

# The King's Birthday

*Ready  
to Read*

by Dot Meharry  
illustrated by Philip Webb



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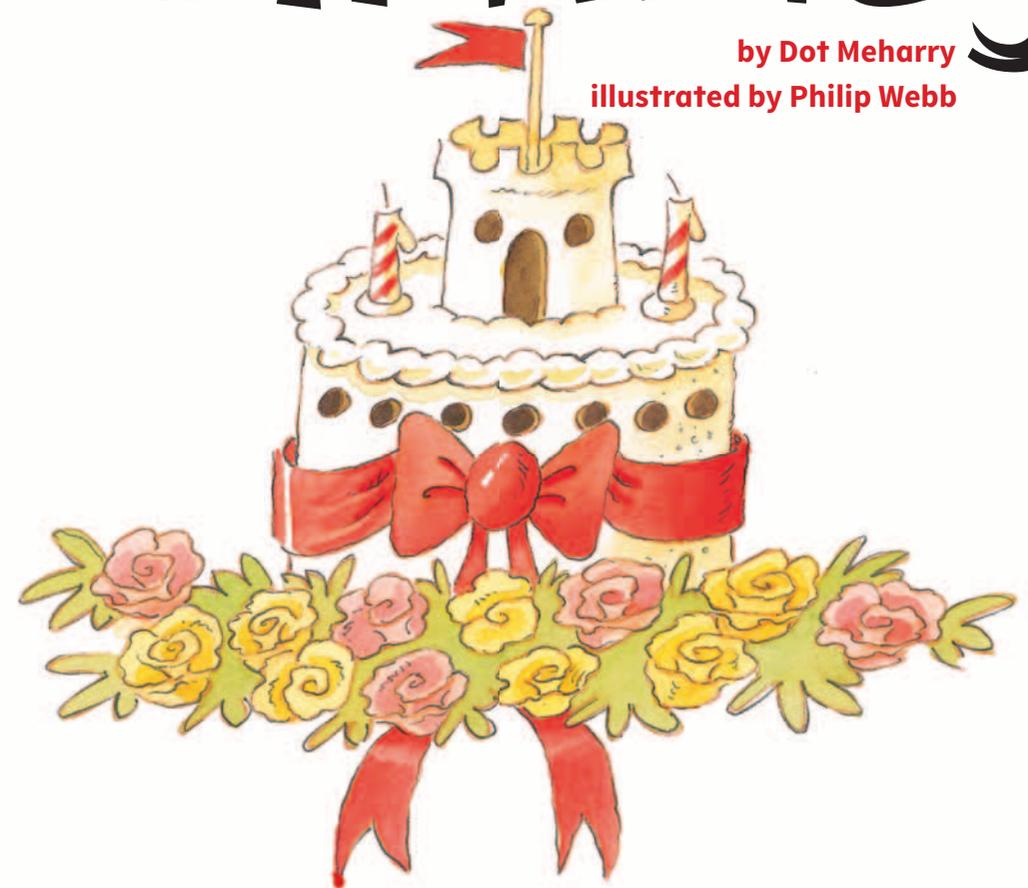
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Ministry of Education

It was the King's birthday,  
but no one said, "Happy birthday" –  
not even the Queen.

"Maybe it's not my birthday after all,"  
he thought.



He went upstairs to his library  
and opened the Royal Birthday Book.  
He looked for his name.  
"It is my birthday today," he said,  
pointing to his name and birth date.

The King went out into the garden,  
where the Royal Gardeners  
were picking flowers.

“Do you know what day it is today?” he asked.

“It’s Friday, Your Majesty,” they said  
as they cut some roses.



The King went into the kitchen,  
where the Royal Cooks  
were making a cake.

“Do you know what day it is today?” he asked.

“Baking day, Your Majesty,” they said  
as they mixed the cake.

The King went into the courtyard,  
where the Royal Menders  
were sewing a banner.

“Do you know where the Queen is?”  
he asked.

“No, Your Majesty,” they said  
as their needles went in and out.



“Find the Queen,”  
he ordered his Royal Footmen.  
“I have something to tell her.”  
The King sat on his throne all morning,  
waiting for the Queen,  
but she didn’t come.

