



STORY: LA CUCARACHITA MARTINA, A CUBAN FOLKTALE

Retold by Dianne de Las Casas

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La Señorita Cucarachita Martina vivía en una casita chiquita. Miss Martina Cockroach lived in a little house. She was sweeping her porch to some sassy salsa music. Around and around she danced. Cuando estaba bailando, as she was dancing around, she looked down and noticed something shiny on the ground. It was una moneda de oro, a gold coin!

“Ay yi yi!” La Señorita Cucarachita Martina cried. “Tengo suerte! I have good luck! What will I buy with this? Should I buy carmelos -- candies? Eh, no. Zapatos -- shoes? Eh, no. Yo quiero comprar...perfume. I want to buy...perfume. So that I can smell heavenly.”

So la Señorita Cucarachita Martina bought some perfume and wore it the next day. She was sitting en la veranda, on the porch, when along came Señor Torrito, Mr. Bull.

Señor Torrito said, “Cucarachita Martina, you smell heavenly. ¿Te quieres casar conmigo? Will you marry me?”

La Señorita Cucarachita Martina answered, “Señor Torrito, en la mañana, in the morning, how will you greet me?”

“¡Muuu, muuu!” said Señor Torrito.

“¡Ay, no! That would frighten me!” So Señor Torrito went on his way.

A little while later, Señor Gallito, Mr. Rooster, came by. Señor gallito said, “Cucarachita Martina, you smell heavenly. ¿Te quieres casar conmigo? Will you marry me?”

La Señorita Cucarachita Martina answered, “Señor Gallito, en la mañana, in the morning, how will you greet me?”

“¡Quiquiriqui, quiquiriqui!” said Señor Gallito.

“¡Ay, no! That would frighten me!” So Señor Gallito went on his way.

A little while later, Señor Perrito, Mr. Dog, came by. Señor Perrito said, “Cucarachita Martina, you smell heavenly. ¿Te quieres casar conmigo? Will you marry me?”

La Señorita Cucarachita Martina answered, “Señor Perrito, en la mañana, in the morning, how will you greet me?”

“¡Gua gua gua!” said Señor Perrito.

“¡Ay, no! That would frighten me!” So Señor Perrito went on his way.

A little while later, Señor Chivito, Mr. Goat, came by. Señor Chivito said, “Cucarachita Martina, you smell heavenly. ¿Te quieres casar conmigo? Will you marry me?”

La Señorita Cucarachita Martina answered, “Señor Chivito, en la mañana, in the morning, how will you greet me?”

“¡Beeee beeee!” said Señor Chivito.

“¡Ay, no! That would frighten me!” So Señor Chivito went on his way.

A little while later, Señor Ratoncito, Mr. Mouse, came by. Señor Ratoncito said, “Cucarachita Martina, you smell heavenly. ¿Te quieres casar conmigo? Will you marry me?”

La Señorita Cucarachita Martina answered, “Señor Ratoncito, en la mañana, in the morning, how will you greet me?”

“Buenos días, mi cucarachita linda,” said Señor Ratoncito.

“Ooh, I like your style. ¡Sí, quiero casar contigo! Yes, I will marry you!” Pues, la Señorita Cucarachita Martina y el Señor Ratoncito se casaron. So Miss Martina Cockroach and Mr. Mouse were married. She smelled heavenly, and they lived happily.

To this day, las cucarachitas y los ratoncitos, the cockroaches and the mice, still get along. You may even see them running together en tu casita chiquita, in your little house.

¡Fin! The end!