

A Maple Leaf Wonder

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 in 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.

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(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 the kitchen)* Really.

by Clare Price