

## The Canterville Ghost

a play by Clive Duncan adapted  
from a short story by Oscar Wilde

### Cast (in alphabetical order)

**Carolyn Eden**

**James Moore**

**Lisa Ullrich**

**Philipp Walsch**

### Creative Team

**Director** Lea Dunbar

**Set Designer** Ivan Aksenov

**Costume Designer** Melanie Schöberl

**Score** Dennis Tjioek

**The Canterville Ghost** is a popular short story by Oscar Wilde, widely adapted for the screen and stage. It was the first of Wilde's stories to be published, appearing in the magazine **The Court and Society Review** in February 1887.

The story did not immediately receive much critical attention, and indeed Wilde was not viewed as an important author until the publication, during the 1890s, of his novel **The Picture of Dorian Gray** (1891) and of several well-received plays, including **The Importance of Being Earnest** (1895). Early critics found Wilde's work unoriginal and derivative. More recently critics have celebrated Wilde's ability to play with the conventions of many genres.

In **The Canterville Ghost**, Wilde draws upon fairy tales, Gothic novels, and stories of Americans abroad to shape his comic ghost story. He creates stereotypical characters that represent both England and the United States, and he presents each of these characters as comical figures, satirizing both the unrefined tastes of Americans and the determination of the British to guard their traditions. Also, he examines the disparity between the public self and the private self, a theme to which Wilde would return again in his later writings.

# The Canterville Ghost

by Clive Duncan



The story begins when the Otis family move into Canterville Chase. The family come from the United States of America and want to settle in a traditional English mansion. The problem is that the house is already inhabited by the Lord Simon Canterville, the Canterville Ghost. He has haunted the mansion for three hundred years and he cannot rest in peace until the time “when good speaks for ill, peace will come to Canterville”.

The Otis family don't believe the rumours and move in anyway. Sir Simon does his best to frighten them but the family is not afraid of him and he has to increase his attempts at scaring them. The family hears clanking chains, they witness reappearing blood-stains “on the floor just by the fireplace”, which are removed every time they appear in various forms. Humorously, none of these scare the Otis family in the least. In fact, upon hearing the clanking noises in the hallway, Mr Otis promptly gets out of bed and pragmatically offers the ghost lubricator to oil his chains.

Because the family are not impressed by Sir Simon, he feels increasingly helpless and humiliated. When Mrs Otis notices a mysterious red mark on the floor, she simply replies that she does “*not at all care for blood stains in the sitting room*”. When Mrs Umney informs Mrs Otis that the blood stain is indeed evidence of the ghost and cannot be removed, Washington Otis, the eldest son, suggests that the stain will be removed with Pinkerton's Champion Stain Remover. Only one member of the family, the 15-year old Virginia, is sympathetic to Sir Simon's plight and she is the key to removing the curse from Canterville...



## Author's Note

Do you believe in ghosts? Have you ever seen one? What would you do if you woke up one day night, and found a ghost at the end of your bed? Scream? Hide under the duvet? Or make faces at it to try to scare it. And how would you know if it was a real ghost? In this play, the people who live in Canterville House don't believe in ghost, so when they find one, they don't think it is real and try to frighten it away.

When Oscar Wilde wrote the story of *The Canterville Ghost* in 1891, reading had become a popular thing to do – working people had been to school and could read and write, books were printed cheaply, new writers appeared, telling new styles of stories: detective stories, science fiction, horror stories and ghost stories. Oscar Wilde used these styles, but made fun of them, making what we now call “spoofs”. England is full of old country houses. They are cold, miles away from anywhere, and when you are inside them, they make strange, creaking noises. Especially when you are alone. We like to think that they are all haunted. Wilde writes about one of these houses, and gives it a ghost who just can't scare people but ends up being terrified himself. It's no longer a scary story, it's a funny one!

In making *The Canterville Ghost* into a play, we have concentrated on the comedy, more than the scary bits. We've also used magic, music, songs, puppets and sound effects to help us tell the story. And although there is a ghost in the story, you can read or watch this play without screaming or hiding under the duvet, because it is only a story and, the important thing to remember is, ghosts do not exist. Do they?

Clive Duncan

## Characters in the play



**Four Tour Guides** who work in Canterville House today

**Hiram B Otis** an American diplomat who bought Canterville House in 1884

**Lucretia Otis** his wife

**Washington Otis** their son

**Virginia E Otis** their daughter

**Mrs Umney** the housekeeper at Canterville House in 1884

**Lord Canterville** who sold Canterville House in 1884

**Three Chefs** who work in the kitchen of Canterville House today

**Lady in the Bath** who spends all her time in the bath

**The Canterville Ghost** who has haunted Canterville House for 300 years

The play will be performed by four actors.

## The Canterville Ghost

Most of the story takes place in the living room of Canterville House - an old house which is five hundred years old. There is a large fireplace with an entrance on either side of it. Above the fireplace is a painting of a man who lived a very long time ago. He looks serious. Above one of the entrances is the Canterville coat of arms - underneath it are the words: "When good speaks for ill, peace will come to Canterville". Above the other entrance is a small picture of a woman. She is smiling. In front of the sofa and fireplace, there is a blood-red stain on the floor. Everything looks very old there- are spiders in webs, the mantelshelf slopes and the pictures-need straightening. In the room there is an old sofa and a suit of armour that looks old and rusty. When the play is about to start, we hear the beginning of the Can Can and the actors start to sing...

THE CANTERVILLE TOUR GUIDES:

*We're here to show you round the place.  
We know all that there is to know,  
Names, places and historical dates.  
And we know much more besides,*

*Come with us, see Canterville,  
The history of five hundred years.  
We'll show you each and every room  
And then we'll sell you souvenirs.*

*Look left, look right,  
This is very interesting,  
This is quite old,  
It's made of wood  
It's made of gold*

*Look left, look right  
This is very interesting  
This is quite old  
It's made of wood  
It's made of gold!*

*We will show you Canterville  
This ancient house is very quaint  
We'll tell you the most gruesome tales  
because we like it when you faint!  
We do our jobs with great pride  
We are the Canterville Tour Guides  
Books and pictures are supplied  
We are the Canterville Tour Guides*



**The Canterville Ghost**



*Look right, look left  
Please form a line  
Please read the sign  
Don't stand too close  
It's made of glass  
Keep off the grass!*

*Look right, look left  
Please form a line  
Please read the sign  
Don't stand too close  
It's made of glass  
Keep off the off the  
off the off the off the off the  
off the off the off the grass!*

*We are your tour guides tour guides tour guides  
Tour guides tour guide tour guides  
Tour guides tour guides tour guides  
And we'll show you, show you show you  
show you show you show you  
Show you show you show you Canterville*

*La la la la la la la la la la la la  
La la la la la la la la la la la la  
Can, can you do the cancan?  
Can you do the Cancan?*

*Come to Canterville  
Come to Canterville*

*Welcome, Welcome, Welcome  
To Canterville!*

# *The Canterville Ghost*



# The Canterville Ghost

TOUR GUIDE 2: Who is visiting Canterville House this morning?

