

Nanny Sheila and the Invisible Smugglers

Living in the picturesque village of Mousekard “where forest meets sea” is 12- year-old Jess and her dad, Adam. Jess’ mum died when she was 8 and since then, she and her dad have lived together in their very old house with their four dogs, one cat, one hamster and a small flock of chickens.

Life is fairly idyllic for Jess until she befriends a new boy, Fenn, fostered by the enigmatic Granny Apple who speaks three languages, teaches Salsa and smokes a pipe. Granny Apple – a woman of indeterminate age – is the village matriarch and a lifeline for children in care, who need a bit of love and support “to make the right choices”.

Hanging around with Fenn and her best friend’s Nan and Jake, Jess starts to see things that don’t make sense and becomes convinced that Granny Apple is involved in modern day smuggling! Mysterious sacks and bottles appear in Granny Apples old barn and not long afterwards, rumours start to fly that developers want to buy some land near Granny Apple’s small farm and build a hotel. Villagers are outraged! Granny Apple, Mr Harrison from the village council and Creepy Crawley, Jess’ history teacher, and even more worryingly, Jess’ dad, start having secret meetings.

The children are determined to help fight the development, but in the meantime, Jess and Fenn discover a tunnel and work out that it takes them to the village, but the village over 100 years ago the past! When Jess and Fenn go for a second time to show Nan and Jake what they’ve found, they get caught up in a deadly storm and need to stop a wrecker from pulling a ship into the rocks.

Can Jess and the others, survive the storm and if so, can they save a beautiful bit of woodland from turning into a luxury hotel and cutting of the tunnel forever?