

Reading Station

You are going to read an article about some Cordobese myths. For questions **1-15**, choose from the myths (**A-E**). The myths may be chosen more than once.

CÓRDOBA'S HAUNTED SIDE

Have you ever wondered what's really hiding behind Córdoba's most famous faces and places?

A. The Statue of Rodrigo Bueno

In Nuevo Cementerio de Córdoba, there is a bronze statue of Rodrigo Bueno, the famous cuartetero singer who died in a car accident in the year 2000. Fans still visit the statue every day, leaving flowers, cigarettes, and small bottles of alcohol at its feet.

But locals say something strange happens after midnight. If you stand very close to the statue and stay completely silent, you can hear a faint cuarteto rhythm coming from nowhere. Some students say the statue's eyes seem to follow you as you walk around it. One popular story tells of a boy who touched the statue's hand as a joke and asked for good luck in an exam. He passed the exam with the highest grade in his class... but for one week after, he could not stop humming Rodrigo's songs, day and night, even in his sleep.

Locals warn: if you ask Rodrigo for a favor, be ready to pay the price in music you cannot turn off.

B. The Laugh of Piñón Fijo

Every child in Córdoba grew up watching Piñón Fijo, the clown with the giant shoes and the unforgettable laugh. But among older students, a darker story circulates.

They say that in an abandoned theatre on the outskirts of the city, Piñón Fijo performed his very last unrecorded show, for an audience that never left. Local legend claims the theatre doors lock by themselves at night, and if you listen carefully near the walls, you can hear his famous laugh echoing through the empty hallways, slower and deeper than normal, almost mocking.

Some students dare each other to go near the old theatre at night and shout his catchphrase. According to the legend, if the laugh answers back, you must run immediately, because it means the show is about to "choose" a new member of the audience... forever.

C. Doña Jovita's Warning

Doña Jovita predicts misfortune with terrifying accuracy, but only about extremely specific and useless things, like knowing you'll drop your alfajor exactly on the sidewalk, or that your bus will arrive the second you look away.

Legend says if you complain about your life three times into a mirror at midnight, she appears behind you, sighs dramatically, and gives you advice that sounds wise but makes absolutely no sense, such as "the yerba doesn't lie, but the thermos might." Students who claim to have summoned her report their problems don't disappear — they just become slightly funnier and impossible to explain to their parents.

Some say she's not a ghost at all, just an extremely tired grandmother who got stuck in the mirror during a blackout in 1998 and has been mildly annoyed ever since.

D. The Uninvited Dancer at the Bailes

At every baile, in the middle of the most crowded song, there's a mysterious girl who dances perfectly, always facing away from the stage. Nobody knows who she is. Nobody knows why she only knows the choreography and never the lyrics.

According to legend, she died decades ago on her way to a baile and has been stuck there ever since, cursed to dance to every cuarteto song ever written, including the bad ones from 2013 nobody wants to remember. Witnesses describe a sudden cold wind on the dance floor, immediately followed by the overwhelming smell of an energy drink, for reasons science cannot yet explain.

The golden rule: if a stranger invites you to dance and you can't see their face under the lights, finish the song, say "gracias," and leave calmly. If they ask for your Instagram, however, that's just a regular guy. Ghosts, apparently, don't do social media.

E. The Locked Store of Patio Olmos

There is allegedly a store in Patio Olmos that moves floors every few months, always looking empty and "for rent" during the day, but fully staffed, lit, and stocked with mannequins at night, run by nobody anyone has ever hired.

Employees say the security cameras glitch for exactly four seconds every night at the same time, which the mall has explained as "just the WiFi," a claim nobody believes but everyone accepts because arguing with mall management is scarier than any ghost.

Legend says if you find the store open and try something on, you get the deal of a lifetime — no price tag, no receipt, and a strange, permanent 10% discount on your soul that only becomes noticeable during difficult family gatherings. Several students insist they bought perfectly normal socks there that, mysteriously, never wear out and never match anything else in their closet.



BOO!

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PROCEED WITH CAUTION...



Which legend mentions...



1. ...a reward that comes with an unexpected side effect? ☐
2. ...an official explanation that people don't really believe? ☐
3. ...a strange smell that people notice right after feeling something else? ☐
4. ...advice that sounds confusing or contradictory? ☐
5. ...a sound that is similar to the real thing, but not perfect? ☐
6. ...something that changes appearance once a year, but nobody ever sees it happen? ☐
7. ...a past event from many years ago that explains why a character is still around today? ☐
8. ...a way to tell if someone is a ghost, based on their behavior? ☐
9. ...a problem that doesn't disappear, but changes in some way? ☐
10. Which legend mentions something good happening, but followed by something a little annoying? ☐
11. ...two people being equally confused about something that happened between them? ☐
12. ...a detail connected to a specific number of seconds? ☐
13. ...a situation that only happens when there are a lot of people around? ☐
14. ...a hidden cost that is not about money? ☐
15. ...clothing that behaves strangely, but only in one particular way? ☐