TOUR GUIDE 1 : We've got school groups today..... (looks at a list)

Shout out if you are here (reads out the school names)

TOUR GUIDE 3 : Interesting. (and other commentary)

TOUR GUIDE 2: Who's going to be their tour guide?

TOUR GUIDE 3: Not me. I can't speak German.

TOUR GUIDE 1: I'll do it.

TOUR GUIDE 4 : Sprechen Sie Deutsch?

TOUR GUIDE 1: A little. It says here that they speak English very well. And I've heard that Germans are very generous<sup>1</sup> when it comes to tipping<sup>2</sup>. (awkward<sup>3</sup> silence)

TOUR GUIDE 2: Are you going to tell them the story of ... you know who ... ?

TOUR GUIDE 3: Of who? Voldemort?

TOUR GUIDE 4: No, no no! That's he who must not be named!

She means the story of Canterville House

TOUR GUIDE 1: What? You mean ... the Canterville Ghost?

TOUR GUIDE 2: Yeah, but no, but yeah, but no but, yeah

TOUR GUIDE 1: Do you think we should?

TOUR GUIDE 3: Let's have a look at them ...

TOUR GUIDE 4: They look like they might scare<sup>4</sup> easily. They might even scream.

TOUR GUIDE 1: You're right. We'll tell them!

TOUR GUIDE 2: Nice one!

TOUR GUIDE 1: Are we ready?

TOUR GUIDES: Yes!

TOUR GUIDE 4: Good morning, everyone! Enchante! Guten Morgen! Buenos Dias!  
Welcome to Canterville House. We are the Canterville Tour Guides.

*We hear a ticking sound...*

Hmm...what is that mysterious ticking noise?...

It's not over here....It's not over there...Hmm...kind of catchy<sup>5</sup>...

*The guides repeat their names in time to the ticking noise*

Drake, Drake, Deverus Drake.

Tumble Door!

Don, Don, Donna Cheesly, Carrie Potter

1 Großzügig

2 Trinkgeld geben

3 Unangenehm

4 Sich schnell Fürchten, ängstlich sein

5 Eingängig



TOUR GUIDE 1: My name is Carrie Potter and I am your guide for today. I shall show you around this wonderful house. If you have any questions, please raise your hand and my colleagues here will be pleased to answer them.

TOUR GUIDE 2: Please turn off your mobile phones and put all food and drink away. You are allowed to take photographs throughout the tour. A quick geography class: Canterville House is situated<sup>6</sup> seven miles north of Ascot, a small town in the county of Berkshire, thirty miles west of London. I see that you've come a long way today? Yes, you sir, where do you live?

*Tour Guide speaks to people in the audience, finding out where they live and what their names are.*

TOUR GUIDE 1: Let's start. Standing here in the gardens, you can see the front of the house. Canterville House stands in <sup>7</sup>fifty acres of farmland. To the right are fields of sheep ...

*The Tour Guides make sounds of sheep.*

TOUR GUIDE 1: To the left are fields of cattle ... The Tour Guides make cow sounds.

TOUR GUIDE 1: And on either side of the main entrance are two lions ...

*Tour Guides make a sounds of a lion roaring.*

TOUR GUIDE 1: Stone ... lions ...

TOUR GUIDE 2: Sorry.

TOUR GUIDE 1: ... which are the emblem<sup>8</sup> of the Canterville family. We'll go inside ...

*We hear creaking hinges<sup>9</sup> as she opens two large doors.*

TOUR GUIDE 1: This is the hall. There is the Canterville coat of arms. Underneath is written: "When good speaks for ill, peace will come to Canterville". The meaning of this is now lost and we call it "the Canterville Riddle<sup>10</sup>". Above the fireplace is a portrait of Sir Simon Canterville.

TOUR GUIDE 2: Sir Simon built the house in 1570 and he lived here with his wife, Lady Eleanor. It was not a happy marriage and five years later, in 1575, Sir Simon murdered his wife on this very spot here. The red mark on the floor is said to be a blood stain<sup>11</sup>.

6 gelegen

7 Ist umgeben von

8 Wahrzeichen

9 Knarrende Türangeln

10 Rätsel, Geheimnis

11 Blutfleck





# The Canterville Ghost

TOUR GUIDE 3: Nine years later Sir Simon disappeared mysteriously. His body was never found and for three hundred years his ghost walked the rooms and corridors of Canterville House. Spooky, eh? Don't worry, Canterville House is not haunted today ...

*A spooky musical melody. A ghost appears...*

TOUR GUIDE 1: I've worked here for ten years and I've never seen anything strange at all. What? Is something the matter?

*The Tour Guide suspects that something is behind her, but whichever way she turns, the ghost is very good at keeping out of sight.*

TOUR GUIDE 1: I get it - you're joking! As we say here in England; you are pulling my leg! <sup>12</sup>Very good. We'll continue the tour. The house has twenty-five rooms, seven staircases and half a mile of corridors. It's very easy to get lost, so stay close. Through here...

*She opens a door. Three Chefs appear, wearing Chef hats and holding frying pans*

TOUR GUIDE 1: ... is the kitchen.

CHEF Filipe: A four-seasons pizza coming up ...

CHEF Jacques: Hamburger and fries to go!

CHEF Lizza: Lovely apple pancakes!

TOUR GUIDE 1: Nothing has changed here for five centuries!

CHEF Filipe: Really? What did they eat five hundred years ago?

CHEF Jaques: Don't know. Things like - swans and larks and hogs<sup>13</sup>.

CHEF Filipe: Stuffed swan coming up!

CHEF Jaques: Lark pie to go!

CHEF Lizza: Lovely frog pancakes!

CHEF Jacques: Hog, not frog!

*The chefs argue and grumble<sup>14</sup> at each other. We hear sacre bleu! etc*

TOUR GUIDE 1: We'll climb ... the creaking spiral staircase<sup>15</sup>...

*She climbs up a spiral staircase - we hear creaking with each step.*

TOUR GUIDE 1: And through this door... we come to the bathroom.

