

1

El Sombrerón:

This Guatemalan tale tells the story of spooky figure who goes out walking after dusk. No one is quite sure if it's a ghost, a demon, a man, or a goblin. All agree that he's very small, dressed in all-black, and dons a big shiny belt, a pair of heavy boots and a large hat that hides his face. El Sombrerón seduces young women, wooing them with his sweet voice and beautiful melodies. Once they become bewitched, he stalks them and braids their hair. Under his spell, they become unable to eat or sleep...until, eventually, they meet their death.

2

La Patasola - Colombia

This one legged creature is one of Colombia's scariest tales. It first appears as a beautiful and seductive women, often looking like someone loved by the unfortunate soul that happens to see her, that would ultimately lure them away from their companions deep into the jungles to reveal their true appearance as one-legged freaks with ferocious vampire-like lust for human flesh and blood, attacking and eating the flesh or sucking the blood of their victims. They protect nature and wild animals and attack humans who seem to be harming the wild

3

EL SISIMITE.

Place of origin: Belize, Guatemala, Honduras

A half-man, half-gorilla beast characterized as being very short but strong, with hair all over, El Sisimite is said to have feet that are backwards. Therefore, when you see his footprints, it looks like he's walking away from you, when in reality, he's coming for you.

Some legends say that if you look into his eyes, you will die within a month.

Others say El Sisimito feasts on human meat. This legend can be compared to Bigfoot, or Boraro for added Spanish-language comparison.

4

“La Madre monte”

is a legend in which a woman who wears moss, leaves and a green hat that conceals her face. She lives in the dense jungle and supposedly bathes in rivers, causing flooding and heavy storms. Madre monte haunts those who steal others people's land and casts plagues on cattle owners who ignore boundaries and take advantage of others. She also dislikes unfaithful spouses, vagabonds, and general mischief-makers and punishes them by placing insurmountable obstacles in their path when they walk through the jungle. They eventually fall asleep with exhaustion and do not wake for hours.

5

The mohán

is everyone's favourite monster. Although his description does vary from place to place, he is usually a huge creature, covered in hair with long, claw-like nails. He sometimes has red eyes and gold teeth and is fond of mischief. Fisherman say the mohán capsizes boats and steals bait and hooks. Washerwomen claim he bewitches girls with music and tricks. He is also said to guard ancient treasures in his underground palace and his appearance heralds the arrival of floods, earthquakes and plagues. The mohán is sometimes known as “Poira” and his story is most commonly told in Tolima.

6

El Coco - From all over!

The Latino version of the bogeyman, El Cucuy has terrified children for generations. Used by daddies across the world to dissuade their children from misbehaving, El Coco, or Cucuy as it is also known is a shapeshifting figure that hides in closets or under beds and torments -- and eats -- niños who don't listen to their parents.

Though perhaps the story itself originated in Almería, **Spain**, *El Hombre del Saco* is well known throughout Latin America, as there are many versions of the tale. According to a Spanish legend, **Francisco Ortega**, aka **el Moruno**, was a man sick with tuberculosis at the beginning of the XXth century. He was desperately looking for a cure for the disease, so he sought help from a **Curandera**. She told him he would be cured by drinking the blood of children and rubbing his fat on his chest. And so, el **Moruno** kidnapped a 7-year old boy, **Bernardo**, in a cloth bag, to slit his underarm and drink his blood. *El Cuco* is known for walking up and down the streets at night with a black bag, scouting for those children who roam the streets or misbehave. There's that "*Duermete niño, duermete ya; que viene el cuco, y te comerá!*" that many of you may or may not have heard as kids. Oh also, in espanglish zones such as some border regions of **Mexico** he is known as *El Sacomán*. Way to modernize *El Cuco*, that's better than any DJ name.

7

El Chupacabras - Puerto Rico and Mexico

The most media friendly and contemporary of all latin american monsters and ghosts, due to very recent and documented "sightings". A blood sucker creature who has been seen from Mexico. Although it has never attacked people, his appearance is enough to scare the hell out of anyone. It has become a global celebrity being featured in the X Files, Scooby-Doo, Marvel Comics and a few independent films

8

La Llorona - From All over too!

Also known as La Sayona the most famous Latin American legend of all time, La Llorona is a beautiful woman who brutally killed her kids to be with the man she loved. When he rejected her, she killed herself. Now, the murderous mum is doomed to wander, crying constantly, and vainly searching for her children for all eternity. According to legend, she'll kidnap wandering kids

9

El silbón Colombia & Venezuela

According to legend, *El Silbón* is the ghost of a young man who killed his father, stripping his guts for not having brought back the deer guts he had asked for. Rude, take it easy on papi, I'd tell him. But then the story complicates: as retribution, the young man's grandpa orders him to be tied up to a post and whipped, his wounds washed with gin. In vindictive fashion, the young boy was tossed in a cage with two rabid and hungry dogs. Then, grandpa cursed the young boy to carry his father's bones for all eternity. Make whatever Oedipal interpretation you want, but be sure to watch for *El Silbón's* call: His whistle is described similar to the musical notes: do, re, mi, fa, sol, la, si; in that order, rising the pitch until fa, and then lowering it till si. If you hear *El Silbón's* musical whistle from up close, there's no danger; however, if you hear it far away, run to your nearest chamana. Fun fact: *El Silbón* takes vengeance on "mujeriego" men