

The Knitting Grannies and the rule breakers

Episode 6

Two weeks had passed since the Grannies had struck their deal with Mrs Parker and nothing had been heard from her. Gertie had tried visiting after a week but the door had remained stubbornly closed to her insistent knocks. Frankie and myself had been out on the streets on his allowed daily exercise hour but had seen no further rule breakers. People were following the new rules.

"I think the time has come to investigate in more depth" decided Gertie as we all sat drinking tea that afternoon. Petunia and myself were out on the tandem yesterday for our allotted daily exercise and we went past the rule breakers house. The nets were still on the door but there was no sight or sign of anyone in the house. I have a horrible feeling that Eunice Parker has gone back on her promise and still has those poor chaps in her jars! Midnight, you will have to go and scout about as she knows Frankie now, but be careful and disguise yourself first."

Midnight jumped down from Bluebell's warm lap and disappeared out of the room, only to return a few minutes later with his idea of a disguise.....a different coloured hat! Silly cat! To be fair to him, this one was black and matched his fur perfectly, but why wear a hat at all in that case? Bluebell whispered to me (as if she could read my thoughts) "His ears.....they get very cold you know!"

Helping him swap his hats, making sure his ears were tucked warmly into the little pockets and buttoning the new one under his chin, Bluebell gave him a reassuring stroke. "Be careful little man!" she told him and in the blink of an eye he was gone!

The wait for him to return and report back was a lengthy one. The Grannies filled the time with their knitting, I wasn't sure what they were doing and they didn't ask me to join them. Eventually we heard the rattle of the cat flap in the back door and Midnight returned, leaves adorning his black hat.

"Meow, meow, meow, meow.....meow, meow, meow....." Well, you get the idea! He meowed on for quite a time, gesticulating with his paw!

"Oh, that is not good, not good at all!" Petunia tutted. "It is just as we feared, Eunice has not released the rule breakers! Poor things, they have been cooped up for a fortnight! A week would have been quite sufficient! She obviously is determined to get as much fun out of keeping them as she can. Tell me Midnight, did you get to see them?"

More earnest meows from Midnight. I waited for Petunia to translate. "Ah, he didn't actually get to see them but he saw Eunice in the garden digging for worms and collecting snails and I think we all know why she would be doing that!"

"Oh, my Giddy Aunt! We must rescue them as soon as we can!" I cried.

There was a sudden loud popping noise and a flash of bright purple light filled the room. When my eyes could focus again, there sitting, where no one had been sitting before, was the most elegant looking lady, tall and dressed all in floral floaty clothes with swathes of matching scarves around her neck. Colourful, large glasses framed her rather unusual lavender coloured eyes and her hair, a beautiful shade of fox red was swept to the side and plaited, hanging like a rope from her shoulder, mixing with the scarves. She carried a large handbag, the sort the Queen would carry!

She looked around at us, and smiled, eyes dancing. "Long time no see!" she tinkled, blowing kisses at the Grannies and me and bending to stroke Frankie and Midnight.

"Who on earth are you!" I exclaimed "and where did you come from and Why?"

"This dear," said Bluebell leaning over to me and patting my arm. "This is your Giddy Aunt! You called her up, don't you remember?"

"Yes, ***Oh my Giddy Aunt, we must rescue them as soon as we can!***" I think were your words!" chuckled Gertie. "Long time no see indeed dear Gloria! When was it now, back in Devon I believe with those smelly pirates!"

"Oh, what fun that was," trilled Gloria, in a musical voice, "such a long time since we had an adventure together! I will never forget getting the captain to wash his pants!"

"Quite!" said Gertie "but we must get on, this is a serious situation and I am glad that you are here, we could use a hand."

Gertie went on to fill my Giddy Aunt in on what was happening. "It is all our fault for getting her involved in the first place. I feel quite awful, we have put those poor people in danger!"

"We had to Gertie," said Petunia comfortingly "there was no other way. We had to do our bit to fight the virus" She looked as if she wanted to say something else but then thought better of it.

"Wouldn't trust that Eunice Parker further than I could throw her.!" said Gloria after Petunia had finished. "I was at school with her you know, well, she was in the year above me, never did her work, always playing the teachers up and pushing the younger children over. No one would play with her, no friends at all! One day she cornered me in the girl's lavatory and pushed my head down the toilet and flushed the chain and all because I stopped her pulling the wings off a ladybird!" I've waited a long time to get even with her!"

"Oh, my word!" twittered Bluebell, "how awful for you dear!"

"If you can help us release her prisoners Gloria, I promise she will regret treating you like that!" said Petunia with a slight tone of menace in her voice. "Excuse me everyone, I need to go to my lab.....I mean my bedroom, I have something I need to do. "

With that Petunia got up and once in her bedroom (which did look remarkably like a laboratory) she reached for a small remote-control pad and began to make alterations to its programme. Oh yes, Eunice Parker had it coming to her for her nastiness! She hoped that the other Grannies and the Giddy Aunt would come up with a way to rescue the rule breakers as soon as possible and then, Eunice Parker was going to get it!

To be continued.....