

Knit One, Purl One

Characters

Marjorie Huffington- Fairisle - Chairwoman of the Wooltown Knitting Circle Committee, very posh -Penelope Keith type – Anne

Pearl Button- Secretary of the group – dithering, June Whitfield type- Jan

Casta Stitch – New Member Exotic and mysterious - Lesley

Maureen (Mo) Hare – Lifelong member. Quite eccentric, not always following what's happening - Helen

Anita Cotton – Wants to be Chairwoman. Bitter, caustic - Lou

Talking and muttered conversation;

Marjorie : (Very plummy): Ladies, ladies, (*claps hands*) could I ask you all to take your seats so we can start this meeting forthwith?

Pearl : Are the chairs ok Marjorie? Would you like some water? Is the lighting.....

Marjorie: Pearl, we are five minutes late in starting, everything is perfect.

Scraping of chairs

Marjorie : Good evening ladies, if we could commence proceedings of the Wooltown Knitting Circle Committee now. Miss Pearl Button will be taking the minutes and has circulated the agenda. Thank you Pearl. Do we have the apologies for absence?

Mo (laughs): How can they apologise if they're not even here?

Pearl (rustles papers): Sorry, sorry, just finding the list, here it is. Yes John Bull and Micky Arable. Oh no, sorry that's from the Young Farmers' meeting last night. Oh don't tell me I've picked up the wrong folder?

Marjorie sighing : Come along Pearl, we haven't got all night.

Mo : I wouldn't mind being in a folder with the Young Farmers all night! *laughs*

Pearl: Sorry Madam Chair. Here it is. Mrs Arran, Mrs Cable and Ms Scarfe send sincere apologies. The WI are holding an extraordinary meeting tonight, a talk on, "The Success of the Great British Bake Off" by a guest speaker called Merry Berry – what a co-incidence for a cook to have a name like that!

Mo : Sounds like a gooseberry soaked in gin!

Marjorie : Extraordinary meeting indeed! I will have to talk to the ladies about their priorities and commitment.

Anita (sarcastic): Well, maybe, if Madam Chair livened up these evenings, they might be more inclined to join us. Hmm the public bar of 'The Lamb's Fleece' or the draughty hall of 'The Good Shepherd Church'? Tough choice.

Marjorie : Thank you for that feedback Anita, I will bear it in mind. Now Pearl, have you noted the names of everyone that **is** here?

Pearl : Oh yes of course, so we have Mo. Sorry Mo, I'm in a bit of a tizzy tonight, just remind me of your surname.

Mo laughs : It's Hare – Mo Hare. Well it's Maureen really, and my maiden name was Hawkes, so I used to be Mo Hawkes...

Marjorie : Could we please keep all the conversation relevant to the meeting. Have you noted Anita Cotton is here Pearl?

Anita : Yes Madam Secretary, please note my name and add – 'present but wishes she was at the pub with a Merry Berry'.

Marjorie : Now, I would like to welcome our new member of the Wooldtown Knitting Circle, Miss Casta Stitch."

Casta : I'm delighted to be here Mrs Huffington-Fairisle. Thank you for inviting me to join the committee.

Marjorie : No need to call me that dear, we're all friends here. You can call me 'Madam Chair'.

Mo : You're very welcome Casta, nice to meet you, do you come from Germany?

Casta: Err, no, my name is Spanish, my mother was from Cuba!

Mo : Oh I say, I do love a cigar sometimes. Are you related to Fiddle? I did love his song, *sings* 'If I were a Rich Man. Na na na na na na na na

Pearl : Shall I minute that Madam Chair?

Anita : Give me strength.

Marjorie : (*Irritated*) **NO!** If we could get back to the agenda please ladies. The first item is the Masked Ball at Wooldtown Manor. Lady Angora, (*pause and smile*) as always, has kindly asked me to represent the Knitting Circle at the ball in June. In our usual tradition we will provide a gift to her Ladyship. Something tasteful and

very exclusive, showcasing our craftsmanship.

Mo : We could knit the masks! How about animals: sheep, cows, pigs, crocodiles...?

Marjorie (more irritated): Pearl please do minute Mrs Mo Hare's suggestion, but I think I can speak for **all** the ladies on the committee, this would NOT be suitable or acceptable.

