

LAKE

A Loony Winnepesaukee Duck Tale



by
Bridget Finnegan



Hmmmm. Poke, doesn't it seem like there are much more Canada geese arriving this year?
I don't remember there being so many last spring.

Stop trying to interest me in stuff when I am napping.

What's happening!?!

Yikes!
Run! I mean FLY!



DIVE! We're better swimmers than the geese.

Why are they chasing everyone?

Let's sneak back to see what's going on.



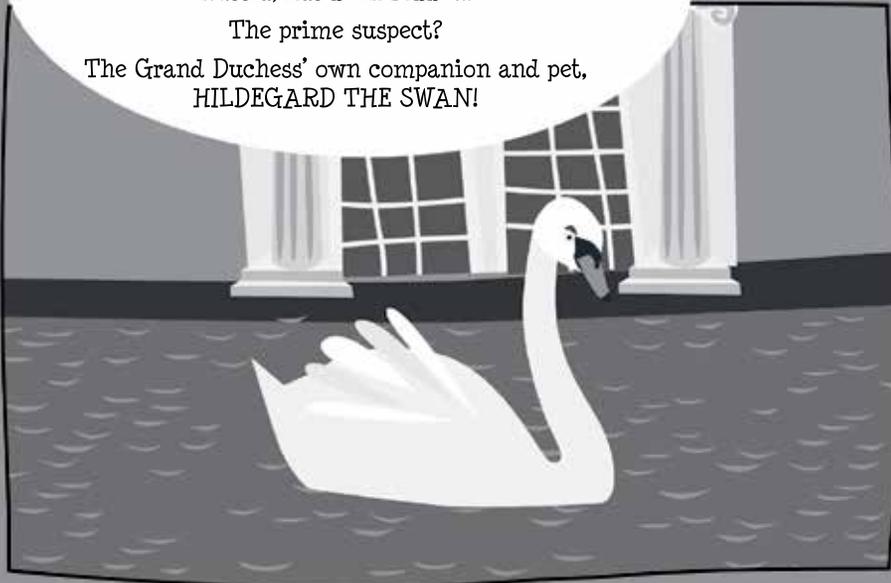
Bowell Thomas returning with
BREAKING NEWS.

DATELINE NEW HAMPSHIRE!

The Governor's Island estate of Grand Duchess
Ilvana Moodolovich, formerly of St. Petersburg,
Russia, has been robbed.

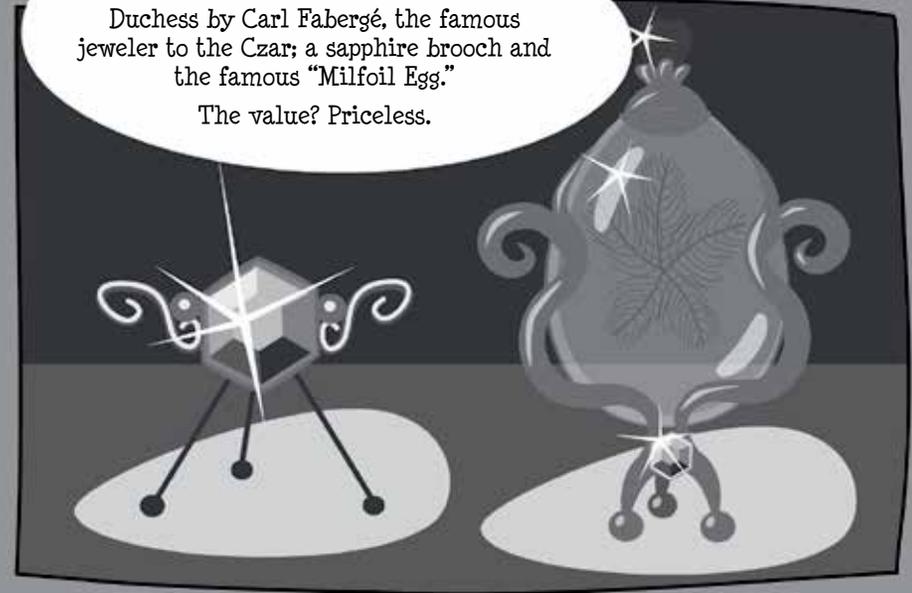
The prime suspect?