12 Jemanden auf den Arm nehmen

13 Schwäne, Lerchen, Schweine

14 Murren

15 Knarrende Wendeltreppe



*The Tour Guide does not notice there is a lady having a bath.*

This was installed in 1910 and this is the original bath.

Oh! I'm sorry! I didn't know anyone was in here ...

*The Lady in the bath looks at Tour Guide 1, then at the audience and then screams, trying to cover herself up ...*

LADY IN THE BATH: Get out! Get out!

TOUR GUIDE 1: Um...Oops! Let's try this room ...

*Tour Guide 1 opens another door ...*

TOUR GUIDE 1: Ah! The picture gallery. Here are some paintings of the descendants<sup>16</sup> of Sir Simon Canterville. This is Haughty Harriet Canterville. She was very beautiful, but very bad-tempered.

*As Tour Guide 1 turns to the next painting, Harriet blows a raspberry<sup>17</sup>.*

TOUR GUIDE 1: Charming! Moving on, this is Reckless Rupert Canterville. He lived two hundred years ago and was a liar, a cheat and a thief.

*Reckless Rupert picks the pockets<sup>18</sup> of Tour Guide 1, removing handkerchief, wallet and spectacles.*

TOUR GUIDE 1: He gambled away the Canterville fortune<sup>19</sup>, and then stole thousands of pounds to replace it. Next is Gorgeous Gertrude Canterville. She was a famous actress upon the London stage at the time of Queen Victoria.

*Gertrude winks...*

TOUR GUIDE 1: I say! I think I'd better take a closer look ...

*She searches her pockets for her spectacles ...*

TOUR GUIDE 1: That's funny ... I thought I had my ... has anyone seen my glasses?

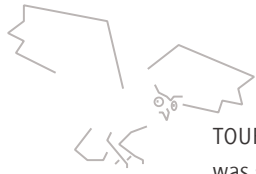
*Reckless Rupert is now wearing them.*

16 Nachfahren

17 Verächtlich prusten

18 Sich als Taschendieb betätigen

19 Er hat das Vermögen der Canterville verspielt



TOUR GUIDE 1: Never mind. And next we have Ugly<sup>20</sup> Ernest Canterville ... Ugly Ernest was so ugly, he had to be locked away<sup>21</sup>. When he escaped, which he did sometimes, he would scare all the people who lived in the village nearby.

*The Tour Guides (Lisa & James) scream and run away.*

TOUR GUIDE 1: He came to a terrible end<sup>22</sup> - he looked in a mirror one night and frightened himself to death! And now, if we go down this staircase ...

*Tour Guide 1 goes down a staircase.*

TOUR GUIDE 1: ... we arrive back in the hall. I told you earlier that the ghost of Sir Simon haunted the place for many years, but that stopped when the Canterville family sold the house. It was bought by an American family called Otis in the year 1884. I think we have some pictures of them. Let's go back to the picture gallery ...

*Tour Guide 1 runs up a staircase and opens a door.*

LADY IN THE BATH: Get out! Get out!

TOUR GUIDE 1: Oops! Wrong door! She opens another door ...

CHEFS: Stuffed swan!

TOUR GUIDE 1: Wrong floor! She opens another door ...

TOUR GUIDE 1: Ah! Here we are ...

*Tour Guide 1 walks along the gallery looking at all the pictures.*

TOUR GUIDE 1: This is the Otis family. These are their pictures ... this is ...

MR OTIS: Hiram B Otis! A diplomat, working for the American Embassy in London. And this is ...

MRS OTIS: Mrs Lucretia Otis - Hiram's wife. From New York.  
A fine, handsome woman. This is my son ...

WASHINGTON: Washington Otis. Seventeen years of age. I'm going to be a politician like Pa. I'm a very good dancer - famous for it<sup>23</sup>. This is my little sister ...

20 Hässlich

21 Weggesperrt

22 Er endete auf schreckliche Weise

23 Berühmt dafür

VIRGINIA: Miss Virginia E Otis. I'm fifteen years old and I like horses.

MR OTIS: When the Otis family said they'd bought Canterville House everyone called them foolish ...

ALL: You fools!

MRS OTIS: Even the man they bought the house from ...

WASHINGTON: ... Lord Canterville ...

MRS OTIS: Warned them not to do it.

LORD CANTERVILLE: The old place is haunted. That's why I don't care<sup>24</sup> to live there.

MR OTIS: I don't believe in ghosts, Lord Canterville. America is a rich country, if ghosts existed we would have bought one and put it on show<sup>25</sup> in a museum.

LORD CANTERVILLE: Oh, this one exists, all right. My wife could never get a wink of sleep<sup>26</sup> in Canterville House. Too many strange noises in the corridors in the middle of the night. Many members of my family have seen it. It always makes an appearance<sup>27</sup> just before somebody dies.

MR OTIS: So does a doctor, Lord Canterville! No sir, there's no such things as ghosts.

LORD CANTERVILLE: Well, if you don't mind about it, then that's all right. But remember, I warned you!

*We hear a thunderclap followed by a spooky music and then English Country garden music.*

VIRGINIA: It was a beautiful July evening when we, the Otis family took a pony and trap<sup>28</sup> from Ascot station to their new home. Along the lanes they could see squirrels and rabbits playing. They could hear the coo of wood pigeons<sup>29</sup> and the call of pheasants<sup>30</sup>.

24 Nicht darauf versessen sein

25 Ausstellen, zur Schau stelle

26 Keine Auge zutun

27 Erscheinen

28 Zweirädriger Pferdewagen

29 Gurren der Ringeltauben

30 Ruf der Fasane





MR OTIS: But as they turned into the drive that led to Canterville House, the sky clouded over, it grew dark and large drops of rain began to fall.

*We hear the sound of rain.*

WASHINGTON: As they drove up to the house they saw an old, wrinkled woman with a bent back and walking stick ...

*The old woman beckons<sup>30</sup> to the family.*

MRS OTIS: Great heavens! What is that?

WASHINGTON: It looks like Ugly Ernest!

MRS OTIS: Perhaps there is a ghost, after all!

MR OTIS: Calm yourself, my dear. That is Mrs Umney, the housekeeper.

MRS UMNEY: Welcome to Canterville House. Do come in out of the rain.

MR OTIS: A splendid<sup>31</sup> idea.

MRS OTIS: Oh, yes. We're getting very wet out here.

MRS UMNEY: Welcome to your new home. Come in, come in. I hope you will be happy here. Mr Otis, how do you do? Good evening, Mrs Otis. And you must be young Washington, I'm pleased to meet you. Oh! But where is little Miss Virginia?

