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## Colonial Llorona

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*Christine Swint*

## Colonial Llorona

In some stories she polished the parquet floors  
and engraved shields of a criollo lord,  
who plied her with sherry and sugared dates  
she carried on trays in the evening.  
From his high bed, in chamois breeches, he woos her  
to his side, and of course, she bears his child,  
and then another. Some say she tried to trap him,  
but noblemen seldom marry the maid.  
When he sails for Spain in search of a gilded bride,  
she wraps the babies in her apron folds,  
and heaves them, like stones, into the river.  
Later, her dress bells as she hangs from a rope swing  
tied to a branch. And then she lets go, a muslin  
blossom, till the water's weight draws her down.