

M is for Mallow, Mozzarella, Michael, Martin, and More!

Michael and Mrs. Applebee walked down the Alphabet Path until they reached the next fairy. While she was a very pretty fairy indeed, her purple and green dress was tattered and torn. With an endearing smile, she sat calling to any fairies that passed "Buy a cheese!" Michael was puzzled about what this meant.

"Why would fairies want to buy cheese?" he thought to himself, though Michael did love cheese.

The purple and green fairy turned around and saw Mrs. Applebee, "Dear Mother, of course you'd like to buy one of my cheeses!" she said with an expectant giggle.

"Of course I would, dear one, but today I'm here with Michael. We are wandering down the Alphabet Path!" said Mrs. Applebee, beaming back at the fairy.

"My goodness! You have already traveled half way? You are already to the letter "M?"" clapped the fairy excitedly.

"Yes!" said Michael, matching her enthusiasm. "What is your name, "M" fairy?"

"I'm the Mallow Fairy, your 13th fairy, it's true!! I sell cheese to all kinds of fairies and here is my song:

*I am Mallow, here I sit
Watching all the passers-by.
Though my leaves are torn and tattered,
Dust-besprinkled, mud bespattered,
See, my seeds are fairy cheeses,
Freshest, finest, fairy cheeses!*

*These are what an elf will munch
For his supper or his lunch.
Fairy housewives, going down
To their busy market-town,
Hear me wheedling "Lady, please,
Pretty lady, buy a cheese!"
And I find it never matters
That I'm nicknamed Rags-and-Tatters,
For they buy my fairy cheeses,
Freshest, finest, fairy cheeses!"*

(From The Complete Book of the Flower Fairies by Cicely Mary Barker)

She finished with a delighted grin and a clap of her hands.

"Why, I love cheese!" cried Michael "My favorite is mozzarella!"

The Mallow Fairy shared some mozzarella cheese with Michael and Mrs. Applebee.

"Michael," said the Mallow fairy, "M is for Mozzarella!"

"Yes that's true!" said Michael with a smile.

"And," she continued, "M is for Michael!"

"Oh goody!" said Michael "M is for Michael! M-I-C-H-A-E-L! Michael!"

"Michael is one of God's special angels and it's such an honor to be named for him. Do you know what else M is for?" asked the Mallow Fairy. "Martin de Porres, Saint Martin de Porres! He is the saint I'm going to introduce to you." And the Mallow Fairy read about St. Martin de Porres from her red book. When she was finished, she gave to Michael a sweet pink flower to add to his

bouquet. Michael and Mrs. Applebee thanked the Mallow Fairy for the flower, the story, and the mozzarella and went merrily on their way!