MR OTIS: What?

MRS OTIS: Oh!

WASHINGTON: She's ... probably with the horse. She likes horses.

VIRGINIA: No, no, here I am!

MRS UMNEY: Pleased to meet you. I shall serve tea, if you are ready.

*Mrs Otis has seen the stain on the floor.*

MRS OTIS: Something has been spilt here, Mrs Umney.

MRS UMNEY: Yes, madam, blood has been spilt.

MRS OTIS: How horrid! I can't have blood stains in my sitting room.  
It must be removed at once.

MRS UMNEY: Oh, but this is the blood of Lady Eleanor, from when she was murdered  
by her cruel husband. It's been there for donkey's years.<sup>32</sup> It cannot be removed.

WASHINGTON: Nonsense, Mrs Umney. Have you ever tried Pinkerton's  
Champion Stain Remover? That cleans even the most stubborn<sup>33</sup> stains.

MRS UMNEY: I can't say I have ...

WASHINGTON: Luckily I have some here in my pocket ...

*Washington produces a small spray bottle with which he sprays the stain.*

WASHINGTON: Now watch ... one, two, three!

*The stain instantly disappears. There is a thunderclap.*

Mrs Umney: It's gone!

*Mrs Umney swoons<sup>34</sup>*

MRS OTIS: She's fainted. Hiram, what shall we do?

MR OTIS: We'll call it time off<sup>35</sup>, and take it out of her wages.<sup>36</sup>

MRS UMNEY: You should not have done that, Master Washington,  
you will upset the Canterville Ghost!

MR OTIS: As we do not believe in ghosts, Mrs Umney, we cannot worry about them.



32 Jahrelang, endlos lange

33 Hartnäckig

34 In Ohnmacht fallen

35 Freizeit

36 Vom Gehalt abziehen



MRS UMNEY: I have seen things with my own eyes, sir, that would make your hair stand on end.<sup>37</sup> Beware! Beware the Canterville Ghost!

*Mrs Umney wanders off muttering to herself.*

MRS OTIS: Oh Hiram, what if she's right?

MR OTIS: Now, Lucretia, we will not give in to old wives' tales and superstition. Gather round, family.

*Mr Otis takes centre stage and addresses the audience*

MR OTIS: Children, there are no such things as ghosts. They are fairy tales for those who cannot control their imaginations. We don't have imaginations - we're Americans! This fine old house is our new home and there is nothing to be scared of. We've all had a long day, we should have an early night. There are twenty-five rooms, you may choose whichever bedroom you like.

VIRGINIA: But Pa, what if there really is a ghost? Just suppose<sup>38</sup> ...

MRS OTIS: What do you mean, Virginia?

VIRGINIA: Well, if there really is a ghost, and he's been wandering around this old house for the last three hundred years, he must be very sad and lonely.

MR OTIS: If there was, that would be true, but there isn't. There's no such thing as ghosts<sup>39</sup> or sprites<sup>40</sup> or goblins.<sup>41</sup> Now, go to bed before the bogey man<sup>42</sup> gets you!

VIRGINIA: Good night. *Virginia goes.*

MRS OTIS: I think I'll turn in<sup>43</sup> too, Hiram.

MR OTIS: And I'll join you, Lucretia. This really is a beautiful house, very peaceful. We will have the most restful night we've ever had.

37 Da würden Ihnen die Haare zu Berge stehen

38 Nur einmal angenommen

39 Geister

40 Gespenster

41 Kobolde

42 Butzemann

43 Schlafen gehen

*Mr and Mrs Otis leave. A spooky musical sting. A ghost appears through the fireplace. It looks to see where Mr and Mrs Otis have gone and then floats down to the audience.*



GHOST: So, he doesn't believe in ghosts, eh? Doesn't he know who I am?  
I mean ...was! I was Sir Simon Canterville. I am the Canterville Ghost!  
Ha, ha, ha ...*(he has a fit of coughing.)* I'm a little out of practise<sup>44</sup>, I haven't scared anyone for a long time. But I have frightened many people through the years! Haughty Harriet Canterville ran screaming from this room when she saw me and she never blew another raspberry again. I grinned at Reckless Rupert Canterville whilst he was cheating at cards, and he choked to death<sup>45</sup> on the spot! When I winked at Gorgeous Gertrude Canterville, ha, ha, ha! Well, she wasn't so gorgeous after that. But to work! Hiram B Otis. How shall I frighten him? He's an American - I'll make it big and loud!

*(Techno music starts playing and the actors model various outfits as the ghost speaks)*

GHOST: What about this? Red Rueben, the strangled<sup>46</sup> soldier! Ghastly, eh?  
Or, how about this one? I haven't been him for ages... the green spectre<sup>47</sup> of the lake!  
Ha, ha, ha! No, no, it has to be terrifying for Mr Otis's first night. After all, he doesn't believe in ghosts ... Yes! I'll be Martin the Maniac - the masked mystery! This one has chains! I haven't played Mad Martin for seventy years! How I love dressing up!

*The Ghost gets dressed by fellow actors. We hear music - an introduction to a song ...*

## The Ghost of Canterville

GHOST: At the dead of night,<sup>48</sup> when the moon shines bright  
And there's nothing to be heard but hooting owls;  
I materialise<sup>49</sup>, before your very eyes  
And then frighten you with all my shrieks and howls!  
I'm the most scary ghost, I'm mad, I'm bad, evil!  
I'm the ghost, ha, ha, ha! Of Canterville!

ALL: Woo! Woo! Boo! Boo! He's the phantom in your dream.  
A ghoul,<sup>50</sup> a ghost, a shadow, who will really make you scream!  
It's no boast,<sup>51</sup> he's the Canterville ghost!

44 Etwas außer Übung sein

45 Ersticken

46 Erwürgt

47 Erscheinung, Schreckgespenst

48 Mitten in der Nacht

49 Erscheinen, auftauchen

50 Schauergestalt

51 Prahlerei





# The Canterville Ghost

GHOST: If you dare to wake, you will shiver and shake,  
When you see me from the corner of your eye.  
You'll go round the bend, your hair will stand on end.  
You'll tell yourself that you would rather die.  
Nerves jingle, spine tingles,<sup>52</sup> your soul will feel a chill!  
I'm the ghost, ha, ha, ha! Of Canterville!

ALL: Woo! Woo! Boo! Boo! He's the phantom in your dream.  
A ghoul, a ghost, a shadow, who will really make you scream!  
It's no boast, he's the Canterville ghost!

