Pilar of the corner shop

On the corner of the Calle Generalissimo and Calle del Siniestra sits a little shop owned and operated by Pilar del Redondorodillas. Pilar is a lady of remarkable beauty, curvaceous, sensual and definitely worth a second look. Second looks are certainly cast in Pilar's direction but only as long as Manuela isn't within sight. Pilar has always been second to Manuela. Manuela was always curvier, straighter backed and her personality just that more sparkling as to keep Pilar firmly in her shadow.

Pilar consulted her mirror with the time honoured question concerning the fairest of all. Pilar always received the time honoured reply. “No sorry old girl it's still Manuela”, the mirror would reply drooling at the mention of the name. Obviously a male mirror or perhaps not. Pilar decided that the time had come for the mirror to change its tune. Her shop, among other items sold Remitroot products. Remitroot Aphrodisiac which she sold in a plain brown paper bag was often bought by Manuela to guarantee the success of her heavier weekends. Pilar would substitute a potion.

She consulted one of the many practising hechiceras in the village. To save money however she sought advice from one Luciana Scaremorea a cut-price witch. She was cut-price due to being completely useless. She once attempted to cure Rodriquez's gout and accidentally turned his pet Enggano Rat into a Tory politician. The enchanted rat was promptly elected MP for the Balmyborough constituency.

Using a mortar and pestle Luciana mixed various fluids and appendages of mammals, insects and plants. How she obtained the insect fluid was a question waiting to be asked but Pilar erred on the side of discretion. The result was a fine paste, deep green in colour with purple flecks and an extremely disturbing odour. Luciana swore that this mixture once swallowed by Manuela would give her skin the texture of the Horned Alquerian Axolotl, making her totally unattractive to men.

Pilar carefully transferred the precious paste into an empty Remitroot Aphrodisiac container. She placed it inside a plain brown paper bag and waited for Manuela to collect and consume her order.

Now the old adage 'you get what you pay for' held very true in this situation. The cut-price witch Luciana had mixed the right ingredients but in the wrong proportions. The 'axolotl' part of the potion had very little effect apart from producing a very cute mole on Manuela's nether regions. The 'horned' part worked with great effect and made Manuela more adventurous and ingenious than before. She was now even more popular with the male population.

Pilar was furious while Manuela placed a standing order for the potion.