

The Knitting Grannies and the rule breakers.

Episode 4

Clutching nervously at the collar of her blouse, Petunia followed the others and clambered into the very old, very rusty looking V.W Beetle waiting on the drive. (you know the sort of car, think Herbie!) A determined Petunia was sitting in the driver's seat with Frankie squashed between her and Gertie so Bluebell squeezed into the back and buckled her seat belt up. No sooner had the belt clicked shut, the engine gave a throaty roar (for all is not what it seems from the look of the car!) and the little party were off with Frankie waving his paw either left or right or pointing with his nose if they were to go forward.

Mrs Parker lived fairly locally in a quiet cul-de-sac of about ten houses. Petunia guided the car into an empty parking space and after turning off the engine, the Grannies gave themselves no time for second thoughts, jumped out the car, walked straight to the front door where Gertie gave a smart hard rap with the knocker. The door seemed to shake and tremor for it was a very old and neglected door, with paint peeling off in ribbons and the wood was all dry and cracked. At first there was no response, Petunia glanced at the windows but nothing much could be seen through the grime that coated them, only limply hanging curtains that looked equally as dirty as the panes of glass. Gertie lifted the knocker and let it fall once again after which, they heard movement from within the house and moments later the door was wrenched violently open.

"What do you want?" screeched the figure standing there! "I don't give to charity, or buy anything at the door and I can't stand chatty nosy neighbours and (she added catching sight of Frankie) I HATE dogs!"

"Well then," answered Gertie primly, "It's a good job that we aren't collecting for charity, selling anything or standing here wanting to chat about the price of fish! Now, are you going to stop standing there like the crabby old woman you are and invite us in? Oh, and the dog stays with us!" Before Mrs Parker could say a word, Gertie pushed her way past her and headed on into the house! Gertie was acknowledged by the other Grannies as the bravest of them and for that reason, was often the leader, but she certainly wasn't feeling as brave as she came across. The others followed her, with Bluebell keeping a tight hold on Frankie's lead. She didn't trust Mrs Parker not to do something nasty to him. Frankie must have felt the same as he gave a deep throated growl as he passed her.

Mrs Parker slammed the door and followed the Grannies into her back room. "Go on then, spit it out! Tell me what you want and then get out of here!"

"We have a proposition for you Eunice" Gertie said addressing Mrs Parker. "It's this virus and the shutdown of society as we know it. Schools as well which will be affecting you and your nasty little hobby! I bet your basement is quite empty at the moment isn't it?"

"Too right it is" snapped Mrs Parker, "children are still be naughty, I can smell them, but they are at home and I can't get into their houses! I've only got two boys in the jar, found them running in school the day it closed. I liked the look of them too 'cos they are twins and I don't get many of them, most entertaining, although they aren't keen on eating the worms!"

"Well entertaining as it might be, it is high time they returned home, you are going to need all your space for what we have in mind" replied Gertie sharply.

"They ain't going nowhere 'til I says so, so out with it you old bag!" Mrs Parker declared nastily.

Bluebell shrank further behind Petunia but Gertie was not to be intimidated or bullied by being called names.

"There is a lot of naughtiness going on around the village and we want it off the streets! Now, it is not the children this time, it's grownups who should know better and need a sharp shock to make them wake up and see what is under their noses! You will have to re-tune that beak of yours to search them out but I am sure that is not an issue. I know grownups will fit in your jars from when you have sucked up teachers in the past and quite frankly if someone like Mr Mace fits in your jars, then you will have no trouble at all. We will tell you where to find them and the deal is that you can keep them until they promise to be good and stay in their houses then you have to let them go. To be honest, it might take some of them a little while to get to that point but with your care and a good er.....diet of worms and what not, it should do the trick with them and you will be kept entertained in the process. But.....you have to agree to the exit strategy to coin a phrase from the TV these days, you have to promise that you release them at that point!"

Mrs Parker's face took on the look of a rather sly fox (with a beaky nose!) as she weighed up Gertie's proposition and, by the cunning, sly look in her beady eyes, how to make it much more to her advantage.

"Hmmm, interesting! I must admit the twins are beginning to bore me! I need something else to get my teeth into!" She thought for a few more minutes and then declared "Deal! Now spill the beans, where do I find these new playthings?"

"Release the twins and I will tell you" said Gertie firmly. Mrs Parker glared at her but Gertie crossed her arms firmly, standing her ground, so in the end Mrs Parker slunk off to the basement returning shortly after with two very grubby fair-haired boys.

"Zachary! Charles! Don't worry lads, it's OK now, we will soon have you home. The boys went over to Frankie who gave them a big lick each.

All the while Mrs Parker had been out of the room, Petunia had been examining the sucking up machine with great interest, "hmm, I see, yes! of course she needs it for the rule breakers but she is tricky.....now if I twiddle this and turn that and attach this little device here.....yes that should do it!" Using Frankie as a shield so no one could see what she was doing she attached a small, magnetic object on the side of the machine, so small it was hardly noticeable and certainly not to someone with poor eyesight!

"Bluebell, take Frankie and the boys out to the car dear whilst Petunia and I finish here" ordered Gertie. Not waiting to be told twice, Bluebell gathered the twins and ushered them to the door with Frankie on his lead following her.

"Right now, I will tell you where to find the naughty grownups but use that nose of yours to make sure you sniff up every last one of them and don't forget, the deal is you let them go as soon as they say they are sorry" said Gertie to Mrs Parker. "you promised!" Gertie then told her the location.

"Yes, I did, didn't I?" sneered Mrs Parker nastily, as she pushed the two remaining Grannies towards and through the door, "and well in that case, I better keep to it!" with that she slammed the door but I'm not sure if the Grannies heard it, but she added a very faint "NOT" as she watched the car pull away and drive up the road.

to be continued.....