

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 **jealousy** affronted by the changes our heroine has affected.



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.