

*ENGLISH: terre de la malmuerta*

*At the beginning of the 15th century, an old knight fell in love with a young woman who could have been his granddaughter. People advised him to forget about the lady because they would not make a good couple, but the old gentleman could not get her out of his mind because she had all the virtues that any husband would have desired, she was beautiful, noble and charitable.*

*The young lady, to everyone's astonishment, was receptive to the old man's attention, so he decided to propose to her and she accepted.*

*For the same reasons the lady had seduced her husband, she was also acclaimed by all the gentlemen of the city. She turned out not to be as polite as she seemed, since they assumed that the reason for marrying the old man was to inherit his properties.*

*For this reason, several Córdoba singles took advantage of any opportunity to be attentive to the lady. Her husband was perfectly aware of the interest that his wife caused. That is why he suffered enormously, even when his wife did not act inappropriately.*

*The lady, realizing the interest she aroused among so many men and, aware of her husband's jealousy, promised herself to do everything possible to alleviate her husband's sufferings. For this reason, she drastically limited her going out to the streets, reducing them to attending, with her husband, religious ceremonies and a small number of social commitments.*

*Like any great lady, one of her main activities was assisting those most in need, whom she regularly helped.*

*Since he had decided to restrict his public presence as much as possible, he decided to stop going to meet those in need. He told everyone that they should be the ones to approach the queen of the mansion that the couple had in the Santa Marina*

neighborhood. Thus, at different times of the day, the needy people there came to receive the donations and the words of comfort that she dedicated to them.

Anything Clara had done would have been in vain since her husband was going completely crazy. It got so bad that he even believed that the beggars were disguised suitors who dared to court his wife in his own home.

He imagined that the lamentations of the poor and his wife's words of consolation were the conversations of lovers and he confused the handing over of coins with the caresses of a lover.

Tormented and excited, the old man decided to visit a witch for advice. One afternoon, after a nap, she went looking for him at the Cordoban Jewish quarter and, after listening to her client's suspicions, she performed some rituals and prepared a drink for him that would help him see the truth. After drinking the drink, the old man went into a trance and had a vision of his wife lying in bed with a young man. Very upset, he headed home in search of his wife. Upon finding her, without saying a word, he stabbed her in the neck and continued stabbing her all over her body until Clara ceased to exist.

The murderer was arrested by the justice system and locked up awaiting trial.

Given the lineage of the accused, it was King Don Enrique himself who had the authority to judge him. During the trial, numerous witnesses from all walks of life recounted Clara's virtues and the absence of any hint of doubt about her noble and generous behavior. Faced with such overwhelming evidence, the king declared that there was no justification for her death, so the king told it to be written that the woman had been "badly kissed" by her husband. Having proven that the old man acted under the effects of a drink and that he was not the owner of his actions, he was sentenced to be locked up in perpetuity. Furthermore, given the extraordinary characteristics of his wife, he was sentenced to fully restore her memory, which should be immortalized as a victim of her unjust husband.

The king sentenced *Alf* Gómez de Figuerca to sell all his properties, demolish the mansion where the murder was committed and build in that same place a slender tower that would be called "de la Malmuerta." The murderer should serve his sentence in the tower until death. As for the witch who had prepared the potion that caused the tragedy, she was sentenced to die at the stake. The king's decision was highly praised by the people since the tower would contribute to improving the new defenses of the city and the execution would be another spectacle at the next meeting of the city fair, which would surely attract more visitors. However, when the masons were going to build the tower, on the site of the demolished house, they realized that it would be located several meters outside the new walls. For this reason, they asked themselves if it was essential to build the tower exactly on the site of the mansion or if they could build it twenty meters further back, integrated with the rest of the wall. Finally, after much deliberation, they decided to scrupulously comply with the king's sentence and built the tower in the exact location, connecting it to the wall by a semicircular arch.

It was built and thus the royal sentence of perpetuating forever the memory of the beautiful and noble *Csara* Herrera, "La Malmuerta", was fulfilled.