

The Weeping Woman (La Llorona) as told by Joe Hayes

A long time ago in a poor village there was a good looking girl named Maria. She was the most beautiful girl in the world! And because she was so beautiful, Maria thought she was better than everyone else.

As Maria grew older, she became more beautiful and more proud. When she was a young woman, she didn't even look at the young men from her village. They weren't good enough for her! "When I marry," Maria said, "I will marry the most handsome man in the world."

And then one day, a young rancher from a rich family came into her village. He was handsome! And he could play the guitar and sing beautifully. Maria decided that he was the man for her!

Before long, she and the ranchero became engaged and soon they were married. At first, things were fine. They had two children and they seemed to be a happy family together. But after a few years, the ranchero went back to the wild life of the prairies. He sometimes left town and was gone for months. And when he came home, it was only to visit his children. He seemed to care nothing for the beautiful Maria. Sometimes he said he wanted to marry a rich woman of his class.

Maria was a proud woman and she became very angry with the ranchero. She also began to feel anger toward her children, because he paid attention to them, but just ignored her.

One evening, Maria was walking with her two children by the river. The rancher came by in a carriage with a rich woman. He stopped and spoke to his children, but he didn't even look at Maria. Then he left with the rich woman.

When Maria saw that, she became terribly angry, and she turned against her children. She took her two children and threw them into the river! But as they disappeared down the river, she realized what she had done! She ran down the river and tried to save them. But they were gone.

The next morning, the people found her dead by the river.

But the first night after they buried Maria, the people heard the sound of crying down by the river. It was not the wind, it was La Llorona crying. "Where are my children?" And they saw a woman walking by the river. They called her La Llorona, the weeping woman.

And now, parents tell their children not to go out in the night because La Llorona might catch them.