus can't jump onto them. People here are rushing to the shops to make sure they have enough food and stuffs in case that happens and it is causing chaos! Food shortages and worse than that, no toilet rolls! Quite frankly dears it is a complete shamble out there and someone has to get a grip!

"Gertie, this is huge, its serious!" said Petunia, "I remember doing a Granny survival course with that nice Mr Bear Grylls man and having to squat behind a bush and use leaves to er.....well you know! It wasn't pleasant! I chose the wrong sort of leaf and ended up picking prickles out of my bottom for days!"

"It won't come to that Petunia if we act now" said Gertie putting a comforting hand on Petunias shoulder. "It is time for action ladies! Are you up for the challenge? Midnight and Frankie looked up at Gertie, "yes, yes, we can't forget our very own field agents' can we? Operation toilet roll begins now!

*to be continued.....*