GHOST: I've been haunting here, for three hundred years,  
I've yet to meet a man who had no fear<sup>53</sup>.  
I can't resist when they say I don't exist,  
To rattle my chains and slowly disappear.  
They can see right through me, it makes them feel quite ill.  
I'm the ghost, ha, ha, ha! Of Canterville!

*The Ghost is now dressed up as Martin the Maniac. He rattles his chains and laughs a terrible laugh. Mr Otis enters. He wears a nightcap and carries a small oil can.*

MR OTIS: What is happening, sir? Do you know the time? It's midnight.  
My dear wife and I are trying to get to sleep. You are making a terrible noise, sir.  
I ask you not to sing. And if you must drag those chains about, please use this ...

*Mr Otis holds out the oil can.*

GHOST: Uh?

MR OTIS: Oil! It will stop the clinking and clanking and squeaking<sup>54</sup>  
and squawking that is keeping me awake!

*The Ghost sulks.*

GHOST: boo.

MR OTIS: If you have nothing better to do, sir, go to bed!

*The Ghost stomps off sulkily. Before he goes, he stops, turns and looks at Mr Otis, rattling his chains.*

52 Es läuft einem kalt den Rücken hinunter

53 Den Mann ohne Angst muss man erst noch finden

54 Klirren und Scheppern, Quietschen und Kreischen

GHOST: Wooooo!

MR OTIS: Good night, sir.

*The Ghost goes off but immediately appears on the other side of the fireplace.*

GHOST: Boo!

MR OTIS: I said: Goodnight!

*The Ghost goes downstage and Virginia enters*

VIRGINIA: The next morning,

GHOST. WOOOOO!

MR OTIS (*offstage*): I said Goodnight!

VIRGINIA: The next morning, we talked excitedly about the Canterville Ghost.

*Mr Otis enter and the rest of the family enter*

VIRGINIA: Did you see it, Pa? Did you really see it?

WASHINGTON: What did it look like?

MRS OTIS: I didn't see it but I heard it. It woke me up.

VIRGINIA: How romantic - we have our very own ghost.

MR OTIS: Virginia, you're getting carried away.<sup>55</sup>

Do remember, children, there are no such things as ghosts.

VIRGINIA: But Pa, you saw it with your own eyes!

MR OTIS: Yes, I saw something ... or someone. He was wearing a wig and a mask and was covered in a white sheet. He was standing right here and he walked through there. If it really was a ghost, why use the passage? He could have walked through the wall.





MRS OTIS: If it wasn't a ghost, Hiram, who was it?

MR OTIS: Oh, some old gentleman we've bought with the house. The gardener, perhaps, or the butler. Or Mrs Umney! It looked a little like her. Usually, in ghost stories, it turns out to be a fake<sup>56</sup> dressed up, trying to steal the hidden treasure.<sup>57</sup>

VIRGINIA: Treasure! You mean we have a ghost and a buried treasure!

MRS OTIS: Now, Virginia.

WASHINGTON: If it wasn't a real ghost, Pa, how do you explain this?  
The stain has come back again.

MRS OTIS: Goodness!

WASHINGTON: Pinkerton's Champion Stain Remover has never failed before.

MRS OTIS: That is unusual.

MR OTIS: I can't explain that. However, I know there will be a reasonable answer.

*Mr Otis takes out his Pinkerton Stain Remover. He sprays the stain.*

MR OTIS: One, two, three! The stain disappears.

MR OTIS: Gone! And now I will explore the grounds of this fine house. Washington, you shall come with me. We'll be back in time for lunch, Lucretia.

*Mr Otis and Washington leave.*

VIRGINIA: And I shall go riding, mother.

MRS OTIS: Have a nice day!

*Virginia leaves and Mrs Otis sits on the sofa.*

MRS OTIS: And so we, the Otis family, settled in to our new home.<sup>58</sup>  
I made friends with everyone in the neighbourhood. I held garden parties and tea parties and, in the evenings, dinner parties ...

<sup>56</sup> Schwindler

<sup>57</sup> Schatz

<sup>58</sup> Sich in seinem neuen Heim einquartieren



*The Canterville Ghost is watching her ...*

MRS OTIS: But not many people were willing to visit Canterville House after dark. Why that was, I just can't say.

*The Ghost laughs silently at this, and is watching her.*

MRS OTIS: Mr Otis started writing a book - a history of American Presidents ...

*The Ghost rolls his eyes heavenwards<sup>59</sup> and points to his watch as if to say "Get on with it!"*

MRS OTIS: And Washington, he went to all the dances he was invited to. Well, you know how he likes to dance - he's famous for it.

*The Ghost is yawning.*

MRS OTIS: Young Virginia spent her time horse - riding and painting - her two favourite pastimes.<sup>60</sup>

*The Ghost has gone to sleep and is snoring.*

MRS OTIS: As for the Ghost ...

*The Ghost wakes up at the mention of his name.*

MRS OTIS: They didn't hear from him again.

MRS OTIS: Naaaah!!!!

*The sofa moves unexpectedly*

MRS Otis: Not for a week or two.

MRS OTIS: It was one Sunday, at two o'clock in the morning. The moon was full and it shone brightly through the window panes, casting eerie shadows<sup>61</sup> on the wall. The house was still and quiet. From outside came an owl hoot - twit, twoo! And in the distance a dog howled - whoooooo!

*The Ghost is annoyed.*

59 Die Augen himmelwärts drehen

60 Hobby, Zeitvertreib

61 Unheimliche Schatten werfen



GHOST: Do you mind? Could you leave the scary stuff to me?  
I am the Ghost in this story.

MRS OTIS: I'm sorry. I was creating an atmosphere, that's all. *(she storms off)*

GHOST: Ha, ha, ha! *(He has a coughing fit.)* So, Hiram B Otis still does not believe in ghosts. What's the matter with him, don't they have ghosts in America? I shall put on my finest suit of armour<sup>62</sup> and show him how we do things here in England.

*He goes to the suit of armour.*

GHOST: Queen Elizabeth the First once saw me wearing this armour.  
She said I looked rather<sup>63</sup> smart.

*He polishes it a little with and then dresses himself in it through the following ...*

GHOST: I shall start by scaring Washington. I don't like him. He made Eleanor's blood stain disappear. It wasn't much, but it was all I had left of her<sup>64</sup>. This armour gets heavier each year. I shall sit on him and then place a cold hand on his forehead. That'll frighten him! Ooh, this is heavy, I can hardly stand up. Then I shall visit Mr Otis and his mumbling wife. I shall appear as a green, icy-cold corpse<sup>65</sup> and grin a ghoulish grin.<sup>66</sup> Ha, ha, ha! This armour must have shrunk,<sup>67</sup> I can't do the straps up. Never mind. Then to Virginia ... no, I shall leave her alone. She's a sweet girl and believes in me. Finally, the helmet, and I'm dressed.

