

Monsters

At this time me and my sisters, Juanita, Velia, Delia and Pita were all tired after walking for hours in the forest after beating el nagual. I kept reminding myself of Teresita's warning about walking around the forest at night. I was also reminding myself how I had to take care of my sisters, how I was the oldest and it was my job, I didn't want to disappoint Mama. Suddenly, Pita, the youngest, heard a crack from one of the trees. "Odilia what was that, I'm scared" Pita said as she got closer to me. I hugged her and told her that everything was going to be fine and that we were almost at our grandma's house. I got goosebumps as I remembered Teresita's warning, but I didn't think much of it and continued walking.

We then found an old cabin in which we decided to stay there for the night since it was already getting dark. Throughout the night me and my sisters kept waking up to random noises but we would assume that it was just an animal or the wind. When I went to investigate what it was I saw something that looked like an elf but it looked evil and mischievous in which when I saw the elf, it ran away scared. I walked back to the cabin thinking of Teresita's warning "Is this a chaneque?" "Why did it run away?" When I got back I told my sisters the incident that had happened and told them to be aware of their surroundings next morning.

The next morning, me and my sisters got back on track and kept walking through the forest when a thick fog covered our path. "Odiliaaa" a mischievous voice said. "Who is that? Delia and Velia cut it out, this isn't funny" I said. I looked around my surroundings and knew something was wrong. I then remembered Tersita's warning of a Malogra and how to beat it. She had especially warned me about this monster because it's speciality is stealing kids and disguising. No one knows where la malogra takes the children it steals. She said that I needed potions from the chaneques home and evaporate them. "Juanita, Velia, Delia, Pita" I screamed, scared of what had happened to them. I then remembered what Teresita said, she told us that there is a monster called "La malogra" which is a fur ball often disguised as fog or as a cloud that steals children that wander around in the woods.

When the fog cleared up I came across a chaneque that could teleport between trees and sneak attack me. I then remembered that Mama had once told me about a chaneque, how they are the nicest nature guardians but turn evil when something upsets them. When they are upset they steal people and freeze them alive but only attack people when they are alone. The chaneque tried to attack me but I ran away as fast as my legs could work. Thinking I was good the chaneque attacked me from behind which caused me to faint. When I woke up the place was a weird-looking cave that looked like prison cells. I then started to think why the chaneques were mad and how I could help them restore their good spirit. I remembered what Teresita said, she had told me on how to beat a chaneque. We had to beat the chaneques by staying pure of heart and giving the chaneques what they wanted. Chaneques are only evil when something is taken

from them but besides that they have always been friends with humans and have always been good to humans. So, I made a lot of scenarios but the one that made the most sense was that something valuable was taken away from them. I kept thinking and thought of how they love nature so something nature related had been taken away from them.

I then realized that the whole time that me and my sisters had walked through the forest we never found water so that's probably what had made the chaneques upset. A chaneque then made me get out of my cell and made me follow it to a place that looked like an arena. One of the chaneques gave me a sort of potion and a shield to defend myself. "Hello human" the chaneque said "Wait you can talk?" I interrupted surprised. "Yes, I can, anyways as I was saying in order to set you free you have to complete 3 different tasks. The first one is to defeat 10 chaneques in this arena with the supplies we gave you. After all, we need something to entertain us, right? Open the gates now!" the chaneque announced.

They then opened the 10 gates surrounding me in which 10 chaneques came out and started running towards me. I used my shield as all of them tried to attack me. "Awww she's scared" one of the chaneques said. I then opened the potion and threw a drop of the potion to one of the chaneques. "AHHH" he screamed in pain. I then realized that this potion could burn the chaneques and knew that this was the only way to beat them. As I fought all of the chaneques one of them managed to scratch my face but I didn't give up. I kept thinking of using my ear pendant but I had to stay strong and save up my wishes to save my sisters. One by one I burned all 10 chaneques and won the first task. "Very lucky, human, you're not as bad as I thought" the chaneque said.

The chaneque then took me to a sort of maze and left without telling me anything on how to play. "Welcome! To your second task. In this task you have to complete this maze in under 1 hour, but be careful because they're are chaneques wandering around the maze ready to kill you. You may begin now. Good luck!" the chaneque announced. I then started to walk around hoping that I wouldn't run into a chaneque. 30 minutes had passed and I wasn't even halfway through the maze. "30 minus have passed so there are now potions with boosts around the maze that will help you escape" the chaneque announced. I then started to run trying to find a potion. As I took a left turn I found a blue potion and drank it with no hesitation. I then realized that I could see where all the chaneques were hidden so I avoided walking into one of them. 10 minutes left in the clock I found another potion in which when I drank it, a red path showed up in the floor so I followed it and realized that it was the path to the exit. As I ran for my life with 1 minute left in the clock I reached the end and took a deep breath as I celebrated happily. "That was a close one." I said. "I really thought you weren't gonna make it but here you are. You really are full of surprises. One more task left. This one is the most important one." the chaneque said.

