

Swanduh

by Nancy Martz

Once upon a time, a Trumpeter Swan was born into a family of Black Bellied Whistling Bufflehead Ducks.....or so it seemed. Fortunately, no one in the family noticed the difference and treated the swan, whose name was Swanduh, without prejudice.....for awhile. But eventually, Swanduh's duckling siblings developed fowl dispositions when they noticed oddities about Swanduh and began to ostrichsize her; especially nasty was her brother Will. For instance, Swanduh's neck kept growing and growing until her siblings had to crane their own necks to look her in the eye, but they were prevented due to her big black beak, and it was always Will who came up with the nastiest quacks, like "Swanduh swallowed an emu and has a grossbeak!"

Now, in the Black Bellied Whistling Bufflehead Ducks' world, long necks were not a preferred feature, so Will and siblings began calling Swanduh names, including, but not limited to Stretch, Sesquipedalian, the Ductile Dude, and Pole Necker. Before long, Swanduh began to feel like an ugly duckling. Her parents were crest fallen about Swanduh's hurt feelings and denied that she had oddities and would whip poor Will because he led most of the misconduct. Still, Will and the rest of the brood just couldn't stop raven about Swanduh.

They noticed, for instance, that Swanduh had an enormous butt. Ignoring threats that their parents would tar and feather them, they tortured poor Swanduh without egret. Their taunts included, but were not limited, to "There goes Mass Assets," and "Hey Avoirdupois" and "What's new, Pantagrue, Behemoth, Whopper, Punchinello," and ...a cardinal sin to their parents...."Lard Ass!"

This time Swanduh's parents couldn't deny her stoutness and were alarmed that it might lead to illness, including but not limited to heart failure, stroke, gout, gas or susceptibillity to noxious, pestiferous, bilious morbidity and malaise. So, they still warned Will and siblings to sparrows the name calling or they would send the Ornithologist after them. Will knew the truth and became bittern and didn't even finch at his parents' threats. So, his brooding mother told him, "If you screech at Swanduh again owl tern your dodo into a peacock, and I don't mean a beautiful bird from India! That will give you something to quail about!!"

Still, Swanduh worried Mom and Pop Black Bellied Whistling Bufflehead Duck, so they began discussing diets with her, including but not limited to Jenny Craig, Dr. Oz, Atkins, Nutri System, French Women Don't Get Fat, Tape Worm, The Zone, Weight Watchers, and the Skinny Bitch Diet. They knew hunters were

in the wetlands, and were hysterical about Swanduh's girth making her an easy target. What they didn't know is that Trumpeter Swans are an endangered species that hunters won't hunt, but that hunters have a lark shooting at ducks, including but not limited to Eiders, Goldeneyes, Mergansers, Teals, Mallards, Canvas Backs, and Black Bellied Whistling Buffleheads.

So after the hunters shot and ate all the members of the Black Bellied Whistling Bufflehead family except for Swanduh, she flew off to join The Wild Swans at Coole and lived happily ever after.