

kiki(mora) and scarecrow, breaking windows and blowing out candles SH

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 07 Jan 2018

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Marc Aramini — 07 Jan 2018, 01:45

In the 23rd letter, a lot happens in Sorcerer's House. One of the biggest is the appearance of Kiki who tells Bax that someone is in the back with him. This is also the chapter we learn that Bax actually wants revenge on his brother: "He hit me ... He kicked me before he let. I was only half conscious, but his kick broke a couple of ribs, and I've never forgotten it. I resolved upon revenge." (178)

If the strange woman Kiki is in fact a kikimora, commonly a house spirit, then perhaps she (and her husband) are the true supernatural element of the text. The name kikimora is commonly translated as "scarecrow", and when Bax first meets Martha Murrey (whose name in the index is listed as meaning a dark purple color close to black) she says, "Travel! ... I've done a great deal of it. Once, believe it or not, I caught the shuttle from here to Chicago, waited a couple of hours in O'Hare, had a one-hour layover in Denver, laid over in LAX, and arrived in Honolulu a complete scarecrow" (16).

There are two kinds of kikimoras, and they are sometimes reputed to get between a man and a real woman. The Kikimora in the house lives in the stove or the cellar. Kikimora are thought to try and strangle people by sitting on their chests while they sleep. To avoid this, children are instructed to look out the window (note that Iuean was breaking windows). The Kikimora may be married to a masculine Domovye, who assumes the appearance of previous house owners or the owner himself, sometimes with little horns or tails, and might be small and hairy (like, say, the dwarf). [The triannulis has a skull with a horn on it] He might bruise the owner with pinches if he wanted him gone (see Iuean hitting Bax). They can also take on the appearance of cats or dogs. If he extinguishes a candle or makes himself visible it means that the head of household will die. If his touch is cold, misfortune is coming. Given the shutting off of the long light and the breaking of windows, this seems to be something supernatural Bax doesn't know about.

The kikimora can also wear the face of a family member. (Emlyn thinks that his father might have killed his mother, though Martha Murrey later somehow fills the role).

SOOOOOOOO ... breaking windows, extinguished candles, hairy dwarf, woman named Kiki, appearance of Emlyn and Iuean - Bax does seem to have a household spirit, Bax's "dream" experiences in fairyland ... but while this explains the dog and how his butler "is" mister Black ... what about the werewolf?