

The Black Lady of Bradley Woods

While researching for a map of walks in the Bradley Woods area recently I came across this interesting piece on Wikipedia the free online encyclopaedia.

The Black Lady of Bradley Woods is by accounts from eyewitnesses a young, pretty woman around 5'6" tall, she wears a long flowing black cloak with a hood that covers her hair. Her face is mournful, pale and tear soaked, she does no harm to anyone; although she does appear to be a pitiful and unnerving sight.

The story of the Black Lady has been told in the area for a good few years, a local woman remembers her mother telling her the story as long ago as 1920. Children were warned that "the Black Lady would get you if you were not tucked up in bed by a certain time".

It is thought that the Black Lady is the ghost of a nun as she dresses in black and there was a convent at nearby Nunsthorpe but why would she move to Bradley a mile and half away? Although she dressed in black no one who has seen her has described her as being a nun.

One other explanation is that she was a spinster who lived a life of isolation in a cottage in the woods. She may have warranted a spooky reputation since when the village children came across her she got very angry not liking her solitude being breached and that in itself could have stoked the legend.

I do not think we shall ever have an explanation for the story of Black Lady but perhaps you dear readers, know more about it than I do.

