

## The Knitting Grannies and the rule breakers

### Episode 5

Once safely in the car, Bluebell handed Zack and Charlie a sweet each. "Suck these lads whilst we drive you home, it will take away the taste of the worms!" she said kindly. Zack was first to pop the purple sweet into his mouth....."Strawberries and cream!" he sighed happily. Charlie was quick to follow his brother, "mmmmmm! Blueberries and cream!"

Whilst the boys were occupied happily sucking their sweets, Bluebell whispered to the other Grannies "memory erasing fruit drops, won't remember a thing about Mrs Parker or her jars! Mind you, they might refuse yoghurt in the future, out of date or otherwise!"

Once the boys had been dropped off at their door and the Grannies were sure that their Mum had whisked them indoors safely, the little car headed for home which was only just down the road and around the corner.

"Well girls, we have done it, for better or worse" said Gertie as she parked in the drive.

"Oh, don't worry Gertie," said Petunia smiling "if Eunice Parker does cheat on her promise, I think it is safe to say that plans are in place!"

Gertie threw her an inquiring look, but she refused to be drawn further.

"Come on Frankie, let's go in and tell your Mum and Midnight all about it and I think you deserve a carrot for being a brave boy" Bluebell said; and with that all three Grannies plus Frankie went into their house and shut the door.

Meanwhile.....

At Eunice Parkers house, things were a hive of activity as she ran around preparing the basement for her new guests. Big bell jars suddenly became enormous but still fitted on the shelves! Stoppers were removed and food stocks checked (enough worms and out of date yoghurt? A few crunchy snails, yes, that should do it!) Next, she checked the sucking up machine, changing the "cleaning" head for a bigger one, not noticing the little metal device that Petunia had placed on the machine earlier. Finally, she did some deep breathing sniffing exercises and sniffed some salt water up her nose to give it a good clean out! She was ready! Swathing a very moth-eaten black cloak around her and pulling her machine after her, off she went to Hamsey Green. Gertie hadn't been specific about where to look but her nose would find them! Oh yes! She stopped at the green and secreted her herself behind one of the big trees there, like some strange spider waiting for its prey! She didn't have long to wait before she felt her nose start to tingle and twitch! She could smell it! Naughtiness! SNIFF! SNIFF! SNIFF! Her finger ready on the trigger, she itched to press it, but wait.....wait.....wait.....here it comes, just hold steady Eunice.....wait, and.....SLURP!!!! SLURP! SLURP! There they were gone, just bumps travelling down the hose like a snake swallowing mice! Peering at the gauge on the machine, she saw that there was room for three more.....so seven caught, room for ? (use your number bonds children!)

It was well worth her wait for three nicely plump wrongdoers arrived looking for their friends!

"Oi! You!" they shouted spotting Mrs Parker loitering in the trees. "What are you doing and have you seen our mates?"

"Me? I'm just sucking up the dog mess that people haven't cleared up after their dogs which is quite disgusting when you LOVELY people want to picnic!"

"Hahaha! That job was made for a weirdo like you!" sneered one of the lads.

"Oh really?" inquired Mrs Parker with measured menace, "Well... I suppose you must be right, as you seem to know everything, let me get on then" and raising the hose of the machine she flicked the trigger and pointed it in their direction. WHOOSH!

"And just for you.... have some of this" she continued nastily pointing the hose to a rather large pile dog mess. She was distracted from actually sucking it up by the machine making a very strange noise. Checking it she found that the last naughty person had got stuck in the hose, probably due to being rather rotund! (eaten too many sweets!)

"Oh, for goodness sake!" Mrs Parker pressed the boost button and the extra suction pulled the last person in!

Forgetting about the dog mess (thank goodness for that!) Mrs Parker headed for home. Once there she went straight to the basement where she removed the cleaning head from the hose and put the end of it in one of the jars. Next, she turned a switch from suck to blow. Counting carefully, she proceeded to empty five people into one jar before turning off the machine and popping the stopper

firmly on the bottle. Positioning the hose in the next jar, she repeated the process, until the machine was empty and the stopper firmly put on jar number 2. She looked with satisfaction at the result of her work!

Her guests were shouting and gesturing at her.

"No one can hear you so you might as well stop with all that noise!" she snapped. "The sides of the jar are sprayed with anti-climbing spray so don't bother trying that one!" I'll feed you when I come back, until then, get used to your new homes, you are going to be staying here for a long long time!" Turning off the light, she made her way up the stairs, slamming and triple locking the basement door behind her. Years of capturing naughty children had taught her to be extra careful. They were tricky little things and were always escaping! She thought of her present specimens.....an entertaining bunch they looked. Oh yes, she wouldn't be letting them out even if they did promise to follow rules! Those Knitting interfering Grannies could go and take a running jump! No way was she keeping a promise made to them. These playthings were hers! Oh yes, they would soon find out. Don't mess with Eunice Parker!

*To be continued.....*