

The Old Lady and The Cheeses

Submitted by Gloria Urbina

A little old lady named Matilde had a goat which always yielded plenty of rich milk. With this goat, she was able to fill her market stand with dozens of scrumptious wheels of cheese. Her neighbor, Julian, also made cheese, but his numerous goats could never compare to Matilde's single goat.

Every morning as Julian milked his goats, he asked himself grudgingly, "How does that old woman make more cheese than me, with that one skimpy goat? It must have magical powers"

One dark night, while everybody else was sleeping, Julian snuck into Matilda's farm pen. He took one of his goats with him, and exchanged it for Matilde's magical one.

The next morning, Matilda woke up to get milk for her cheeses and discovered that there was a different goat in the pen. Nevertheless, with her kind words and good care, the goat yielded as much milk as her own. By midday, Matilda came across Julian at the market and asked him, "So, did you make many cheese wheels with my goat?"

Julian simply grumbled and said, "No, your magic goat only gave me enough milk for a single wheel". Matilde replied, "You see, you took my goat but not my secret. The key to good cheese is not in the goat but in the joy with which I do my work".