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Dramatic Publishing

LA LLORONA LLORA

A Play in One Act
by
SILVIA GONZALEZ S.



Dramatic Publishing

Woodstock, Illinois • London, England • Melbourne, Australia

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(LA LLORONA LLORA)

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Synopsis and History of Story

La Llorona dates back to the 15th century when the conquistadors conquered the country now called Mexico. The conquistadors married the Indian women. They were very proud of their offspring. They were very aware they were starting a new breed.

In this play, a Spaniard wanted to take his Indian wife and mixed breed children to Spain with him. However, his family and friends in Spain told him to leave them in Mexico; that an Indian was worthless and had no place in their society. Not able to change their minds, he begged to, at least, bring his children. After some debate, they consented because the children were half Spanish.

The Spanish soldier returned to tell his Indian wife that he planned to take his children to Spain, and that she was to stay in Mexico. He also told her that their marriage was not real in the eyes of his family. His family was currently arranging a wedding to a chosen bride in Spain.

Devastated, La Llorona killed the children so he couldn't have them. Crazed and bloodied with what she had done, she ran through the streets screaming and crying. The Spaniard arrived to the scene and saw what she had done. He wept and returned to Spain, alone.

With time, this story had been forgotten and La Llorona became a sort of bogeyman to Mexican children.

LA LLORONA LLORA held its World Premiere at The Whole Art Theatre Company, Michigan, October 1993, with a remounted production, October 1994, in Chicago. Also, a production was done at A Stage of One's Own Director's Festival and staged readings at Chicago Dramatists Workshop.

LA LLORONA LLORA

A Play in One Act
For One Man and Three Women

CHARACTERS

LA LLORONAa woman
(olive or dark skin tone, long, dark hair
in a braid in the back, Indian or Mestizo-looking)

SOLDIER a Spaniard, conquistador
(fair skin tone, European-looking)

#1a woman
(Chorus/elitist Spanish woman/Mexican woman/
pregnant woman)

#2a woman
(Chorus/elitist Spanish woman/Mexican woman/
pregnant woman)

LA LLORONA

SCENE ONE

AT RISE: #1 and #2 enter. They hear a sound and are frightened. They back into each other and turn slowly listening to the sound that only they hear. On a final turn they change moods and become a Greek chorus, or goddesses. They drift to opposite sides as LA LLORONA enters staring at her hands. The chorus watch LA LLORONA stare out in a sad madness.

#1 (*like a bell*).

La llorona llor

La llorona llor

La llorona llor

La llorona llor

La llorona llor

La llorona llor

La llorona llor

La llorona llor

La llorona llor

#2.

She cries.

La llorona cries all the time.

She cries for her children.

She cries for them all.

LA LLORONA (*looks at her hands, then screams, but no sound comes out. She mouths the following words*). (What have I done? What have I done?)

#1.

La llorona llora en las calles

La llorona llora en las noches

#2.

She cries in the streets.
Only the children and
pregnant mothers can hear
her tonight. Wait! Do you
hear her? She cries for her
children, *wouldn't you?*
She's a mother. A mother
always cries for her children,
no matter where they are.

*(#1 and #2 stare at LA LLORONA. They walk slowly
around her.)*

#1. Probrecita india. Sus hijos la quieren mucho.

#1 and #2 *(backing away into the darkness)*. La llorona llora.

La llorona llora. La llorona llora. *(LA LLORONA runs into
the darkness. Blackout.)*

END OF SCENE

SCENE TWO

AT RISE: SOLDIER stands alone on the stage staring out. We sense he is staring at someone walking towards him. This "someone" walks around the SOLDIER and then stops in front of him. We still don't see this person, but a long moment later, the SOLDIER jerks his head as if he was slapped violently. The SOLDIER recovers and stands at attention. He is then slapped again, but this time he maintains his balance. Then, the SOLDIER becomes nervous sensing the movement of the "someone" walking around him again. This time the SOLDIER is hit in the jaw and knocked to the ground. He gets up with a bloody mouth. The SOLDIER knows he is going to be hit again, and draws his sword.

SOLDIER. NOOOOOOO!!! (SOLDIER is then ashamed for drawing his sword and falls to the ground.) I love my family...Never. I just can't. NEVER.

(A blurry moon appears then suddenly melts.

#1 and #2 are high on the stage looking at the SOLDIER on the ground. They stare at him.)

*#1 and #2. Lloro, llora soldado, sigue lloronando
Sabemos cuanto a tu india amas
Lloro señor soldado
Que tus hijos seran cuidados
cuando tu digas adios*

END OF SCENE
