

The Violet Surprise Cake

You've arrived just in time, nice of you to drop by. The Loopies are busy decorating. You can help too if you like. It's Granny's birthday, she's turning eighty today. That's a lot of years for any LooPie! Granny is the oldest LooPie in Acresville and everybody's favourite. Every LooPie in Acresville had decided on a present for Granny, all except Rufus and Ruff.

Rufus and Ruff were the handymen of Acresville. They could fix just about anything. They were excellent carpenters and every year for her birthday they had given Granny something they had made from wood.

She had a new bed, rocking chair, foot rest, ornament cabinet and a dining room table that they had carved from an old Oak stump. But this year they wanted to give Granny something special. After all turning eighty is quite an accomplishment!

"What should we do?" asked Ruff.

"Every LooPie in Acresville have a present for Granny. Leechie has bought her that perfume she likes so much and George has made her a photo album of all the Loopies in Acresville. Chelsea has made her a jewellery box and I'm sure all the other Loopies have just as many wonderful ideas too!" he continued.

"I've got it!" shouted Rufus, grinning from ear to ear.

"Tell me quick! What is it?" asked Ruff, his tail twitching with excitement.

"We'll do something we've never attempted to do before!" declared Rufus, still grinning his toothy grin.

"What's that Rufus?"

"Bake!" Rufus exclaimed loudly.

“We’ll bake Granny a cake.” He repeated deliberately.

Together the brothers made a short list of everything they would need for the cake and strolled off to the shops. They grinned and giggled and squealed with glee. This would be Granny’s best present ever!

“You get out the mixing bowl while I find the right recipe.” Ordered Rufus, as he rustled through the pages of their cook book. After a long while and a lot of paging Rufus sat down on the couch and looked despondent.

“Ruff,” he said

“We have a problem, none of these recipes are good enough for Granny’s cake. They are too ordinary. We need something different, something special.”

“Then why don’t we make our own recipe?” Offered Ruff.

“Ruff! You’re a genius and that’s why you’re my brother!”

So the two of them got to work! And they might have made quite a beautiful cake until they began with the mixing!

They searched the cupboards and found the syrup, chocolate sauce and some peanut butter. They boiled some peas – because Granny loved peas and they peeled the potatoes – because they always peeled the potatoes when they stayed over at Granny’s house!

“Hey!” remembered Ruff.

“Granny loves it when we wash the dishes!”

“And when we make her tea!” agreed Rufus

“Pass the tea bags!” Rufus said sternly.

So they squeezed some dishwashing liquid into their cake mixture and added the teabags. They mixed in the potatoes and whisked in the peas.

Soon the cake was ready to go into the oven. So they set the oven to the highest it would go.

“I don’t want the cake to be raw in the middle.” Explained Rufus.

“I agree,” said Ruff.

“That’s just disgusting!”

So they put the cake inside the oven and skipped off to wash up and make the icing.

The icing became just as much a concoction as the cake! Rufus crushed some nuts while Ruff grated the chocolate. They added some flowers – because Granny loved flowers and just a touch of icing sugar.

“I don’t want it to be too sweet.” Said Rufus. He was a Handyman, how was he to know that icing sugar is the main ingredient when making icing!

They finished off the icing with a squeeze of chocolate sauce and a large spoon of baking powder.

“There that’s perfect!” exclaimed Ruff.

Rufus put on the fluffiest oven gloves he could find, and pulled the cake out of the oven.

“Rufus,” said Ruff gingerly, “I don’t think cakes are supposed to bubble out dishwashing liquid when they’ve come out of the oven!”

“Oh that’s just because it’s hot! It’ll stop bubbling any minute now!” replied Rufus casually.

“Ok, if you say so.” Said Ruff, getting out the fancy cake plate.

They spread their creation with their special icing and decorated the top with tiny purple violets. Then stood back to admire their handy work!

“What shall we call it?” asked Ruff.

“How about, Granny’s Violet Surprise Cake.” Said Rufus, “Cause she’ll sure be surprised that we made her a cake!”

Later at the party when Granny had opened all of her gifts, Rufus and Ruff proudly presented her with a box. She untied the ribbon and lifted out their creation. The Loopies gasped! The cake looked terrible! Rufus and Ruff looked at one another in dismay.

“It’s called a Violet Surprise Cake Granny.” Explained Ruff, looking very worried.

Granny smiled at them both, stuck her finger in the icing and licked it clean. She licked her lips and said, “Well, out of all the presents in Acresville, this Violet Surprise Cake is my favourite!”



© 2010 Ingrid Holtshausen. All rights reserved.