18 The Old Woman in the Coffin

- Classification: The Trickster Ghost / Social Justice
- The Narrative Arc: A wealthy, childless brother completely ignores his starving, impoverished sibling who has a house full of kids. When their elderly mother schemes with the rich son to spy on the poor family by hiding inside a large storage chest, a mysterious, supernatural traveler discovers her and chokes her to death with a meat bone. Following the funeral, the trickster traveler repeatedly digs up the old woman's corpse, staging her in terrifying, labor-intensive scenarios around the rich brother's property—forcing her to thatch the roof and thresh oats in the barn. He convinces the terrified rich son that her spirit will torture him forever unless he immediately splits all of his wealth down the middle with his brother.
- Folklore Elements & Motifs:
  - The Dead Witness: Exhumation and manipulation of a corpse as a theatrical tool for psychological warfare.
  - The Heavenly Messenger: A stranger from the afterlife acting as an equalizer for economic injustice.
- Thematic Core: Supernatural enforcement of sibling duty, charity, and fair distribution of wealth.
- Key Quote: "Your level best won't put an end to her coming back because you have treated your brother very badly. Now... give half of all you own... to your brother."