*The Ghost places the helmet on his head, but the weight of all the armour makes him fall over backwards.*

GHOST: Whoaaaaaa!

*Mrs Otis hurries to help him up.*

GHOST: Thank you, thank you, but I can manage. It took me by surprise, it's heavier than I remembered.

*The Ghost walks with difficulty.*

GHOST: Up the creaking spiral staircase, I think.

62 Rüstung

63 Ziemlich schlau

64 Alles, was mir von ihr geblieben ist

65 Grüne, eiskalte Leiche

66 Schauriges Grinsen

67 Die Rüstung muss geschrumpft sein



*He climbs the spiral staircase. We hear creaking.*

GHOST: Which room is Washington's, I wonder? Hmm, let me see ... I'll try this one ...

*The Ghost opens a door.*

LADY IN THE BATH: Get out! Get out!

GHOST: I'm terribly sorry, madam, I thought ...

LADY IN THE BATH: Get out! Get out!

*The Ghost tries to make a hasty retreat,<sup>68</sup> but the armour is too heavy and he falls over again...*

GHOST: Whooaaa!

*Mr Otis and Virginia coming running on together. Mr Otis has a revolver.*

MR OTIS: What is going on? Who's making all this noise?

VIRGINIA: Look, Pa!

*She points to the struggling Ghost on the floor.*

MR OTIS: It's ... Ugly Ernest!

GHOST: No, no. I'm ... The Canterville Ghost!

VIRGINIA: Oh, Pa, doesn't he look cute,<sup>69</sup> all dressed up like a knight?

MR OTIS: Cute? Nonsense, Virginia, this ghoul is a fraud<sup>70</sup>.

*(He points his revolver at the Ghost)* Stick 'em up, sir!<sup>71</sup>

VIRGINIA: Don't shoot him! He looks so sad.

*The Ghost has wriggled free from the armour<sup>72</sup>. He looks around for a way out and disappears. We hear ghostly "chase" music.*

68 Schnell den Rückzug antreten

69 Süß, putzig

70 Betrüger, Schwindler

71 Hände hoch!

72 Sich aus der Rüstung befreien



MR OTIS: Oh Now Look here Virginia...Hey Where'd he go!?

*Mr Otis and Virginia rush over to the sofa, but the Ghost appears through the fireplace.*

GHOST: Woo!

VIRGINIA: There he is!

*The Ghost runs off with Mr Otis and Virginia following. As they get to the entrance, the Ghost rises up from behind the sofa ...*

GHOST: Woo!

MR OTIS: He's over there now!

*Mrs Otis appears in the opposite entrance.*

MRS OTIS: What's all the fuss, Hiram?

MR OTIS: Grab him, quick!

MRS OTIS: You grab him, I aint touching a ghost!

*Mr Otis runs towards the Ghost.*

MR OTIS: After him!

*As they get to the entrance, the Ghost appears in the other entrance.*

GHOST: Woo!

MRS OTIS: He's over there! How did he get there?

*They run towards the Ghost who turns and goes off. Washington appears in the other entrance.*

WASHINGTON: What's going on? I'm trying to get some sleep.

VIRGINIA and MRS OTIS: It's the Canterville Ghost!

WASHINGTON: Where?

# The Canterville Ghost



MR OTIS: First it was there, then it was here, next it was where you are ...

WASHINGTON: But where is it now?

*The Ghost appears through the fireplace.*

GHOST: Woo!

ALL: Aaagh!

MR OTIS: After him, Washington!

*The Ghost makes a dash for it<sup>73</sup> - he runs into the audience followed by Mr Otis and Virginia. The Ghost hides behind a pillar*

MR OTIS: We've got him now.

*(Mr Otis is running through the audience with guns blazing)*

GHOST: Ha, ha, ha! *(He has a coughing fit as he makes his way back to the stage)*

*Mrs Otis appears with a bottle and a spoon.*

GHOST: Woo!

MR OTIS: Be careful, Lucretia, he could be dangerous!

MRS OTIS: Oh, he can't frighten me with all that ghost nonsense. You're not well. You have a terrible cough. Here, try some of this, it's cough medicine.

GHOST: Humph!

MRS OTIS: Just try a little. You'll be right as rain<sup>74</sup> in no time.

Mrs Otis tries to give him some cough medicine.

MRS OTIS: You big baby!

*The Ghost stamps his foot, kicks out at his armour which is still in a heap on the floor, and howls with pain when it hurts his foot.*

<sup>73</sup> Rennen, so schnell er kann

<sup>74</sup> Schnell wieder auf den Beinen sein





GHOST: Oooow!

*The Ghost limps with as much dignity as possible<sup>75</sup> to the fireplace.*

*Mr Otis and Washington run towards the Ghost but he disappears through the fireplace.*

WASHINGTON: Where did he go?

MRS OTIS: He went up the chimney.

MR OTIS: That is very peculiar.

VIRGINIA: Now will you believe the Canterville Ghost is real?

MR OTIS: I'm sorry Virginia, nothing has happened tonight to make me change my mind. I still say it could be someone dressed up.

MRS OTIS: He went up the chimney, Hiram! He's either a chimney sweep or Santa Claus.

MR OTIS: And he can't be Santa Claus - he's not real, either.

MRS OTIS: Hiram! Not in front of the children.

VIRGINIA: You saw for yourself - he was here, there and everywhere. How do you explain that?

MR OTIS: Secret doors and hidden corridors. An old house like this will be full of them.

WASHINGTON: It is all very strange. I agree with Virginia, there really is a ghost.

MR OTIS: Bull<sup>-76</sup>

MRS OTIS: Hiram!

VIRGINIA: What would make you believe in the Canterville Ghost, Pa?

