

The Red Sails

The cloth-maker spends her nights weaving and dyeing by the moonlight. She spends her days sailing the rivers and sea, trading her goods to those who want them.

One day, her ship runs ashore on an unfamiliar coast. She sees that her sail is torn.

Soon, a man arrives. He admires her and her cloth.

She asks the man to help repair her sail. The man says that the only way to escape the coast is with red sails, for the land is cursed.

The cloth-maker understands and agrees to make new sails stained red.

The man offers to help stain the cloth, for he possesses the red pigment.

The cloth-maker refuses, but the man insists. He comes to her in the night and stains the cloth red.

The cloth-maker bears a son.

The cloth-maker spends many years staining the cloth red, for sails are large and need much time to soak.

The man continues to visit her on moonless nights to stain the cloth red.

The cloth-maker bears a daughter.

When she finally finishes staining the cloth red, she invites the man to her home. "Look," she says. "I have finished. Let us celebrate."



The cloth-maker hands her son a cup of crimson water, blessed by The Twins. She tells her son to offer it to the man.

The man accepts. He drinks the crimson water, but it seizes his throat. The air is forced from his chest.

The cloth-maker gathers the red cloth and walks to the coast with her children. They board the ship slowly as she raises the new sails.