

The Daughters of the Old Man and Old Woman

By

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Fata Babei Si Fata Mosului

THE DAUGHTERS OF THE OLD MAN AND OLD WOMAN

Scene: 1

1 SOUND: FIRE CRACKLES AS GRASSHOPPERS CHIRP IN THE DISTANCE.

2 TANGO:

How about a story? I have a good one that Bunicu used to tell me.

(PAUSE)

3 TANGO:

There used to be a house, on a farm. And in the house lived an old man and an old woman, and their two daughters. And every day, everyone would do their chores, sweeping the house, chopping wood, cooking, and taking care of the animals. The old woman's daughter always found a way to get the other daughter to do her chores. Either the stables were too hot, or she had eaten a big meal. Sometimes her feet hurt, and she didn't want to ruin them by running around the farm.

4 TANGO: (cont'd)

One day, when the winds were blowing hard and the rain had come in, their crops were blown away. The old woman, who was just as mean and lazy as her daughter knew that it was a good time to kick Anca out the house. She and Petra would feel so much better with the girl gone. She packed a rucksack and handed it to Anca, telling her that she should not return until she found enough wealth to rebuild the farm.

5 TANGO: (cont'd)

Anca wandered through the woods, in the cold and the rain. And when she was tired stopped under a tree where the rain wasn't as strong, and tried to hide from the dark and the monsters in the woods. Just as she was about to take a bite of the cheese that had been packed for her, a small dog came out from under the brush.

6 TANGO:

"Please Feed me" said the dog. And even though it meant that she wouldn't have food, Anca gave the dog her cheese and dried meat. All that had been packed in her rucksack. The dog ate the food happily and then ran back into the brush.

7 TANGO:

In the morning Anca continued. After a long time she found a old well. And a Salamander standing next to it with a bucket. "Please help me get some water." The Salamander said. And as it dropped the bucket, the bucket came right back out. "It's dry, and I need the water for my family"

8 TANGO: (cont'd)

Anca looked down the well, which was indeed dry, with the water so low and small that it looked like a puddle. And even though it meant that she wouldn't have water, she took her canteen and poured her water into the well. The well's water began to rise until it. At last the Salamander could dunk the bucket into the well and get water for their family. "Thank you," said the Salamander, and walked off with their bucket of water.

9 TANGO: (cont'd)

As she kept walking and walking she came across an old oven. It was angry, spitting fire and burning the leaves around it. It stood by a little house, where the firewood was placed too high for the oven to reach. The oven jumped to try to get it, but couldn't jump high enough. Anca climbed up where it was and filled her rucksack with firewood. And even though it meant that she wouldn't have a place to put things, she hung the rucksack right where the oven could reach. The oven calmed, and took a log, throwing it into its mouth. Anca was happy that she had helped, but she needed to keep going.

10 TANGO: (cont'd)

And at last she came upon a house. Outside on the porch an old lady was stirring stew, twirling her finger making the spoon go round and round. "Are you hungry?" The old woman asked, and Anca nodded her head. The old woman gave Anca a bowl of the stew and told her to sit. "Would you like to do a job for me?" and Anca nodded her head. "I have to go away for a week, and my poor children will be all alone. Can you take care of them while I am gone?" And Anca nodded her head.

11 TANGO: (cont'd)

What Anca didn't know was that the old woman's children were monsters of all different shapes and sizes, beasts with sharp teeth and claws, who howled, and growled. They had too many eyes, or slimy skin, too many legs or scales. It took her a bit, but Anca learned what she had to do, what this child liked, and what that child didn't. She cleaned the house, and fed the children, and kept them company. And when the week was through and the old woman came back, the old woman led her to a room in the house that was filled with boxes. All sorts of boxes, big boxes, gold boxes, small boxes, and boxes covered in jewels. "You can pick one for taking care of my children, as payment." Anca chose the smallest, and most dirty looking box in the room. "Now go back home and open the box when you get there."

12 TANGO: (cont'd)

And so Anca went home, and as she headed home she came across the oven, who gave her fresh baked buns to eat when she was hungry, when she passed by the well, the Salamander shared water to put in her canteen, and when she met the dog again, it kept her company and scared away the beasts in the woods.

13 TANGO: (cont'd)

When Anca finally got to her home, her father, who had not known where she had been was so happy to have her back. And when they opened the box, riches poured out, animals and gold, pretty fabrics, and new crops. And the old woman, cause she was jealous of all of the riches sent Petra out into the woods with a backpack, and told her not to come back until she too had a box full of gold and animals, and fabrics, and crops.

14 TANGO: (cont'd)

And so Petra stomped off into the woods. And the rain came, and in the night she could hear the scuffling of beasts behind her. And she also hid under the tree to stay out the rain and avoid the monsters. Just as she was about to take a bite of the sandwich she had in her backpack, the small dog came out from under the brush.

15 TANGO:

"Please Feed me" said the dog. But Petra pushed it away and said, "Find your own food you scraggly mutt. This is mine." And the dog ran back into the brush.

16 TANGO:

In the morning Petra continued. After a long time she found the old well. And the Salamander standing next to it with a bucket. "Please help me get some water." The Salamander said. And as it dropped the bucket, the bucket came right back out. "It's dry, and I need the water for my family.

17 TANGO: (cont'd)

"I have water already, it's your well, you should find a way to fill it." said Petra and then continued down the path into the woods.

18 TANGO: (cont'd)

As she kept walking and walking she came across an old oven. It was angry, spitting fire and burning the leaves around it. It stood by a little house, where the firewood was placed too high for the oven to reach. The oven jumped to try to get it, but couldn't jump high enough. Petra just to be mean climbed up the firewood and moved it farther away. The oven only got more scared, and tried to jump higher. And Petra kept going.

19 TANGO: (cont'd)

And at last she came upon the house. Outside on the porch an old lady was stirring stew, twirling her finger making the spoon go round and round. "I want some stew" said Petra. The old woman gave Petra a bowl of the stew and told her to sit. "Would you like to do a job for me?" asked the old woman. "Are you the one who has magic boxes?" Asked Petra, and the old woman said "Yes".

20 TANGO: (cont'd)

Petra agreed to stay the week to care for the old woman's children, but she didn't clean the house. She didn't learn about the children and fed them a couple times so that the old woman would give her the box. She did not spend time with the children, who howled and growled even longer because they missed the old woman and hated Petra.

21 TANGO: (cont'd)

When the old woman came back, even though she saw how upset her children were, and how messy her house was, she took Petra to the room full of boxes and had her choose one. Petra chose the largest box she could carry, which was covered in gold details, and jewels. And then the old woman led Petra to the door out without a word.

22 TANGO: (cont'd)

And so Petra went home, and as she headed home hungry she came across the oven, and the oven burned her when she tried to take the buns, and thirsty, when she passed by the well, full to the brim now, the Salamander didn't give her water, and the well water lowered when she reached down to fill her canteen, and when it was dark in the woods and the monsters howled and scuffled around her, the dog did not come.

23 TANGO: (cont'd)

When Petra finally got to her home, her mother was waiting and smiled when she saw the box Petra brought back. It should probably have 10 times the riches that the small box had. And as they opened it, a dark cloud filled the air, and snakes and swarms and horrible things poured out the of the box, chasing the mother and daughter away. There were never seen again.