



Moon at the Lonley House

Date

August 1890

Primary Maker

Tsukioka Yoshitoshi

Medium

woodblock print; ink and color on paper

Description

An urban legend of a crone who lured pregnant women to their deaths in order to obtain the fetus's liver and cure the disease of a local lord, the story was first popularized as a 1762 puppet play, then as a kabuki version in 1856. Although the story existed in several versions, the knife, kudzu vines, and diagonal rope used to hang her victims are common visual elements that often were used to symbolize the story as a whole. Though her victim is not present, the thick brown pigment of the crone's coat provides a sense of visceral reality to the scene.

Dimensions

35.6 x 24.8 cm (14 x 9 3/4 in.)