

XAVIER, HIS DAD, AND THE CHUPACABRAS

(This is just one “chupacabra,” but an enthusiastic storyteller sometimes adds a hissing “s” to make the creature sound more dangerous.)

Margarito Garza told his son, Xavier, about how he had once stood face to face with La Llorona and told her to please shut up. He said he had been at the Bocasios nightclub in McAllen when the devil got busted dancing with a minor. He said that once, in the onion fields, he heard footsteps behind him and turned around to confront the chupacabras, that giant creature that would swoop around and dive down to suck the blood from cattle or goats—or stray children. He said he had just snapped off a nearby tree branch and poked out the creature's eye!

Reviewing the feats of the monster-fighting dad one day, Xavier and his cousin Bobby decided to sneak out to the fields that night. Perhaps they, too, could see and conquer the chupacabras.

Well, they did see him—at least they thought they did, but the vision turned out to be the wonder dad himself, who chased them off home, threatening them with a whipping.

But he hadn't counted on Amalia Garza. She told her husband that it was his fault for traumatizing the boys with his stories. She made him confess that he had never seen La Llorona, and he wasn't even at the Bocasios nightclub when the devil was there. Xavier was crushed!

Later, he quietly asked about the chupacabras story.

"M'ijo," his father whispered. "That one's true, but let's not tell your mother."

Garza, Xavier. “After Chupacabras, He Never Felt the Same about 'Big Bird,' La Onda,” *Corpus Christi Caller-Times*, July 27, 1998, p. c12.

Garza, Xavier, correspondence (xaviergarza@hotmail.com)

© Institute of Texan Cultures, 1998