

## **La Ragazza del Ballo (The young girl at the dance)**

Once upon a time there was a young man who had come home on leave from the military. One evening, together with some of his friends, he went dancing at a party. His friends each had a girl but in contrast he was alone and stood out because he didn't know with whom to dance.

At a certain point he saw a girl who was alone like him; he approached her and enquired why she was not dancing and she replied that she didn't know anyone.

They started to talk and then danced together; towards midnight the young man asked if he could walk her home and the girl agreed.

They walked along, and at a certain point he said:

“My, it's cold!”

He then removed his jacket and put it round her shoulders.

After having walked a good bit the girl said:

“I have arrived, it is better that we leave each other here” and made an effort to slip the jacket off in order to return it to him, but he exclaimed:

“You keep it, give it back to me tomorrow” and they then said their goodbyes.

The following day the young man returned to the same place, but the girl wasn't there. After having waited a while he asked passers-by if they had seen her but no one knew of her.

So then, he set off back along the road, saw that the gate of the cemetery was open and decided to go and find his dead relatives. On entering, the first thing he noticed was his jacket laid out on a tomb; he approached and saw a photo of the young girl with whom he had danced at the party and read on the tomb that she had been dead a long time. He retrieved the jacket and returned home horrified.

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