

The Brawynn Fail Cake

When my husband asked me what I wanted for my birthday this year, I asked him for a “Fail Cake”. You’ve probably seen photos or heard stories about these (and if not, look it up!). A “Fail Cake” is a cake that is meant to look awesome but instead it comes out looking like a disaster.

It probably tells you a lot about my personality that this was what I wanted. I told my husband that I wouldn’t be upset if he was unsuccessful; not a lot of bakers would be willing to put their reputations on the line to make a cake that was both delicious and deliberately hideous at the same time. But off he went on his search, until he found a baker willing to make a “Fail Cake”. Then the question came up of *what* should the theme be? (We hadn’t discussed this part as I wanted it to be a surprise!) With my 2nd book hot off the press, my husband sent her a picture of the cover of my book and asked if she could make one of the creatures in my fantasy novel, the brawynn.



Immediately the baker offered a trade: if my husband would buy her a copy of both books for her young daughter (who was an avid fantasy reader) she would consider it a straight trade and bake the cake for us. So my husband sent her a copy of *Eliva’s Child* and *The Underground Kingdom*, and the baker’s young daughter read the books, then drew her Mom a picture of what she thought the brawynns looked like. The baker took this picture that her daughter had made and brought it to life in the form of my birthday cake.



I'm absolutely floored by this cake! It was everything I could have hoped for and more. This "Fail Cake" was a win in my books (pun intended). And it still looks way more professional than anything I could ever make! ...I'd love to give credit to the wonderful baker who went along with my quirky sense of humour and made me such a fantastic birthday cake, but we've agreed to keep her name anonymous.

So I will end by saying **thank you**, anonymous baker! This was the best birthday gift I could have asked for...and I'm so glad your daughter liked my books!