"You will have to give us back what you humans took away from us, this will make us good spirits again." the chaneque said. "What is it?" I said. "That's for you to figure out," he said. As I remembered the scenarios I had thought about earlier I knew that what they wanted was water.

The chaneques let me free to look for the cure that will make them good again, just that with chaneques following me to make sure I don't escape and leave without giving them the cure. I kept walking and looking for water somewhere but I couldn't find anything. I then came across a small village in which I went down to introduce myself and ask them if there's any water nearby. "Excuse me, hello, I'm Odilia" I said. "Hello, I'm Natalie, nice to meet you" One of the ladies said, pulling out her hand to introduce herself. "By any chance do you know where I can find water?" I asked. "Oh yeah, right around the edge of the village there's a lake," Natalie said. "Do you know how it got here?" I asked. "Well, about a month ago we wouldn't get enough water since half of it was going to the forest so some of the men from the village decided to build a border between the forest and the village so that we get more water." Natalie said. "Ok, thank you" I told her. I was then sure that the problem was the water and knew I had to give the chaneques their water back.

I then went to investigate where the border was with a hammer so that I could knock it down and replace the chaneques good spirits with the water. The border wasn't too far away from the village so I got there pretty quickly. When I saw the border I hurriedly graved my hammer and started knocking down the border thinking if it wasn't too late to rescue my sisters. I then ran to the chaneques home hoping that it would replace their good spirits. When I got there I saw chaneques drinking the water and transforming into small adorable animals that looked like nature guardians. One of the chaneques then looked at me and said, "Thank you, you have restored our spirits. You are now free. As a form of gratitude we will help you claim your sisters back from la malogra." "Thank you" I responded.

The chaneques were telling me that Malogras are very evil monsters and have no thought in being good. They had also told me that they were once friends with malogras but they betrayed them so they knew a little about them and where they lived. As I followed the chaneques I remembered that the path we were passing by was the path we took when the fog appeared. We kept walking for hours until all of the chaneques stooped. "Were here" one of the chaneques said. "You know this is a tree right?" I asked, confused. "This is a disguise" the chaneque continued. Then all of the chaneques holded hands and put me in the middle as they sang a song in a different language. As I blinked I teleported into another world that was full of clouds and looked beautiful for a home of monsters. I tried to stay hidden because I remembered that malogras like to disguise themselves as clouds. As I kept walking I spotted a lot of kids stuck in some sort of jail made out of clothes. As I walked my sisters saw me and screamed my name "Odilia! Over here" Juanita said. I ran to them and tried my best to hug them with the bars between us. "What are you doing here, they're going to capture you." Delia said. "It's ok. I restored the chaneques' good spirits and they're going to help you guys escape." I comforted them.

Suddenly, one of the malogras graved me and captured me with my sisters. I then saw a chaneque talking with a malogra. I took that as a distraction and tried to think of a way to escape. I reached into my pocket and took out five different potions that I had stolen from the

chaneques earlier. I used one of them to open the gate from the cloud jail and ran away with my sisters trying to find a hiding spot. When we found a hiding spot one of the chaneques ran towards me. "Follow me, I will lead you guys out." the chaneque said. As we followed him he told us to stop right next to a cloud jail. I then saw a malogra and a chaneque coming towards us. "You're trapped now." The malogra said. "Chaneque help us." I said hoping for the best. "Oh, no you got it all wrong this was a trap. I never turned good. I never had a good spirit. Me and Malogras have always been friends and work together to steal children." the chaneque said. "But- That's impossible. You even changed." I said nervously. "Oh, that, we have the power to change color whenever we want."

Me and my sisters were all surrounded by malogras and chaneques but I didn't give up. I grabbed one of the potions and threw it to one of the malogras. The malogra then started evaporating and turned into a puddle of water. All of the monsters surrounding us then took one step back as I threatened them to throw all of the potions I had. I threatened them to tell me where the exit was or it was going to be the end of them. They started to lead me to the exit which looked like an elevator. "If you guys ever follow us and attack us again WE WILL kill you" I threatened them. We then got in the elevator and left. I tried to follow the map that Teresita's husband gave us and try to find the farm he had told us to sleep in. When we got there me and my sisters made a pile of clothes to sleep for the night.