

Adelita

A long time ago in a village in Mexico, there lived a beautiful young woman called Adelita. She lived with her wicked stepmother and her two cruel stepsisters. Sadly her mother and father had both passed away leaving her an orphan. Even her godmother, Esperanza, had been sent away. Adelita lived in a small room in the attic and wasn't allowed nice things such as new clothes. She had to prepare all the meals, clean the rooms and her stepsisters were mean and hateful to her.

One morning, as Adelita was serving breakfast, they received an invitation from Senor and Senora Gordillo for a fiesta. Rumour had it their son Javier was looking for a wife. Her stepsisters were so excited that they couldn't talk about anything else for days. Sadly, Adelita knew she wouldn't be allowed to go to the fiesta. Her sisters told her they would be embarrassed to be seen with her.

When the day of the fiesta came, they made such a fuss. Poor Adelita had to rush about upstairs and downstairs. She did their hair in fancy waves and curls, she helped them put on their expensive new dresses and she arranged their jewels perfectly.

"Get my shoes!" ordered Dulce.

"I need my bag now!" demanded Valentina.

When everyone left for the fiesta, Adelita went to the kitchen and sat by the fire. Suddenly, disappointment swept over her and she began to weep. Just then, she heard a soft knock at the door. It was Esperanza! She had come to help. Together they opened Adelita's mother's trunk and found a magnificent red shawl embroidered with birds and flowers. Adelita washed and dressed and Esperanza braided her hair.

When Adelita arrived, the fiesta had already begun. She walked into the room and everyone turned to look. The room fell silent. Who was this stunning young woman? Javier asked her to dance with him and they danced all evening. But at midnight, Adelita began to panic. How could she ever explain who she was? His family would never allow him to love a kitchen maid! So Adelita ran back home.

The next morning, all Adelita's stepmother and stepsisters could talk about was the mysterious girl who had appeared and then disappeared from the fiesta. They were jealous of her beauty and even more jealous because they knew Javier had fallen in love with her. Javier went from house to house searching for his true love. Before she went to help the sisters, Adelita hung her mother's shawl out of the window. She helped the two sisters dress then went back to her room.

At last the prince came to Adelita's house and spotted the red shawl. He jumped up and down, ran to the door and knocked. Adelita's stepmother answered, "Ah Senor Javier! Please come in," she said.

"Where is she? I know my love is here," exclaimed Javier.

"Do you mean one of my daughters?" Adelita's stepmother replied and she called the stepsisters. Whilst Javier remembered the two stepsisters, he knew that they weren't who he was looking for. At that moment, Adelita appeared wearing the shawl. Her stepsisters couldn't think of anything to say and looked at Adelita in astonishment. Javier had found his true love and asked Adelita to marry him.

In her sweetness, Adelita invited her stepmother and stepsisters to the wedding. Of course, Esperanza was there too. She was going to take care of Javier and Adelita just as she had done before. There was wonderful food, lots of music and dancing. And Javier of course danced every dance with Adelita. And just like Cinderella and her prince, they lived happily ever after.