*Music ...*

## Proof!<sup>77</sup>

MR OTIS: I need proof,  
the absolute truth,  
the findings of scientific investigation<sup>78</sup>.  
Bring me facts and figures,  
spreadsheets<sup>79</sup> and mathematical equations.  
Bring me notes from physics, chemistry, geography and math.  
A pie chart and a graph, you see, they always make me laugh.  
Bring me proof, the absolute truth. Whoa!  
I need evidence<sup>80</sup>, by that is meant: The truth,



The whole truth nothin' but the truth. I don't want fairytales!  
None of that sort,  
I only want what actually happened.  
Not what some one thought,  
such fantasy has never been proved before.  
Gossip and wild rumours<sup>81</sup> just won't stand up in court!<sup>82</sup>  
Bring me evidence, now bring me evidence! Whoa! Mh. Mh....  
We'll search high and low, find finger prints, -wont' leave  
a stone unturned<sup>83</sup>. We'll gather in formation the police can't even trace.  
We'll find witnesses to take an oath<sup>84</sup> who say  
they've seen his face.  
Add Mathematical equations and I'll  
gladly read the case!<sup>85</sup>  
Yes, I do! Alright!

MR OTIS: Very well, Washington, if you can bring me proof that the Canterville Ghost exists, then I will believe it. Good night, children.

*Mr and Mrs Otis exit.*

77 Beweis, Nachweis

78 Ergebnisse wissenschaftlicher Untersuchungen

79 Tabellenkalkulation

80 Beweismaterial

81 Gerüchte

82 Vor Gericht bestehen

83 Kein Stein bleibt auf dem anderen

84 Zeugen, die einen Eid schwören

85 Den Fall studieren



VIRGINIA: How are we going to prove it, Washington? I know! We could read history books to find out about Sir Simon Canterville.

WASHINGTON: Too boring, Virginia. I'm going to catch the Canterville Ghost.

VIRGINIA: How? He's been chased, Pa's pointed a gun at him<sup>86</sup>, squirted<sup>87</sup> him with oil, Ma's tried to force<sup>88</sup> cough medicine down him - we might never see him again.

WASHINGTON: We'll see him, all right. Things always happen in threes.<sup>89</sup>  
A ghost can't resist the full moon. Wooooo! That's when we'll see him again.

VIRGINIA: But how can you catch a ghost?

WASHINGTON: That's the point. If I can catch him, then he's a fake and Pa's right. But if he slips through my trap, then he really is a ghost. Either way, I'm going to scare the old gentleman half to death and get rid of him forever.

VIRGINIA: You're horrible! The Canterville Ghost is sad and lonely. We should give him respect, not hunt him like a wild beast<sup>90</sup>. He should be left alone to wander Canterville House in peace. I won't have anything to do with it!

*Virginia runs off.*

WASHINGTON: Girls! The Ghost wasn't seen again for the next few weeks. But on the day of the next full moon, I prepared a trap. Now I'm going to need some help. I need volunteers<sup>91</sup>. Very brave volunteers.

*He gets volunteers from the audience.*

WASHINGTON: The best way to catch this Ghost is to give him a taste of his own medicine<sup>92</sup>. When the Canterville Ghost comes into this room tonight, he's going to find another ghost. You!

*Washington dresses up the volunteers in Ghost costumes. Washington then teaches the volunteer ghost(s) to make scary noises: "Wooo!" and "Boo!", and how to laugh like a ghost.*

86 Vater hat eine Waffe auf ihn gerichtet

87 Bespritzen

88 Gewaltsam einflößen

89 Aller guten Dinge sind drei

90 Wilde Bestie

91 Freiwillige

92 Mit seinen eigenen Waffen schlagen



WASHINGTON: Now, there are too many ways for the ghost to disappear. I'll block up the fireplace.

*He moves the sofa in front of the fireplace. He sits the volunteer ghost on the sofa.*

WASHINGTON: Here's the plan. At midnight, the Canterville Ghost will come through here. You sit on the sofa until he gets to the middle of the room. Then you'll go: "Woo! Woo!" Then get up and laugh: "Ha, ha, ha!" He'll be scared and will try to escape. I'll stop him going this way, but if he tries going that way ... *(He points to the audience)* I want you all to shout: "Boo!" You got that? I think we should try it.

*Washington pretends to be the Canterville Ghost and everyone rehearses what they have to do. Washington then gives sound effects to people in the audience.*

WASHINGTON: I'll describe the scene and you make all the sound effects. When I point at you, rattle your instrument, or make the sound with your mouths. It was the night of the full moon. As it was getting dark, there was nothing to be heard but the barking of a dog and a lone horse rider going home. Then it got windy. Far away at Ascot the last train was pulling out of the station. The house was still, except for a few creaking sounds and, apart from the mysterious lady in the bath who was singing, all the family, apart from me, had gone to bed and were snoring loudly. Suddenly, there was a crash of thunder, it started to rain. Then the clock struck twelve and in glided<sup>93</sup> the Canterville Ghost ...

*The Canterville Ghost enters the living room but doesn't see the ghost on the sofa, nor Washington hiding nearby. The Canterville Ghost gets to the centre of the room. The ghost on the sofa says: "Woo!"*

GHOST: What was that?

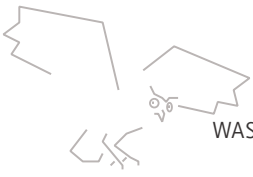
*The ghost on the sofa gets up slowly and says: "Ha, ha, ha!" The Canterville Ghost turns and looks behind him.*

GHOST: I don't believe it! It's ... it's ... a ghost! I must get out of here.

*He tries to run off but is stopped by Washington. The Canterville Ghost runs towards the audience who all shout: "Boo!" The Canterville Ghost turns and runs to the trunk. He climbs inside it and shuts the lid on himself.<sup>94</sup>*

93 Herein schweben

94 Den Deckel von innen zumachen



WASHINGTON: Got him!

*Washington runs to the trunk and sits on it. Mr and Mrs Otis enter.*

MR OTIS: What is all the shouting about, Washington?

WASHINGTON: It's the Canterville Ghost! He's here in the trunk.

MRS OTIS: And who is this?

WASHINGTON: Friends of mine who helped me catch the ghost.

MR OTIS: Escort<sup>95</sup> them home, Washington, this could be dangerous.

*Washington stands up - the lid of the trunk opens revealing the Canterville Ghost.*

*Washington pushes it back down again and holds it shut.*

WASHINGTON: Ma, could you sit on this basket for a moment?

*Mrs Otis sits on the basket, but is continually pushed upwards by the ghost.*

*Washington helps the volunteers back to their seats.*

WASHINGTON: Thank you very much for your help, I couldn't have done it without you.

MR OTIS: Yes, thank you. You've been so kind. You must call again soon<sup>96</sup>. Good night!

MRS OTIS: (In great distress) Er, Hiram, do you think I could have some help?

MR OTIS: Of course, my dear.

