

A Maple Leaf Wonder by Clare Price

SUZIE is a keen TV Chef watcher. She has decided to make her own recipes while her mother is out. Her mother is very house proud so Suzie is anxious not to ruin the kitchen.

SUZIE:

Right, now where to start {Searches the cupboards} Ah - sugar, flour, eggs...{checks} Oh well, four will have to do...{selects ingredients} Bread, one can of peaches, nutmeg...Now we need a bowl and a baking tray, not forgetting the apron. {She puts apron on and is immediately transformed into a TV Chef}

Hello viewers, I've brought all these ingredients to show you how to make a...{Pauses to think of a name}...Maple-leaf wonder. Firstly you take a handful of sugar and flour. Place them in the bowl and add four eggs. {Finding it difficult to get a handful of flour, she pours it into the bowl} I've watched my mother doing this. {There is a cloud of flour which makes her cough} Break the eggs into the mixture. {Does so} And mix using your fingertips. {Mixing slowly} It does tend to stick a bit but you can always lick it off. Now add the peaches. Oh, I need a can opener and my hands are a bit messy. {Gets mixture all over worktop and can opener which won't grip the can}

Now with your hands mix the peaches. It's a bit sloppy but remember, this is fun, fun {grimaces while mixing} fun. Now for the nutmeg. {She considers and pours a little, then she pours all the nutmeg into the bowl.) We mustn't forget the bread, which of course I would have prepared earlier. {With messy hands places the sliced bread round the baking tray} And this should have been greased. {Getting flustered} Oh well, forget the greasing - and pour on...or lump on the peach mixture. {Does so} There. {Relieved} And bake it in a pre-heated oven, which I forgot to turn on, for 20 minutes. So, let's make that 30 minutes.

{Moves the dial on the cooker. She suddenly hears something just as she's putting the mixture in the oven. She throws off her apron, uses it to wipe the work-top and her hands and turns her back to the oven door as if to hide it. She calls} Mum! Is that you?...You're early. I've got a surprise for you. {Licking her fingers}...I'll tidy the kitchen later...

No, it's not too bad {Looks around kitchen} Really.