

BAGUETTE & BONTON - #1

# LONG-EARED



**BLESS YOU!\_**



**MOMMY MELODY** HUMMED AS SHE GATHERED FOOD FROM THE PANTRY:

**BAULANDIA SÌ, ♪ Baulandia No... LA TERRA DEI CANI ♪...**

(BAULANDIA YES, BAULANDIA NOT... LAND OF DOGS - IS A SPOOF OF A FAMOUS ITALIAN SONG)

IT WAS A WARM, SUNNY MORNING, AND SHE WANTED TO BAKE A CARROT CAKE JUST LIKE **GRANNY PANCAKE**

USED TO MAKE. SUGAR, CARROTS AND YEAST. AND FROM THE FRIDGE, SHE TOOK EGGS AND BUTTER TOO. BUT... SHE COULDN'T FIND ANY FLOUR! HOW CAN ANYONE BAKE A CAKE WITHOUT FLOUR? SHE TOLD HERSELF SHE MUST HAVE FLOUR SOMEWHERE.

AND SO SHE ENDED UP EMPTYING THE PANTRY IN HER SEARCH. FINALLY, SHE FOUND A PAPER BAG THAT MIGHT HAVE FLOUR. EXCITED, SHE OPENED IT, BUT THE BAG WAS EMPTY! IT CAN'T BE! SHE THOUGHT. SHE STUCK HER NOSE DEEP IN THE BAG TO TAKE A CLOSER LOOK, BUT THERE WAS ONLY ENOUGH TO MAKE HER...

**- ATCHOOOO!!!**



JUST THEN, **BAGUETTE** AND **BONTON** ARRIVED IN THE KITCHEN, AND TOGETHER THEY SAID: BLESS YOU! THEN THEY BURST INTO LAUGHTER. THEIR MOTHER WAS COVERED WITH WHITE FLOUR FROM HEAD TO TOE. HER SNEEZE HAD BLOWN ALL THE FLOUR LEFT IN THE BAG ALL AROUND HER, AND IT HAD FLOWN ALL OVER HER! SHE WOULD NEED A SHOWER TO CLEAN IT ALL OFF!

*ALL TOGETHER FOR SOME SHOPPING\_*



SOON AFTER HER SHOWER, MUMMY MELODY TOOK BAGUETTE AND BONTON WITH HER TO THE BALLANDIA SUPER-MARKET TO BUY SOME FLOUR.

- MUMMY, ARE YOU SURE WE'LL LIKE THIS... CARROT CAKE? - ASKED BONTON.
- DON'T WORRY, IT'S GRANNY PLUM-CAKE'S RECIPE.



- THEN I'M SURE IT'S DELICIOUS! -  
DECLARED BAGUETTE.

ALL THREE OF THEM WERE FASCINATED BY THE SUPERMARKET. SEE HOW THEIR TAILS WAGGED! MUMMY WAS HAPPY TO BE ABLE TO BUY FOOD. SHE WASN'T AS GOOD AT COOKING AS GRANNY, BUT SHE LIKED TO BAKE CAKES.

BONTON GOT LOST IN THE TOYS' AISLE, EXCITED AT FINDING ALL THE NEW TOYS HE'D SEEN IN COMMERCIALS ON TELEVISION.

BAGUETTE, ON THE OTHER HAND, LOVED THE ELECTRONICS AISLE. IN FACT, SHE DREAMED OF BECOMING A WEBMASTER (SOMEONE WHO CREATES WEBSITES) WHEN SHE GREW UP...



MUMMY MELODY AND BAGUETTE STOPPED TO LOOK AT SOME DRESSES, BUT BONTON WAS BORED, AND WENT ON TO LOOK AT THE TELEVISIONS ON DISPLAY.

HIS MOTHER AND SISTER FOUND HIM, TAIL WAGGING WITH EXCITEMENT, WATCHING A DOCUMENTARY ABOUT CAVE-DOGS RECREATED USING A COMPUTER.



ONLY THERE WAS NO SOUND, AS OFTEN HAPPENED AT THE SUPERMARKET, AND THE YOUNG PUP WAS TRYING TO UNDERSTAND EVERYTHING USING NOTHING BUT THE IMAGES.

HIS FACE, CONCENTRATED AS IT WAS WITH TRYING TO FOLLOW SOMETHING HE DIDN'T UNDERSTAND, HAD A VERY FUNNY LOOK.

HIS MOTHER CALLED HIM, LAUGHING.

- COME ON, BONTON, IT'S TIME TO GO. WE CAME TO GET FLOUR AND THE MORNING IS ALMOST GONE... OR DON'T YOU WANT ANY CAKE?  
- I'M COMING, I'M COMING...

BUT HE DIDN'T STOP WATCHING THE TELEVISION, EVEN AS HE WALKED, AND HE RAN INTO A MAN WHO WAS ASKING THE CASHIER FOR ADVICE. THE MAN FELL OVER.



THE CASHIER HAD TO THROW AWAY THE



PRICE CATALOG HE WAS HOLDING TO CATCH THE MAN AS HE FELL. THE CATALOG FLEW ONTO A LADY WHO DODGED IT BY SWINGING HER PURSE, WHICH HIT A BOY CLOSE TO HER, SENDING HIM FLYING INTO A PILE OF JARS OF PICKLES ON SALE, WHICH COLLAPSED TO THE GROUND.

THE JARS OF PICKLES MADE A MESS THROUGHOUT THE SUPERMARKET, TRIPPING PEOPLE AND MAKING OTHER SHOPPERS FALL TO THE GROUND. FOR A FEW MINUTES, IT WAS TOTAL PANIC. ALL THIS BECAUSE BONTON WASN'T LOOKING WHERE HE WAS GOING!

