

THE DEN by CLARE PRICE

Penny has spent years trying to persuade her father that she can build a den. She takes the responsibility of it very seriously.

PENNY.

(Talking to new friend Peter)

Our den is over there behind the hedge and the password is ...

(Whispers in Peter's ear)

So, you're to take the oath to stay a secret agent for the Penny Pilling Agency, okay?

Then I can give you the secret pencil and pad with the invisible ink. So cross your heart that you will always be a member of the P.P. Agency? *(Pauses)*

Never rat on a friend – Always be loyal to Penny – And clear the Den out every Tuesday. I'll write the new password in invisible ink on your badge.

Good. *(Shakes Peter's hand vigorously)*

Now you can see the den. *(Walks to fence and mimes climbing over it)*

Here it is. *(Pauses in shock)*

What's happened? We had a den. A beautiful den with a chair, a rug, lemonade, an old portable radio. Where's it gone?

(Very upset she calls to the gardener)

Mr White, where's my den? ... New neighbours? Why didn't they like it?...

But it only touched their fence on one side. They should have been proud that their fence was the roof support. What's the new neighbour's name? ... I'll ask my Dad to go and see them. *(Pauses in thought)...*

Did you say Bentley? *(Turns on Peter)*

Isn't that your name Peter? ... What do you mean?... Your parents asked you to speak to me about demolishing my den. I thought you wanted to become a member. How could you let me down? Well, from now on you're no longer a member of the P.P. secret agency. *(Angry)*

So go and tell your parents that.