78 A Rider on a Goat

- Classification: Halloween Lore / Supernatural Encounter
- The Narrative Arc: On a bright, moonlit Halloween night, a young man rushes down a dark Irish road to catch up with friends for an evening of dancing and sport. Rounding a blind bend, he is suddenly confronted by an unbelievable sight: a fine, strapping boy charging toward him on the back of a large goat. The mutual fright sends the beast soaring completely across an adjacent river. Safe on the far bank, the rider reveals a malicious nature, leaving the frozen storyteller convinced he has just crossed paths with a leprechaun.
- Folklore Elements & Motifs:
  - Samhain (Halloween) as a liminal night where the veil thin.
  - Animal transformation/riding associated with the fairy folk.
- Thematic Core: The sudden disruption of ordinary, joyous human plans by a hostile supernatural realm.
- Key Quote: “The goat gave me a fright and I gave the goat a fright... When she landed on the other side, I was convinced it was