



THE  
DUCHESS  
BAKES  
A  
CAKE

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY  
VIRGINIA KAHL



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A long time ago there lived over the waters  
A Duchess, a Duke, and their family of daughters—  
Madeleine, Gwendolyn, Jane and Clothilde,  
Caroline, Genevieve, Maude and Mathilde,  
Willibald, Guinevere, Joan and Brunhilde,  
And the youngest of all was the baby, Gunhilde.

The Duke spent his time either resting or fighting  
And the Duchess did reading,  
or spent her time writing.

The children were busy  
with their play or their schooling  
While the king of their country spent all his time ruling.





One day the Duchess sat up in the tower,  
She had listened to minstrels for many an hour.  
She was bored with embroidery, tired of talking,  
She hoped no one suggest  
that she venture out walking.

So she sat in the tower and thought what she'd do  
While the girls were at school  
and the Duke busy, too.  
Then, quickly, she sat up, a light in her eyes—  
“Why, I'll bake them a cake—what a lovely surprise!”





So she raced down the turret,  
three steps at one leap,

Cleared the help from the kitchen and said,  
“Don’t you peep.

You’ll all be delighted, for I’m going to make  
A lovely light luscious delectable cake.”

The cook said,

“Now, Duchess, I’ve advice you could take.”

But the Duchess said,

“No, *I* am baking this cake.

So take the day off and be sure to have fun.

By the time you get back, the cake will be done.”

