

# **Llorona**

by

Michael Bettencourt

67 Highwood Terrace #2, Weehawken NJ 07086  
201-770-0550 • 347-564-9998 • m.bett@verizon.net

<http://www.m-bettencourt.com>

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# Llorona

## **BRIEF DESCRIPTION**

A young woman is abandoned by the father of their child when he goes to marry someone else, and she exacts her revenge for his betrayal.

## **CHARACTERS**

- Luisa
- Don Carlos

# Llorona

## Scene 1

As lights ease in, we see, we hear, we smell LUISA and DON CARLOS' ecstasy and passion.

LUISA

You will never leave me.

CARLOS

Of course I will -- never leave you.

LUISA

What was that?

CARLOS

What was what? Don't stop --

LUISA

That, in your voice --

CARLOS

What?

LUISA

Your hesitation.

CARLOS

I didn't hesitate.

LUISA

Yes you did, between "will" and "never."

CARLOS

I was catching my breath -- you take away my  
[breath] --

LUISA

(in two voices)

"You will never leave me." "Of course I will --  
never -- " You hesitated.

CARLOS

Come back.

LUISA

To what?

CARLOS

To me.

LUISA

Can you understand why?

CARLOS

It was nothing -- a catch in my voice --

LUISA

Your leaving always threatens me --

CARLOS

But I'm here now --

LUISA

It's in your clothes, your hair --

CARLOS

And I've told you, our differences --

LUISA

Are differences, no matter what you tell me --  
hard borders, can't be crossed -- difference in  
your hair, my hair, your clothes, my clothes --  
in our child --

CARLOS

I won't [leave] --

LUISA

Then marry me --

CARLOS

I can't -- you know I can't --

LUISA

You say "can't" but I won't stop wanting it.

CARLOS

Wanting it won't change anything about my  
"can't."

LUISA

That's where you're wrong -- I've heard the  
rumors, the buzz-buzz-buzz-buzz-buzz -- why do  
you think you had me easier than ever tonight? I  
was on my back before you even unbuckled -- I was  
unbuckled before you were! I was going to lock  
you down with my legs, keep you hard in me by  
hard against me. But buzz-buzz, buzz-buzz, buzz-  
buzz, buzz-buzz -- zzzzzzzzzzz all around -- and  
you say nothing to me. My voice in your ears, my  
tongue, my fingers, giving you every chance --  
but -- nothing to me. Not one word. They must  
be true.

CARLOS

Yes. They are. Within the month.





LUISA

Then go with this.

LUISA holds the baby overhead again.

LUISA

Here! This! This is our child!

Taking the two ends of the sling, LUISA slams the baby into the ground again and again until the sling holds nothing but a bloody pulp.

One last time, LUISA holds the bloody bundle overhead, then flings it into the darkness.

LUISA

Now you can call me -- you can all call me -- La Llorona because I will do nothing forever except weep and gnash my teeth for the butchery you have all made me do.

LUISA glares at CARLOS.

LUISA

That you have made me do.

CARLOS turns and walks away, finally devastated.

Blackness.

\* \* \* \* \*

### Scene 3

Sounds of water fill the darkness and continue as the light rises. In a centered light, LUISA appears standing in a wooden or metal washtub, naked. Behind her, on a stepladder above her, is CARLOS, dressed simply, now a stagehand holding a watering can. A towel hangs from one of the ladder's rungs; a rough cotton dress hangs over another.

He tilts the can over her, and a gentle rain falls. When done, she takes the towel, dries herself, steps out of the tub, then puts on the dress. CARLOS disappears into the darkness.

CARLOS re-appears, holding a baby in a sling, which LUISA drapes across the front of her body. He then goes back up the ladder, watering can in hand.

LUISA

Did you think I really would? Did you, to spite him? Them? To round-off the fucking tragedy of it, concoct a fucking Medea out of it? A pig's heart and guts in butcher paper -- smash 'em down hard enough and they weep blood. Why should the innocent suffer for our cock-ups and soap operas? I wanted him gutted but by the sharpest knife

ever tempered -- remorse, guilt, and infinite loss. So I cheated on the deal -- so what? So what? When people see me cry, they may think it's because I am a tragic figure searching for the soul of my murdered child, but, shit, they are tears of triumph. La Llorona, yes, but crying at my secret joke, my cosmic con-job -- but most of all for my fierce love of the thing that deserves it most, this weight across my heart. Fuck 'em all.

LUISA leaves the stage. CARLOS rains out the rest of the water as lights go to black.