

## Tales for Dark Nights: The Old Woman All Skin and Bone

*This is an old song, which I've adapted as a poem. Speak it, or try putting a tune to it and singing it. If there is more than one of you performing, decide who will say/sing the story, and who will join in the refrain (the second and fourth lines). Whatever you decide, it should be performed in a hushed voice, with the last word shouted as loud as possible, to make the audience jump!*

There was an old woman all skin and bone  
*Capture a moonbeam – bring it to me*  
She lived down by the old graveyard  
*The crow flies over the rowan tree*

She saw the bones upon the ground  
*Capture a moonbeam – bring it to me*  
She saw the bones all lying around  
*The crow flies over the rowan tree*

A skeleton rose behind a stone  
*Capture a moonbeam – bring it to me*  
He said, "Old woman, are you alone?"  
*The crow flies over the rowan tree*

"Yes, I'm alone, as you can see."  
*Capture a moonbeam – bring it to me*  
"Yes, I'm as lonely as I can be."  
*The crow flies over the rowan tree*

His bones did rattle, his bones did shake  
*Capture a moonbeam – bring it to me*  
Which made the old woman quiver and quake  
*The crow flies over the rowan tree*

The woman to the skeleton said  
*Capture a moonbeam – bring it to me*  
"Will I be like you when I am dead?"  
*The crow flies over the rowan tree*

The skeleton to the woman said... **BOO!!!**

*The "row" in "rowan" rhymes with "cow" or "sow", rather than "blow" or "crow". Do you know what a rowan tree looks like? If you plant a rowan in your garden, what will it protect you from?*

*Try making up a different story in verse, using the refrain of The Old Woman All Skin and Bone – or make up a new story **and** a new refrain. But build up the spooky atmosphere and keep the “jump” at the end.*

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