GOAD LIZES AND GREEFIES.

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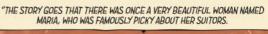














"MANY TRIED TO WIN HER HEART, AND NONE HAD SUCCEEDED, UNTIL ONE DAY A HANDSOME RICH STRANGER ARRIVED IN TOWN. SEEING MARIA'S BEAUTY, HE IMMEDIATELY PROPOSED, AND SHE ACCEPTED. THEY WERE SOON MARRIED AND HAD TWO CHILDREN, ONE BOY AND ONE GIRL.



"SOON THE HUSBAND BEGAN TO LEAVE FOR DAYS AT A TIME, WITHOUT TELLING MARIA WHERE HE WAS GOING, UNTIL HE LEFT HER FOR A YOUNGER, PRETTIER WOMAN.



"BUT THIS DIDN'T MEAN THAT HE WAS OUT OF HER LIFE: HE WOULD RETURN OFTEN TO SPEND TIME WITH HIS CHILDREN, GIVING THEM LAVISH GIFTS, WHILE COMPLETELY IGNORING THEIR MOTHER.



"ONE DAY AS SHE WAS WALKING BY THE RIVER WITH HER CHILDREN. THEIR FATHER RODE BY IN AN ORNATE CARRIAGE WITH HIS NEW WIFE. HE STOPPED TO SAY HELLO TO THE KIDS, WHO WERE OVER.JOYED TO SEE HIM, BUT HE DID NOT EVEN GLANCE AT MARIA.



"AS THE CARRIAGE RODE AWAY MARIA WAS OVERCOME WITH JEALOUSY AND SHE THREW HER CHILDREN INTO THE RIVER! THEY WERE SWIFTLY CARRIED AWAY BY THE CURRENT AND DROWNED.



"ONCE SHE REALIZED WHAT SHE HAD DONE, SHE WAS STRICKEN BY GRIEF, AND NEVER RETURNED HOME, INSTEAD WANDERING UP AND DOWN THE BANKS OF THE RIVER LOOKING FOR HER CHILDREN, UNTIL SHE HERSELF DIED.



"AND SHE STILL ROAMS THE RIVER TODAY! SHE APPEARS AS A GHOSTLY WOMAN IN WHITE, CRYING FOR HER CHILDREN, BUT IF YOU GET CLOSE TO HER, SHE GRABS ONTO YOU, AND DRAGS YOU OFF AS A STAND-IN FOR THE CHILDREN SHE LOST SO LONG AGO."





