

The Legend of the Cuca Fera

Legend has it that, in the mountains of Begues, an enormous monster was born in a deep cavern at Ferla.

This was our beloved Cuca Fera who, despite having a ferocious appearance, was by no means a cruel or fierce beast, but rather a sweet and gentle little soul, who was just bored and lonely. He spent his days watching the people of Begues coming and going, as they worked, as they farmed the land, and so on.

**On top of a tall hill there was a castle,
where the lord and master of these
lands lived, the Baron of
Eramprunya, with his daughter, the
fair maiden Rosaclara.**

**One night, the young maiden was
kidnapped by an arrogant knight
who stole her away on horseback
through the mountains of Garraf,
while the fair maiden Rosaclara
cried “Help! Help!
Someone save me!”**

**The Cuca Fera, who was half asleep,
heard the fair maiden Rosaclara's
cries and left his cavern running as
fast as he could, he roared and used
his fiery eyes to frighten the young
knight who quickly let the fair
maiden go.**

**“Feet don't fail me now!” cried the
young knight upon seeing
the Cuca Fera.**

**The fair maiden Rosaclara was
trembling with fear when she saw
this huge, fierce beast, with his huge
fangs. But the Cuca Fera said
to her sweetly:**

**“Rosaclara, don't be afraid of me, I'm
just a dragon who lives a quiet and
lonely life in the mountains of
Garraf. If you climb up onto my back,
I'll take you back to your castle in no
time at all.”**

News of this deed travelled so quickly that the the Cuca Fera became known as the saviour of all the boys and girls of the village, and so it was that the Baron of Eramprunya declared him the “Guardian of the village of Begues”.

Meanwhile, a wicked demon, filled with envy and jealousy, tricked the Cuca Fera and trapped him far away from the village, in the cavern at Can Sadurni, a deep and dark hole in the mountain they call Montau.

Poor Cuca Fera! He stayed there trapped and all alone for a very, very long time. Years passed before the Cuca Fera was finally able to escape from the cavern at Can Sadurni. He made a big hole in the rock with his sharp fangs and pointy tail.

When he saw the the light of the sun, he ran straight down to the village to tell all the men and women of Begues the good news.

The people of the village were so pleased to see him again that they decided to throw a big party in his honour with all the children and all the grown ups, too.

The wicked demon couldn't believe it. How could it be that the people of Begues loved this ugly and fierce monster who was born in the depths of the earth so much?

On the day of the celebration, the wicked demon changed his mind, he realised that he had clearly been mistaken, and he stood up in front of the whole village and said:

“People of the village, fair Rosaclara and Baron of Eramprunya, I stand here before you because I need to explain something to you. I have realised that I was completely mistaken, you truly love this monster. You have shown that it doesn't matter to you what he looks like and that you love him for his gentle heart. Please forgive me, and let me join in with your party”

**From that day on, when Festa Major
comes around, they organise a big
fireworks night where the Cuca Fera,
with his huge fangs and fiery eyes,
accompanied by a number of
demons, comes out of his lair and
takes to the streets of Begues, while
the people cheer him on and sing:**

**“Cuca Fera, what a joy to see
you again
Above ground, you'll never
be a stranger,
Above all else, we always know
That you'll save a girl in danger”**