The Grand Duchess' own companion and pet,
HILDEGARD THE SWAN!



Among the stolen goods:
two trinkets created for the Grand
Duchess by Carl Fabergé, the famous
jeweler to the Czar; a sapphire brooch and
the famous "Milfoil Egg."

The value? Priceless.



Hildegard is a
misunderstood delicate
flower. Please return her to
my loving arms.



Onward!
Bowell Thomas
signing off.

The Canada geese have taken over the island and are lining up the local resident birds.

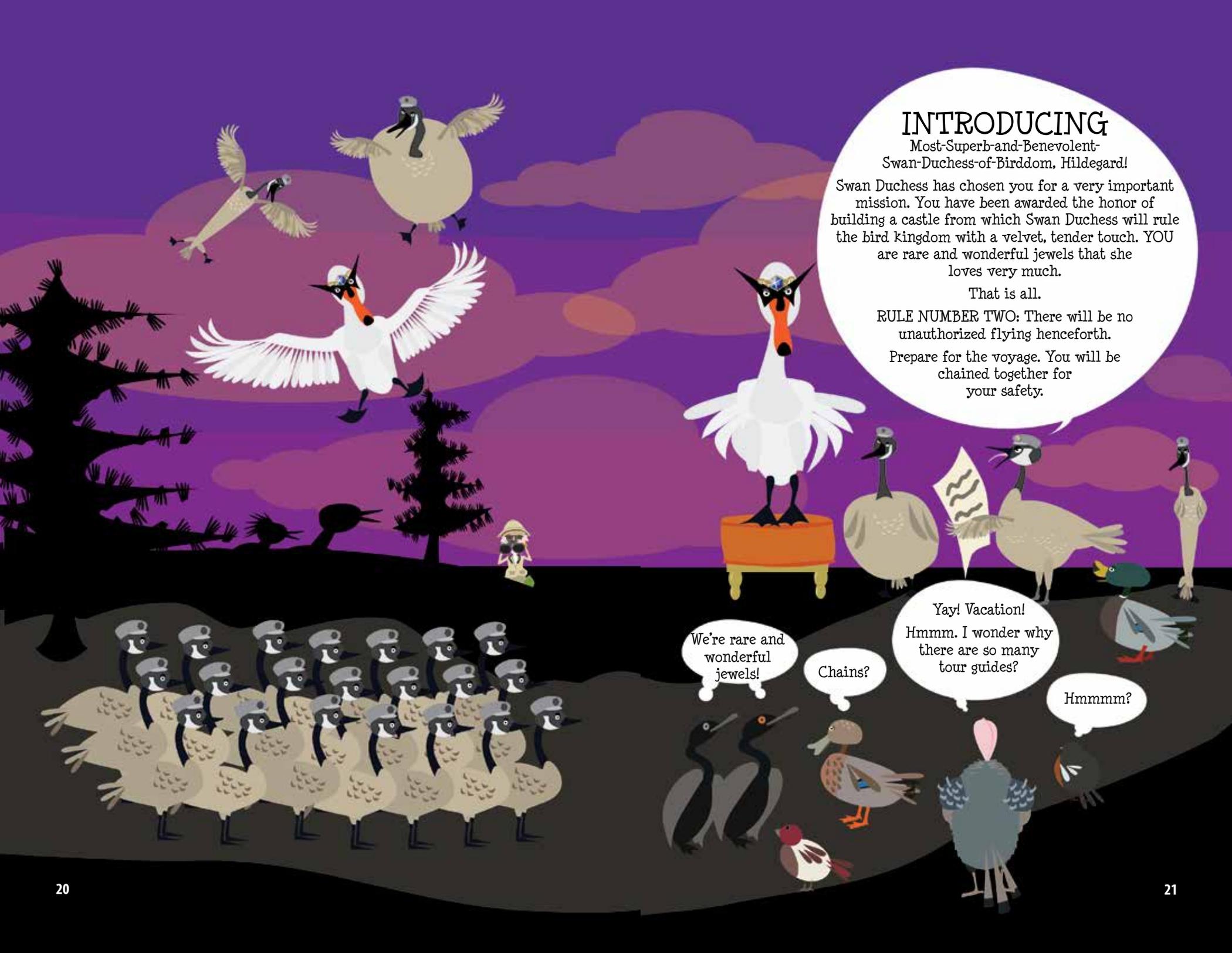
What the chickens is going on, Poke?

