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workshops

Marjorie Macardo
AKA Lady Granville
by Elaine Davies

Looks every one of her 88 years, but deep lines and wrinkles don't bother her, her life is still full, she has a trim figure and a firm handshake, even though her hand may be bony. Her nails are perfect almond shaped and her bright red nail varnish matches her immaculately applied lipstick. Her face is heavily made up, but not out of place as Marjorie Macardo was and still is an actress; "in films," she will tell you – "a stuntwoman you know" – oh yes..."

It all started when she went to Pinewood Studios as an apprentice make up artist, as if that was not exciting enough a handsome young camera man called Mason Macardo noticed she had a likeness to the star of the current film in the making.

"A stuntwoman – never!" no she wanted to be an actress.

"Go on," said Mason, "give it a try, it won't be too dangerous all you have to do is jump from a burning car!"

She was so in love with Mason that she agreed, mainly to impress him. Impress him she did, they were married three months after the Wrap Party.

Always impeccably turned out and with eyes only for each other, they remained deeply in love until Mason died. Her dream to be an actress became reality. She carried on doing local rep and touring groups, always nimble and flawless.

She still runs the boarding house that she and Mason started together, for their retirement.

She cooks breakfast for her guests, cleans the rooms and bathrooms and drives her guests back and forth to Gatwick when required in her 4x4.

All her costumes are displayed in her private sitting room, all manner of clothes are on show including her can-can dress from Moulin Rouge to her bowler hat from Caberet. She can still wear them all too, having never put on any weight.

She is now known to her friends and loved ones affectionately as Lady Grandville – a nickname she has adopted with enthusiasm.

As she falls asleep each night, she wonders what her dreams will be about and will it be her last night alone before she joins her beloved Mason, to dance together eternally.

Mason and Marjorie Macardo now known as Lord and Lady Grandville.