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MacLeod of Assynt *by Essie Stewart*

Well, this is the story of MacLeod of Assynt and how he built Ardloch Castle. Ardloch Castle - there's the two castles Ardloch and Ardvreck on the road to Loch Inver - and MacLeod being the head of, head of the clan, he wanted to build, I suppose as a status symbol, a home worthy of a, a clan chief but he didn't have, he didn't have the wherewithal to do so.

But he, he made a deal with the devil. Satan came to him and he said,

'Ok' he said 'you want money to build a castle? I will give you money to build a castle but' he said 'this is the deal. I want your daughter's hand in marriage'.

And MacLeod said 'Oh' he said 'I might, I might be hard up and I might be desperate for a home' he says 'but no I'm sorry this is not happening'. However, he went away, thought about it and his thinking was, well there is no way that I could ever build a castle or, you know, gather enough money to build a castle so he went back to the Devil and said, 'Ok, so be it'.

So Satan gave him the money 'Now' he said 'this is the deal. A year from today' he said 'I will come back'.

So time went on. The castle was built and exactly a year later Satan came back.

‘Now’ he said ‘I’ve kept my side of the bargain. Now’ he said ‘it’s time for you to keep yours’.

And MacLeod said ‘OK fine’ and the wedding went ahead and they got married. And that beautiful young girl hadn’t a clue what or who she was marrying until they were climbing the stairs to their wedding bed and this tall, dark, handsome young man was in front of her and she looked down and instead of feet, she saw cloven hooves. And then she knew what she had.

And she climbed to the tower, topmost tower of that castle and threw herself off that tower. And legend has it that if you’re walking the shores of Loch Assynt on a fine summer’s evening, that you can still hear her sobbing.

This is the transcript of the audio file available at
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