## ALL EARS\_

LUCKILY, NO ONE HAD BEEN HURT, AND APART FROM SOME BROKEN SHELVES AND ONE PAIR OF TORN PANTS (BELONGING TO A SHOPPER WHO HAD GRABBED ONTO A PUPPY, SLIPPED ON SOME BACON THAT FELL FROM A SHOPPING BAG FROM... ANYWAY, IT'S A LONG STORY), THE FLOUR DIDN'T END UP COSTING VERY MUCH AT ALL.

NO MORE THAN A MEAL FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY AT A FANCY RESTAURANT, THAT IS!

BONTON WAS SO VERY ASHAMED, AND IT DIDN'T HELP THAT BAGUETTE COULDN'T STOP LAUGHING, NOR THAT MUMMY MELODY WAS ANGRY, EVEN THOUGH ON THE INSIDE, SHE COULDN'T STOP LAUGHING EITHER.





IT WAS DIFFICULT TO STAY ANGRY AT HER PUPPY WHILE THINKING OF A MAN RUNNING IN THE SUPERMARKET AISLES, HOLDING HIS TORN PANTS IN ONE HAND AND TRYING TO AVOID FLYING PICKLE JARS!

IN ANY CASE, THEY COULD FINALLY START BAKING THE CAKE.

BONTON OFFERED TO HELP HIS MOTHER TO MAKE UP FOR THE TROUBLE HE'D CAUSED.

BAGUETTE WANTED TO HELP AS WELL, SINCE BAKING A CAKE SOUNDED LIKE FUN.

AND INDEED IT WAS.

BUT WE'LL LET GRANNY PLUMCAKE EXPLAIN HOW TO MAKE CARROT CAKE, AND INSTEAD WE'LL CATCH UP WITH OUR FRIENDS A FEW HOURS LATER, AT SUPPERTIME, AS THEY LAUGH TOGETHER WITH DADDY NIB AT THE STORY OF THEIR ADVENTURE AT THE SUPERMARKET.

- ... AND THERE WAS A MAN THAT KEPT SCREAMING "HELP, HELP, THE PICKLES!" BONTON WAS BEET RED AND ASKED THEM ONCE AGAIN TO FORGIVE HIM. BUT THEN DADDY NIB, WHO WAS CURIOUS, ASKED HIM:

- WHAT WAS ON TELEVISION THAT HAD YOU SO DISTRACTED?

- DADDY, THERE WAS A DOCUMENTARY ABOUT OUR ANCESTORS, AND I WANTED TO KNOW SOMETHING...

- WHAT'S THAT?

- WHY DO WE HAVE THESE LONG EARS!?

## THE EXPLANATION

THE ENTIRE FAMILY WAS HAVING A PIECE OF CAKE, AND DADDY NIB STARTED EXPLAINING THAT BASSETHOUNDS WERE

HUNTING DOGS.

- HUNTING MEANT THEIR NOSES HAD TO BE VERY SENSITIVE...

- YES, TO FLOUR! - ADDED MUMMY MELODY, WHO WAS NO LONGER ANGRY.





THE TWO PUPS LAUGHED AT HER JOKE, BUT THEIR FATHER DIDN'T UNDERSTAND IT. BUT HE STILL SMILED, AND WENT ON.

- THE MOST IMPORTANT THING ABOUT HUNTING DOGS IS THEIR SENSE OF SMELL, AND SO WE HAVE LARGE EARS. BAGUETTE AND BONTON STOPPED AND STARED AT DADDY NIB IN SURPRISE.

- BUT WHAT DO OUR EARS HAVE TO DO WITH SMELL? - ASKED BAGUETTE.

- YEAH, I THOUGHT WE USED OUR NOSES TO SMELL!

- AH-HA! - SAID THEIR FATHER - YOU'RE RIGHT: WE SMELL WITH OUR NOSES, AND WE CALL OURS A "SNOUT"... BUT HOW DO SMELLS WORK?

- UH... WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

- HAVE YOU EVER HEARD THAT SMELLS "PROPAGATE"?

- UH... NO...

- I HAVE - SAID BAGUETTE - BUT I

DON'T KNOW WHAT IT MEANS.

- A SMELL IS LIKE SMOKE: OBJECTS BLOCK IT, BUT IF THERE'S NOTHING IN ITS WAY, A SMELL SPREADS AND "PROPAGATES".

- OH, SO THAT'S WHY IF THERE'S A BAD SMELL IN THE BATHROOM, I CAN'T SMELL IT UNTIL I OPEN THE DOOR!

- EXACTLY! - SAID DADDY NIB IN ANSWER TO THE GOOD EXAMPLE GIVEN BY HIS SON.

HE WENT ON:

- AND HAVE YOU NOTICED THAT COOKS ON TELEVISION USE THEIR HANDS TO BRING THE SMELL FROM THE FOODS THEY PREPARE TO THEIR NOSES?

- YOU'RE RIGHT, IT'S TRUE! - GASPED BAGUETTE.

- WHEN OUR ANCESTORS SNIFFED AT THE GROUND TO FIND DIFFERENT SMELLS, THEIR EARS WORKED LIKE A FUNNEL TO GUIDE THE SMELLS TO THEIR NOSES... AND THAT'S IT!

ON THAT NOTE, HE SMILED, AND YOU CAN IMAGINE HOW THE PUPS STARED, EYES AND MOUTHS WIDE OPEN.

WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THAT EARS COULD BE USED TO SMELL?  
WITH THIS STATEMENT THE TWO PUPPIES WERE AMAZED.  
WHO WOULD HAVE IMAGED TO SNIFF WITH EARS?!

