

Mathilde's Story



Narrator 1: A long time ago in France, there was a little girl with long, long hair. Her name was Mathilde and her father was the Count of Flanders.

Narrator 2: Mathilde wanted to be a queen. It was her dream.

Mathilde: I will be a queen someday. I am sure of it! Just wait. One day I will wear a crown on my head.

Father: Well, I am sorry, but you are only a countess. If you want to be a queen, you have to marry a king.

Narrator 1: It was a problem. Her father very rich, but Mathilde was only a countess, not a princess. Most kings preferred to marry a princess.

Narrator 2: One Sunday, Mathilde and her family were walking to church. Suddenly, a handsome man rode by on a large horse.

Mathilde: Who is he? Who is that man?

Father: That is William, the Duke of Normandy.

Narrator 1: The duke noticed the girl with the beautiful hair. In fun, he stopped and pulled her hair so hard that she fell down.



Narrator 2: Mathilde was not amused! But soon after, the duke asked for her hand in marriage.

Father: Don't marry him, Mathilde! Bad idea! If you marry a duke, you'll be a duchess, not a queen.

Mathilde: But he is so handsome and strong.

Father: No! Don't marry him. That duke just wants your money. And remember: he pulled your hair.

Mathilde: I love him anyway!

Narrator 1: Mathilde married the Duke of Normandy. She used her money to help William build his army and win the Battle of Hastings.

Narrator 2: When William was crowned king of England, she became a queen, just as she said.

Narrator 1: Her name is Queen Mathilda in English. She wore a crown on her long beautiful hair -- as you can see in the picture.

Narrator 2: She and William had a long, happy marriage. They had eleven children.

All: The end!

