

## The Knitting Grannies and the Pirate Ship in the Bird Bath Episode 7

Once Black-Eyed Jack had disappeared into his quarters, the Grannies and Marigold set to work. Of course, it was all part of their plan to separate Bluebell from the rest of them and get her to Midnight, hence why she stayed dressed in her own clothes. Gertie had rightly predicted that Midnight would not take kindly to being catnapped and kept locked up and would not be being his usual perfect self! In fact, she knew that he would be at his most stropy and believe me, Midnight in a cat strop is not something you want to experience! Avoid at all costs!

Whilst Gertie was escorting Bluebell down below decks, Marigold and Petunia busied themselves lowering the sails and detaching them from the rigging watched with one eye by the sausage dog. Once removed they replaced them with the pink knitting but left them at the bottom of the masts waiting for the signal to hoist them later. Gertie, who had by this time reappeared, strode the decks tossing handfuls of green and red knitting all around. The dog watched her curiously but didn't move. The knitting caught in the breeze and floated upwards, coming to rest in the rigging above.

"I've told the crew that they are in lockdown and confined them to the galley!" she told the others. "I told them that the smelly one (Black-Eyed Jack!) had caught a very bad dose of Chicken Pox and it was highly contagious! I said it had given him a high fever and he was rambling and shouting and delirious so if they heard shouting not to take any notice! Just to be on the safe side though, I locked the galley doors!"

"Good work!" laughed Petunia. "Right Gertie, we are all done here!"

Gertie gave her a nod and whipped the portable Queen Pin out of her pocket,

"We solemnly promise that we have done our best, time is ticking, please Queen Pin do the rest!"

She wafted the needle all around the deck and up into the rigging above. She even pointed it at the little sausage dog and tapped on the deck three times with it as well before putting it safely in her pocket.

And.....I bet you think something marvellous happened, don't you? Well

.....nothing! Absolutely nothing happened!! Everything stayed exactly as it had been!

Didn't expect that did you! Neither did I but Gertie looked unperturbed. She turned as Black-Eyed Jack made his noisy way back up on deck.

"Get that cat and bring the old lady too!" he bellowed! "I feel like some sport and it's a good day for some plank dancing!!"

"No need for plank dancing today Captain" trilled a voice "I think you will find that the cat is much more suited to shipboard life now!" Bluebell had appeared from below deck and, as she stepped to one side, there behind her was.....a cat sized parrot! (bet you didn't think I would be saying that now did you!)

Black-Eyed Jack went as white as a clean pair of underpants (not his though, they hadn't been washed for years!) and he began to shake and tremble, his knees knocking together and the fat on his belly beginning to ripple like the waves on the sea.

Pretending not to notice his distress, Bluebell carried on "Oh yes, parrots are much more the thing on a ship like this and for a man of your standing, being Captain and in charge and all! As she spoke she strode confidently towards him with Midnight standing upright on his back legs, flapping his front legs which were inside the costume's wings. Yes, Midnight was wearing a cat sized parrot costume!

"NO!.....NO!.....get away from me!" quaked Black-Eyed Jack trying to hide behind the ships wheel "Dog, get it, get it!"

The dog raised its head and looked at the trembling mass that was the Captain and then turned and looked at the flapping parrot. Slowly it got up and swaggered over to Black-Eyed Jack and lifting his leg, peed on him to show his disgust for his former master. Then he turned around and went to stand with Midnight.

"Now!" cried Gertie "hoist the sails!" and once more taking the needle out of her pocket she waved it frantically around the scene. Black-Eyed Jack could only look on with growing horror as the sails rose in the rigging and as they filled with air, they revealed their candy floss pinkness! Not only that, but the red and green feathered knitting turned into an army of parrots perched along the rigging all squawking in a cacophony of strident noise!

And finally, Gertie strode over and hauled in the skull and cross bone flag and replaced it with a pair of the Captains hole riddled grey unwashed underpants! How embarrassing!

"You miserable specimen of a man!" she said addressing the cowering blubbering Captain! "Whatever would your Mother say if she could see you now?!"

With that she reached up and pressed the button on her T shirt that Petunia had given her earlier.

"What indeed!" A different voice boomed out from the stern of the boat. Turning to look, I could see a very sour looking thin women heading our way. Not someone you would want to cross in a hurry! Pushing past the Grannies and Marigold, ignoring the cat sized parrot and the sausage dog, she marched straight up to Jack and stood looking down on him with her hands on her hips!

"There I was in the middle of making dinner and I gets rudely interrupted! Just look at the state of you! When did that hair last see shampoo or a brush and I doubt it's seen a pair of scissors for a while, neither has your beard! Disgusting! Stop snivelling and look at your Mother when she's talking to you! Hmm! I can see you haven't been cleaning your teeth night and morning and a few too many sweets by the looks of this" (she poked him in his belly!). "I bet you haven't even de-fluffed your belly button, have you?"

She looked him up and down with an icy stare, "I am ashamed of you. That's what I am, ashamed! Going around stealing cats, kicking out at defenceless dogs and being rude to a fluffy old lady! Just wait! I've more to say to you and there will be no dinner for you today that is for sure!" With that she grabbed him by the ear and marched him off towards his cabin with the odd words floating behind them as they went....."disgrace.....bully.....what would your father say.....close your mouth and stop breathing near me it's disgusting....."

*To be continued. ....*