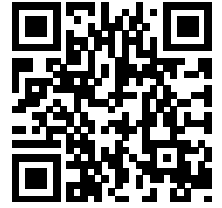


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Legends of the Changelings



In the heart of English-speaking countries' folklore, the concept of _____ is both fascinating and eerie. These mythical beings are said to be _____ of the fae, secretly left in place of human infants. According to the tales, fairies take the human _____ for various reasons, ranging from love for the child to the desire for a servant. The _____ of the child might notice odd behaviors, such as incessant crying or strange physical _____, indicating the presence of a changeling. It was believed that _____ preferred beautiful human infants, and thus, those were the ones most at _____. To protect their children, parents employed various _____, including placing iron objects near the crib, as fairies were thought to abhor iron. If a _____ was suspected, folklore suggests a number of tests to confirm its true nature, such as cooking a _____ in an eggshell, which would supposedly cause the changeling to reveal itself by laughing or speaking. The ultimate _____ was to compel the fairies to return the real child, often through trickery or by making the changeling's _____ so unbearable that the fairies would take it back. These _____ served multiple purposes, from explaining unexplained infant _____ to enforcing societal norms around child care. Despite their dark nature, changeling legends provide insight into the _____ and fears of past societies, reflecting deep-seated anxieties about parenthood and the well-being of _____.

stories

children

risk

life

features

babies

illnesses

goal

parents

changeling

values

fairies

changelings

rituals

children

meal