

Virgie Quail

and his adventures on McCoy Farm



Written and Illustrated By:
Ernestine Giddings



Virgie, a young quail who had just turned six, was getting ready for his friend Mace to come over. He was excited to see what adventure they would have today.

As Virgie walked into the living room he saw himself in the big mirror by the door. “Topknot is good,” he said to himself, “Feathers are smooth and beak is shiny.

Wings... are...still small.”



Virgie knew his wings were small for his age, but he always checked, hoping they had grown. “Will they ever grow?” He wondered.

He knew he needed time for them to grow, but he was impatient. Virgie wanted to fly with the rest of his family. He had been trying exercises he thought would help. He started flapping hard and fast, exercising them one more time.



His older sister, Ernette, was in the living room working on her own topknot. “MAMA! Virgie is bothering me!” Ernette shouted, annoyed because all that wind from Virgie’s flapping was messing up her feathers.

“I AM NOT!” Virgie shouted back, still flapping as hard as he could.

“What is going on with you two?” Mama asked as she walked in from the kitchen. “How is he bothering you Ernette?”

Ernette was the oldest of the quail children and always felt she could boss the younger ones around. It seemed she was always fixing her feathers and topknot. And she did not like for them to get messed up!

“He’s flapping his wings! In the living room!! It’s messing up my topknot! And just look at my feathers!” Ernette yelled, stomping her foot. “Just look at me! I’M A MESS!” She spread her wings and turned around so everyone could see her ruffled feathers and messed up topknot.



“Good grief, Ernette, could you be quiet? YOU are bothering ME.” Moxie chimed in.

Moxie was the middle child of the family. She knew how Virgie felt about his wings and always tried to stick up for her little brother, knowing Ernette could be so bossy.

Mother took a deep breath... “Now Ernette, calm down. He’s not trying to bother you.”

“Virgie sweetie could you please flap a little softer?” Mama asked, trying to satisfy everyone.

“Sorry Mama. I was just trying to help them get big, like Ernette’s and Moxie’s.” Virgie replied.





Just then, Virgie heard someone knocking at the door. It had to be Mace, he thought.

“I’ll get it!” Virgie shouted, running to open the door. Smiling when he saw it was indeed Mace. “Hi Mace. Come on in”

“Hi Virgie! How are you doing?” Asked Mace.

“I’m fine, Mace.” He said as they greeted each other.

Mace was Virgie’s best friend. He was a light brown mouse with a tuft of white fur on his head and a white patch on his chest. However, the most interesting thing was that white tuft of fur at the end of his tail. Nobody else had a tail like that!





Virgie turning to his mom asked, “Can we go now mom?”

“Okay boys. You two be careful. Have fun.” Mama said watching them head out the door.

“Thanks mom. Bye!” Virgie shouted over his shoulder as they hurried out the door. Virgie was so busy thinking about what adventure he and Mace would have he forgot all about the wing issue.

“What can we do today?” Virgie asked as they walked toward the fields of McCoy Farm.

“I was thinking we could pretend to be tight rope walkers, like in a circus.” Mace suggested.



“How are we going to do that? No tightrope here.” Virgie said as he looked around.

“We can use the fence tops.” Mace had been using them for a while now. He thought it might be fun for Virgie.

“I guess we... could try... It seems very high.” Virgie was feeling a little nervous. He had never been that high before.

“Come on. I’ll help you.” Mace said, encouraging his friend. The two headed off to a good place Mace knew about.

“Here we go. This is perfect.” There was a vine wrapped around the fence post they could use. Mace was a pro at climbing vines. It took Virgie a little while to figure it out, but he soon got the hang of it using his beak, wings and feet to climb up.

It is with great excitement and joy that we share Ernestine Giddings' new book, "Virgie Quail" and his adventures on McCoy farm.

Virgie is a little quail whose wings are too small and he can't fly. These stories show his struggles and triumphs. With the help of his family and his best friend Mace, Virgie is inspired to try new adventures he did not think were possible. In this story you will see how Mace helps Virgie understand he is perfect and loved just the way he is.

Ernestine hopes the "Virgie" books will encourage children, and adults alike, to keep trying to find their place and know they are special just the way they are.



978-1-950535-06-4