Hmmm, maybe...

Looks like some kind of a good posture club.

Welcome to the GLORIOUS NEW WORLD ORDER. Soon you will meet the MOST IMPORTANT BIRD in all of the avian kingdom. There will be new rules moving forward.

RULE NUMBER ONE: Please refrain from squawking, cheeping, cawing, quacking, whistling, farting or belching while in the magnificent presence of Swan Duchess.



INTRODUCING

Most-Superb-and-Benevolent-Swan-Duchess-of-Birddom, Hildegard!

Swan Duchess has chosen you for a very important mission. You have been awarded the honor of building a castle from which Swan Duchess will rule the bird kingdom with a velvet, tender touch. YOU are rare and wonderful jewels that she loves very much.

That is all.

RULE NUMBER TWO: There will be no unauthorized flying henceforth.

Prepare for the voyage. You will be chained together for your safety.

We're rare and wonderful jewels!

Chains?

Yay! Vacation!
Hmmm. I wonder why there are so many tour guides?

Hmmmm?

As the residents of Ragged Island begin their voyage, the Swan Duchess speaks to her troops.

I now introduce you to the weapon that will change everything and ensure my...er...OUR rise to power.

THE MILFOIL EGG!

The most beautiful object ever created. With it I...I...mean...WE...will achieve world domination.

...or at least domination here on Lake Winnepesaukee.

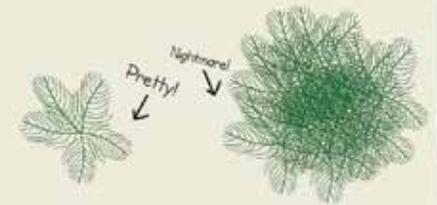


The Milfoil Egg



In 1905 famous jeweler, Carl Fabergé created the Milfoil Egg for Ilvana Moodolovich, second-cousin-once-removed to Czar Nicholas II of Russia. During the Russian revolution, Ilvana escaped and took the egg with her to Bavaria and then later to New Hampshire.

Ilvana loved the natural beauty of the milfoil and had Fabergé preserve it in water in the specially designed crystal egg.



You see, Fabergé created the most superb doomsday weapon of all time...by mistake!

And now it is MINE!!!

...I mean ours!

What Fabergé didn't realize is that milfoil, outside of its natural habitat in Russia, grows at a hyper-rapid rate choking the life out of ponds and lakes. Nothing can stop it once it settles in.



Say what? She wants to destroy the lake?

You don't actually USE doomsday weapons, Charlie. You just THREATEN to!



Poke and Dawdle fade into the darkness by Cow Island.



Four birds reach deep inside themselves to combat the biggest threat to Lake Winnepesaukee since the "Squam Lake Incident" of 1934.

You made this up

An army of Canada geese, lead by a maniacal, insane swan have taken over the lake and imprisoned the local birds.

rescued

super

excellent

Will our four heroes save the day?

Swan Hildegard

Will Poke the Loon ever get his nap in?

blah

blah

blah

no-one

cares

Will Giblet the turkey ever learn to swim?

Why does Ducky Shincracker wear a beret?

Will Hildegard the Swan use her doomsday weapon?

Oh, don't be silly!

The answers to these questions and more surprises inside this book!

about fabulous Hildegard

The Best!



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