

The Knitting Grannies and the rule breakers

Episode 3

Time seemed to crawl along like a very tired snail the next day as I waited for it to be 6pm so I could pop next door to find out how Petunia and Gertie's mission had gone. I must admit, I wasn't holding out much hope, for when I had walked Frankie earlier there seemed to be a large group of people gathered under the trees on the grass at Hamsey Green. I think they were having a picnic would you believe! Finally, the hands of the clock hit 6 and we made our way through the new knitted gate to the Grannies house. Bluebell opened the door and ushered us both inside, telling me the others were back out on their tandem having a check to see the state of play but would be back at any moment.

"That's good because it gives me a chance to ask you something Bluebell." I said "When you were on Everest knitting the rope, how was it possible? The wool is in Box two hundred and eleventy and you wouldn't have had the box with you" I looked at her expectantly, waiting for the answer. To be honest, between you and me, I wasn't sure if the Grannies were making some stuff up or not!

"Oh, that is easy to answer" she smiled "We have an emergency pack dear, as we told you. We aren't going to put just any standard wool in there are we now? We have our strongest special yarns and of course our strongest knitting needles andwell, Gertie wouldn't like me telling you so, shall we say, a few special items that mean if we run short of something we can er "create" more!" "Create?"

"Yes dear, create, make, conjure up, you know!" Bluebell heaved a sigh of relief as the others returned with Petunia sporting a rather large bruise on her cheek. Gertie stomped crossly in and flung herself down in her chair, even Midnight came in looking very put out indeed!

"Oh, my goodness, whatever has happened!" twittered Bluebell beginning to fuss over Petunia. "Did you fall off the tandem?"

"No, I didn't," replied Petunia indignantly "I am a very competent rider thank you very much, even if SOME people pedal too fast!" She gave Gertie a dirty look. "No, it was one of those rule breakers on the grass at Hamsey Green, the ones having a picnic. Seems they have been there all afternoon and when we stopped to tell them they should be at home, one of them called me an interfering old bat and threw his shoe at me! It hit me right on the face and it was all I could do not to fall off the tandem! Gertie was balancing it whilst we stopped to talk to them with her feet down, but I still had mine on the pedals. I mean to say, they could have hit Midnight in the basket for goodness sake!" "Interfering old bat indeed. I'll give him interfering old bat! He will wish he never said that!"

Bluebell disappeared into the kitchen and soon returned with a bag of frozen peas wrapped in a tea towel which she handed to Petunia to hold on the bruise. Petunia took it gratefully and sank into her own chair.

Gertie heaved herself up and removed her bicycle clips and stomped out of the room.

"I'm off to put the tandem away, Bluebell, make a pot of tea and don't forget the biscuits!"

Bluebell hastened to the kitchen to do as she was told to do. Soon both of them returned and after the tea was poured and the biscuits offered round, we all settled down and looked expectantly at Gertie. Even Frankie caught the sombre mood and didn't try to sneak a biscuit off the plate!

Swallowing the last of her hobnob and reaching for another, Gertie began "It's not good news as you will probably have gathered from Petunia's face! Just as we had feared, the lack of net on the windows proved our downfall, although I must say the doors are holding firm so at least part of the plan worked! No, what these silly people are doing is climbing out of the windows! We even caught one of them in the act and he just laughed at us and told us to go and boil our heads!"

"What's the next step then Gertie? asked Petunia, "you said you had the inkling of some sort of second plan?"

Gertie looked as if she was in two minds if she should reveal what she was thinking, I don't think I have ever seen her look so serious! She seemed to be having an argument with herself but then, making up her mind she looked round at us all and said

"It is no longer possible to pussyfoot around! (no offence Midnight!) These people are a menace to society! A danger and they need to be stopped and taught a lesson so that they will never again think it is fun to flaunt the rules in such a brazen manner! I never thought I would have to say this ladies, but the time has come to call in some extra help! And to do that, we must collaborate with the enemy! There is only one person who can teach these fools a lesson they will NEVER forget. We shall have to watch her like hawks and be vigilant for our own personal safety.....you as well Midnight and

Frankie and definitely you as well dear, (she looked at me) in fact, we might have to keep you out of it altogether. She is as tricky as a box of monkeys and is not used to answering to anyone. She will stop at nothing to get her own way!

Bluebell and Petunia seemed to be listening with growing concern, even Midnight seemed uneasy and was eyeing Gertie up suspiciously! Frankie and myself didn't have a clue who she was going on about.

"The time has come to call in.....MRS PARKER!!!!!!!"

Bluebell gave a little scream and even Petunia gasped at the announcement!

"Are you sure dear? It seems quite drastic!" said Bluebell dabbing at her mouth with her handkerchief. "Is there no other way?"

"Quite sure Bella dear, we must proceed with the utmost caution! Frankie, you know where she lives don't you? You must take us there immediately, there is no time to waste. You dear, (she said to me) stay here with Midnight it is too dangerous for you"

"But what about Boris's rule about going out? " cried Bluebell.

"Buck up Bella, do!" snapped Petunia "I think that just this once we can ignore the rule, this is essential, no, VITAL work, the safety of others depends on us!"

"Yes, Petunia is quite right" put in Gertie, "it's time to stiffen that backbone Bella, stop acting like a jellyfish dear and toughen up! Now, Petunia, we need the car for this journey, go and start her up! Frankie, lead the way!"

to be continued.....