

The sun was just beginning to rise as the group of children stood on the beach watching the great Norman ships set sail. Powerful men worked the oars with such strength that the fleet of ships was beginning to move quickly. Soon the warriors would reach the coast of England where a great battle awaited them. The children thought about their father and hoped that he would be safe. He was leaving to claim a crown that he firmly believed was his. It was a belief that his family also held.

Slowly, the boats began to disappear into the morning mist and the young children knew that it was time to return to the castle. They turned to their mother who motioned to them that the time had come to leave the seaside.

William, the Duke of Normandy, and his wife, Matilda of Flanders, had quite a large family. There were nine children in all, six girls and three boys. Robert, at the age of thirteen, was the oldest. The baby, Agatha, was just two years old. Adele was the seventh child and was four years old the day her father set sail with his men to claim his kingdom.