Casta : If I could make a suggestion Mrs Huff -err Madam Chair? I understand the evening is a charity ball raising funds for the local hospital. Could we all knit squares to make up a large blanket? It could possibly be auctioned on the night and then donated to the hospital?

Marjorie (through gritted teeth): What a marvellous idea Miss Stitch! But the problem is my dear, we all have different levels of tension. Mo is rather loose in her knitting, whereas Pearl runs a very tight stitch. Sorry Anita, I can't remember what yours looks like, since the knitted bathing costume debacle hit The Sun newspaper you haven't done much knitting have you? Mine, of course, is always true to the gauge of the pattern. I have visions of our members coming up with a patchwork blanket suitable for a dog's bed. *Affected laugh-ha ha ha*.

Casta : Oh I see *Madam Chair*, well I have some beautiful patterns for knitted toys, we could knit one for every guest, again raising funds for the hospital?

Marjorie : Wonderful idea but knitted toys are *so* 1970s my dear. We mustn't live up to the reputation of the knitted dollies with crinoline dresses concealing the loo rolls. No, no, no.

Mo : I was thinking we could knit a centrepiece for each table, how about a fruit bowl? Oranges, lemons, even a pineapple – a few Merry Berries throw in too, just imagine it! *(Laughs whoo hoo hoo)*

Marjorie : Thank you so much ladies for your, err, valued suggestions.

Anita : Well I think her Ladyship might like to see the High Street decorated for her party. Lots of guests from out of town, driving through and seeing post box toppers, bunting, bus stops with flower garlands, all knitted, crocheted and stitched. It's called Yarn Bombing.

All, apart from Marjorie, smile, nod and murmur yes.

Marjorie : I cannot believe you are suggesting we vandalise our beautiful town by littering it, this is akin to graffiti, also I would like to point out, we are not, I repeat, **NOT** a crochet group.

(takes a deep breath and in a very serious voice) I will not allow our good name to be linked to any act involving bombing of any nature, Have you got all that Pearl?

Anita : OK would you prefer it if I called it Guerrilla Knitting?

Mo : I think I did knit a gorilla once, I'll dig out the pattern.

Casta : I like this idea very much, it would brighten up the town and make everyone smile.

Marjorie (raising her voice): With all due respect Casta, you have only moved here recently, I think it is very early for you to suggest that the town needs brightening up and people don't smile.

Casta : I didn't mean...

Anita (stands and shouts): As usual Marjorie, any idea I have is never good enough. *(bangs the table)* You find fault in everything and anything I say or do. You bring up the knitted swimming costume whenever you can, I wasn't to know someone would throw a bucket of water over me. Anyway it was 20 years ago, can we just forget it?

Pearl (Quivering voice): Could you all please slow down and stop shouting, I can't write that quickly!

Mo : Shall I put the kettle on? I've made a nice parsnip and chilli cake for teatime, it's a new recipe.

Marjorie (snaps): Not yet Mo!
(Calmer and regaining control) I propose we come up with a beautiful gift for her ladyship to wear on the night. Something to exhibit the craftsmanship and skills of the group. I will make enquiries as to the colour of her ball gown and I think we should knit the pashmina of all pashminas. I would offer to do this myself, but with all my commitments on this committee, the Parish Council, organising the flower arranging rota at the church, and my charity work, I would like to propose Miss Pearl Button instead. Her tight stitching will be just perfect for this purpose. So I will propose and ask for someone to second please?

Mo : Aye, I second that. *(Puts her pen in her mouth as if smoking it)*

Casta: Should we ask Pearl if she wants to do that Madam Chair?

Pearl (looks up): Sorry, I'm a bit behind on the minutes, how do you spell Pash Mee Na? I am, of course, happy to do whatever Madam Chair asks.

Pearl whispers to Mo : I'm not even sure what a Pash Me Na is?

Mo whispers to Pearl : It's ok Pearl, I'll show you, it's a type of fruit that will fit perfectly on the table centrepieces alongside my pineapples! *(laughs)*

Marjorie : All those in favour?

All raise hands except Anita.

Marjorie : That motion is carried 4 to 1, we have a quorum. Thank you ladies. The next item on the agenda has been proposed by Miss Casta Stitch, the formation of the 'knit and natter group' up at Oddfellows, the mens' prison.

The End