

2. The Tigress Witch (虎姑婆)

Once upon a time, there were a lady and her two daughters, A-Li and A-Mei. One day, the mother made a trip to the city. She asked the girls to lock the door and let no one in.

After the mother left, someone knocked on the door. The girls opened the door and saw an old woman. "Who are you?" they asked.

"I am your great-aunt."

The girls were happy to see that great-aunt and let her in. Because it was late, the three went to bed.

At midnight, A-Li heard noises. The great-aunt was eating something.

A-Li asked, "Great-aunt, what are you eating?" The old woman answered, "I am eating peanuts." She threw over a piece to A-Li. It was a finger! "Oh, no! She is eating A-Mei. She must be the Tigress Witch!"

A-Li said, "Great-aunt, I have to go to the toilet." "Ok, come back soon," the witch said.

A-Li ran out and climbed up onto a tree. The witch waited and waited. Then, she went out and found A-Li hiding up in a tree. Because she could not climb the tree, she started biting the trunk.

A-Li said, "You don't have to bite the trunk. I can come down to let you eat me, but I am hungry now. Please bring me a pot of hot oil. I'll fry birds and eat them here. When I am full, I can climb down."

The witch believed A-Li and did what A-Li said. After a while, A-Li shouted, "I am ready to jump down. Open your mouth." The witch opened her mouth widely. Then, the Tigress Witch got a mouthful of boiling oil and died.