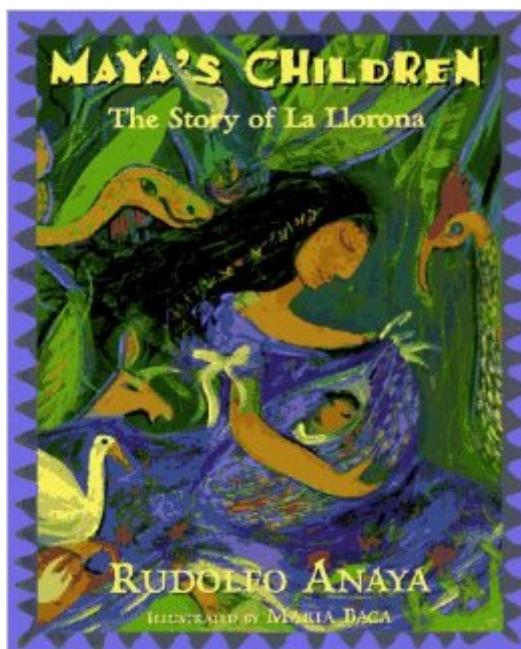


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# Maya's Children: The Story Of La Llorona



## Synopsis

In ancient Mexico, the beautiful and magical grandchildren of the Sun God are endangered by the threat of Señor Tiempo who, jealous of their immortality, plots to destroy them.

## Book Information

Age Range: 6 and up

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Disney Pr (Juv Trd); 1st edition (May 1997)

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (5 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

Maya's Children: The Story of La Llorona, written by New Mexican author Rudolfo Anaya and illustrated by Maria Baca portrays La Llorona as a sympathetic figure whose haunting spirit reflects the enduring memories of love and loss. The book begins with an "Author's Note" in which Anaya explains his choice in diverging from the traditional myth. The well-known myth of La Llorona is about a woman who is wronged by her husband and, in a mad fit of jealousy, drowns her children in a river. Once her head clears and she realizes what she has done, she cries out and wanders the river looking for her children. As legend has it, the ghost of the "The Weeping Woman" has persisted in haunting rivers, lakes, and "lonely roads" ever since. However, Anaya's story, as you will see, varies from the common rendition in many ways. Although this myth is usually used by parents to scare children out of wandering alone at night, Anaya's motive in retelling this tale is slightly different: "Instead of using La Llorona as a character to frighten children" as she has been used by generations of parents "this story teaches youngsters about mortality. Through such motifs, I believe all myths of folktales can be adapted, especially for specific age-groups, to tell an interesting and valuable story." Indeed, the story's value has shifted from emphasizing safety through fear to focusing on love, mortality, and the fragile beauty of life (and not to mention, a little lesson on "the birds and the bees"). The story begins "long ago in ancient Mexico" on the

day of the Festival of the Sun, when a baby girl, Maya, is born. Maya is a child of the Sun God and destined to be immortal. She grows up to be beautiful, wise, and adored by everyone, even the Gods. All the Gods but one love her.

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