

# Alligator River Story

Long ago and not so very far away, there lived in the town of Izodville, a young couple. Skip and Buffy were engaged to be married and Buffy, for reasons known only to her, insisted that she remain "pure" until the day of their wedding. Skip, while chafing under his imposed chastity, admired Buffy for her principles and loved her all the more.

Skip and Buffy's courting was complicated somewhat by the fact that Izodville was separated by a large river which teemed with man (and woman!) -eating alligators. Indeed, it was dangerous even to wander near the river's banks for fear of being snapped up by one of the ferocious beasts. However the town's forefathers (and mothers) had constructed a bridge over Alligator River (for that is what it was called) so that townspeople could traverse from one side to the other. Thus it was that Skip and Buffy crossed the bridge to be in each other's company.

All was not to remain so peaceful in Izodville. One spring a tremendous flood came roaring down Alligator River. (Some speculated that the LaCoste Dam had finally given way). While, thank heavens, little damage was done to the town, the single bridge was completely destroyed. A proposal for a new bridge was submitted to the Town Council. However with a controversy over sales tax distribution, protest from environmentalists and the requirements for sealed bids, it soon became clear that actual construction on the new bridge would not begin for quite some time.

Buffy could not tolerate being separated from Skip. Daily they would stand on the banks of the river and sadly wave at each other, while keeping a sharp eye out for the hungry alligators. Finally in desperation Buffy sought out Sinbad, the town's only sailor. She asked Sinbad if he would ferry her across the river so that she could be with her beloved. Sinbad agreed, but stipulated in the fine print of his contract that Buffy spend the night and bestow upon him her considerable favors.

Buffy was thrown into a quandary and sought advice of Old Norman who wrote a column for the local newspaper. Old Norman, however, refused to give her advice, claiming that it was none of his concern. He turned his back and went back to his typing. Not knowing what else to do, Buffy went back to Sinbad's penthouse and signed the contract.

The following day, true to his word, Sinbad ferried Buffy across the river. Skip was delighted to see his intended! After a long embrace Buffy, consumed with guilt, confessed that she paid her fare across the river with her virtue. Horrified, Skip pushed Buffy away and told her that he wanted nothing to do with her!

Buffy was crushed! She wandered along the river's edge, seriously considering becoming a reptilian entree, when she met Sluggo. Sluggo asked what was wrong and when Buffy sobbed out the whole story, Sluggo rushed over to Skip's house and severely beat him up.