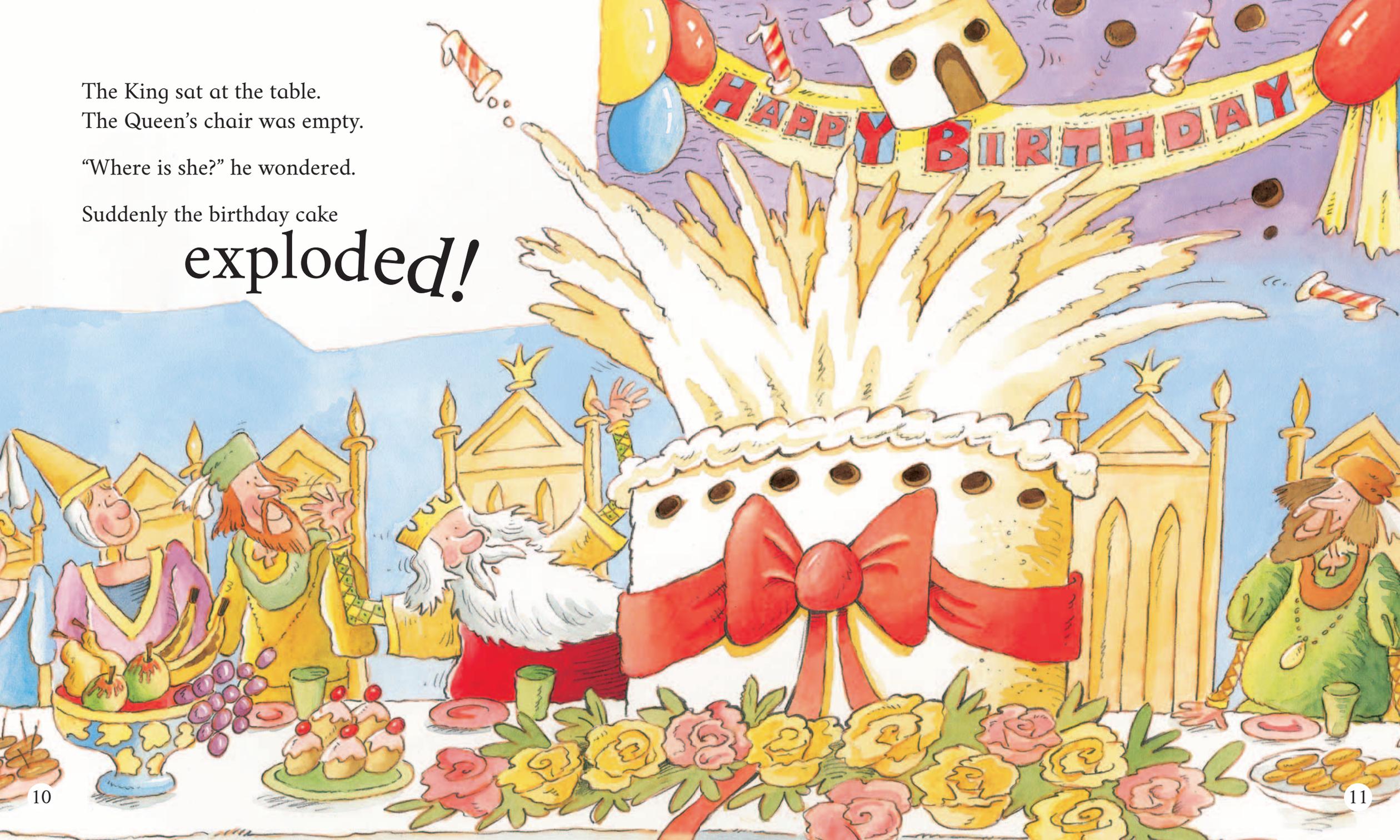
When the lunch bell rang,  
the King walked  
to the banquet hall alone.  
He was upset. It was his birthday,  
and no one had remembered.  
The Royal Footmen opened the doors  
for the King.



To his surprise, the banquet hall  
was full of people. There were flowers  
from the royal gardens everywhere.  
A banner was hanging on the wall,  
and there was a big birthday cake  
on the banquet table. The people  
clapped and cheered.

The King sat at the table.  
The Queen's chair was empty.  
"Where is she?" he wondered.  
Suddenly the birthday cake

**exploded!**



*“Happy birthday to you,”*

sang the Queen.





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