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The Bookshop-Review

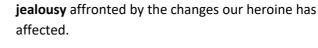
Emily Mortimer, Bill Nighy and Patricia Clarkson star in Catalan director Isabel Coixet's adaptation of Penelope Fitzgerald's 1978 novel about a woman's struggles to bring a bit of literary culture to an English town that badly needs it.

Set in a **sleepy** 1950's English town, The Bookshop tells the story of Florence Green's ultimately **doomed** attempt to re-energise an out of touch, morally **somnambulant** rural



townsfolk through the dissemination of some of the most stirring literature of the day. Leaving grief and a dead husband in the past, Florence takes life into her own hands by opening a bookshop in Hardborough, a quiet Anglian town, and one sheltered from the social and sexual revolutions taking place in the far away urban centres. Through the dissemination of classic contemporary works of fiction such as Nabokov's Lolita and Ray Bradbury's Fahrenheit 451, she stirs long buried feelings in the townsfolk and in particular in the reclusive Mr Brundish with whom she subsequently strikes up a deep bond.

But her actions bring the wrath of the controlling, vengeful Violet Gamart, a local social doyenne who is





Its **subversive** undercurrent, **embodied** in fine performances by Emily Mortimer and Bill Nighy, is what makes it really interesting. Production **design** is also undoubtedly one of the great successes of the film.





