

## THE VISIT

The countryside in Argentina is full of bizarre and amazing stories that, although unbelievable, truly happened. There are tales of haunted houses, angels, sprites, dead people who return, ghosts, spirits and so on.

This story is about an episode starred by my two sisters, Silvia and Laura. It happened many years ago when we were all adolescents. Silvia and Laura were two joyful girls, lively and vivacious, romantic, who were always daydreaming, longing for their true love, their Prince Charming. They were full of dreams and illusions like any other girl of that age. As time passed, life showed not to be a bed of roses for them but they are full of children and grandchildren nowadays.

Going back to the old times, once while taking a vacation at our ranch in the North of Argentina, they were invited to a neighbour farm called "The Triangle" which was the home of a friend family. These people were "important" for they owned an enormous TV set which in the 1960`s was regarded as a privilege left only for a few. The idea was to watch all together a famous serial to be broadcast at 3 o'clock. The family at "The triangle" was composed of the parents and their numerous sons and daughters. Some of them were Laura and Silvia`s same age which made the prospect of the visit even more attractive. The plan was to spend the afternoon watching "Pobre Diabla" and talk while drinking mate and having tortillas. Humberto was going to be there. He was Silvia`s secret love.

The following day, they took their horses and off they went. The journey was about 15 minutes on horseback. On arriving at the farm, they clapped their hands to announce their presence there. They were very surprised at what they found. The thatch roofed cottage looked empty as if people had just left. Just some chairs at the veranda and a small table with a copper kettle and a mate on it. Several dogs were barking fiercely. Suddenly the sky was covered with gray clouds and a strong wind started blowing noisily as if heralding a big storm. The horses, which were usually tame, started snorting wildly and standing on two legs. Both girls and beasts were very frightened.

Silvia shouted: "Hellooooo!!!!, is there anybody here?... Noemi, Humberto, Griselda!, where are you? Nothing. No signs of human life. Just the dogs barking.

"Humberto!!!, they shouted, where are you? If this is a joke, it is not funny!". Around ten minutes passed when they finally accepted that the house was empty. Resigned, they decided to go back home assuming that "The Triangle" people had forgotten the agreement.

The following morning and in a moment of serendipity, the girls came across Noemi, the elder sister.

“What happened”? asked Silvia with great curiosity. “ We were at your place at three o'clock as we had planned but there was nobody there. We just saw the dogs barking.

“You are kidding” said Noemi.” We waited and waited for you all the afternoon. All the family were there, drinking mate and waiting for you. Even some friends from Loyola joined us, we were a nice crowd! “ We were very disappointed that you never turned up. We were tired of waiting. But if you want, I can tell you all about the serial. It was so interesting.....