*Mr Otis runs to the basket. Then, with Mrs Otis still trying to keep the lid closed, they move it to the centre of the room. Washington sits on the lid of the basket, the ghost is still trying to get out.*

WASHINGTON: What are we going to do, Pa?

MR OTIS: We shall unmask this phoney<sup>97</sup> once and for all. We shall find out who the Canterville Ghost really is. Come out, sir, the game is up!<sup>98</sup>

*Washington gets off the basket and stands to one side.*

95 Begleiten

96 Besuchen Sie uns bald wieder!

97 Den Schwindler entlarven

98 Das Spiel ist aus

MR OTIS: If you don't come out, Mr Ghost, I shall come in there and drag you out! I warn you: I am armed<sup>99</sup>, sir.

*The family wait in readiness for the Ghost to emerge<sup>100</sup> from the basket.*

MR OTIS: Very well, have it your own way.<sup>101</sup> I shall count to three and then I'm coming in. One, two ... two and a half, two and three quarters ...



MRS OTIS: Hiram, the suspense is killing me.

MR OTIS: Three!

*Mr Otis very carefully opens the lid of the basket.*

MR OTIS: Good heavens! That's not possible!

MRS OTIS: What is it, Hiram?

*Mr Otis tips the basket over so that the audience can see inside.*

MR OTIS: There's nothing in there. Nothing in there at all.

VIRGINIA: Now will you believe in the Canterville Ghost, father?

MR OTIS: Yes, Virginia, my dear, I shall have to.<sup>102</sup>

Mr Otis goes to the portrait of Sir Simon Canterville.

MR OTIS: Sir Simon, I apologise. Your ghost really does exist. You're free to wander Canterville House as much as you like. Anytime you feel like it. I only ask one favour:<sup>103</sup> could you keep the noise down between midnight and daybreak? Some of us have work in the mornings.

MRS OTIS: Just think, we have our very own ghost. I can't wait to tell the folks back home.

MR OTIS: That was good work, Washington.

99 Ich bin bewaffnet

100 Heraus kommen

101 Na gut, wie Sie wollen

102 Das werde ich wohl müssen

103 Um einen Gefallen bitten



WASHINGTON: Thank you, Pa, but I wish the Ghost hadn't disappeared, there's lots of questions I'd like to ask him.

MR OTIS: Oh, you'll get your chance, I'm sure we'll be seeing much more of our phantom friend.

*Mr and Mrs Otis and Washington leave. Virginia talks to the audience.*

VIRGINIA: They were wrong. They never saw the Canterville Ghost again. After getting such a fright, the Ghost went to bed and stayed there for a week. He was shocked that my family should treat him so badly. As it was his duty<sup>104</sup> to walk the corridors of Canterville House once a week, he did so, but as quietly as he could.

*The Canterville Ghost appears.*

*He carries his shoes and he tiptoes, in his socks, across the stage.*

VIRGINIA: He kept away from the bedrooms where we slept and if he ever carried chains with him, he used the oil Pa had given him so that they would not squeak.

*As the Canterville Ghost gets to the middle he turns to the audience and puts a finger to his lips ...*

GHOST: Shhhh!

VIRGINIA: And when guests stayed for the weekend, which they often did, the ghost would make himself small and hide in corners.

*The Canterville Ghost has gone, but a small ghost appears from behind the sofa.*

VIRGINIA: Everyone had heard the stories about the Ghost and Pa was now happy to tell them they were all true. He was even happy to show them the Ghost, but Sir Simon refused to appear. Sometimes, Washington would lay traps for the Ghost ...

*The small Canterville Ghost is replaced by a smaller ghost ...*

VIRGINIA: ... hoping to catch him again, and the Ghost would make himself even smaller, so that it was impossible to capture him. There was one occasion<sup>105</sup> when the Canterville Ghost spent the whole evening with the family and their guests. My parents threw a big party.

*The smaller ghost disappears to be replaced by the smallest ghost ...*



VIRGINIA: The old house had not seen such merrymaking<sup>106</sup> for many years and the Canterville Ghost always enjoyed a good time.<sup>107</sup> But he made himself so small that nobody knew he was there. About two months later, when the poor Ghost was almost forgotten, after I had been horse-riding, I came into the hall at sunset.

*The Canterville Ghost enters. He sits on the edge of the stage.*

VIRGINIA: I found the Ghost sitting by himself, looking very unhappy. I was really frightened and was about to run away, but the poor ghost looked so sad ...

GHOST: (Sighs) Oh, dear.

VIRGINIA: I am sorry for the way my family has treated you.

GHOST: Ah! Miss Virginia ... it is you. Think nothing of it; it is well known that Americans have bad manners ...

VIRGINIA: What! If you had behaved yourself<sup>108</sup> and not made so much noise ...

GHOST: Behaved myself? I am a ghost. I'm not supposed to behave myself. I am meant to rattle chains and groan through keyholes and walk about at night. That is why I exist.

VIRGINIA: That's not the only reason. Mrs Umney told me you had been very wicked<sup>109</sup> in your life and that you had killed your wife. You are an unhappy spirit.

GHOST: Poor Eleanor, yes. I did kill her, I admit it. But it was an accident. I was polishing my blunderbuss<sup>110</sup> and she was standing where you are now. I didn't know it was loaded. Boom!

VIRGINIA: Oh dear! It must have broken your heart!

106 Festlichkeit

107 Er unterhielt sich gerne gut

108 Wenn du dich benimmst

109 Schlecht, böse

110 Donnerbüchse

111 Verhungern lassen





GHOST: Yes. It broke hers, too! No one would believe it was an accident. Especially her two brothers. They starved me to death,<sup>111</sup> you know. They bricked me up<sup>112</sup> behind that fireplace and starved me to death.

VIRGINIA: Oh, Mr Ghost, I mean, Sir Simon, you must be very hungry. Would you like a sandwich? -

GHOST: No, thank you. I never eat anything now. But it is very kind of you. You are much nicer than the rest of your horrible, rude<sup>113</sup> family.

VIRGINIA: Stop! You are the one who is horrible and rude. You have been frightening people for centuries. If you can't be polite<sup>114</sup> about my family, in whose house you are a guest, then I won't be your friend.

*Virginia is about to leave.*

GHOST: Please don't go! I am sorry. I am so lonely and unhappy. You are the only friend I have. You are the only person who is kind to me. I need your help. I want to go to sleep but I can't.

VIRGINIA: That's easy. All you have to do is go to bed and close your eyes.

GHOST: Ghosts cannot sleep. I have not slept for three hundred years. I am so tired.

VIRGINIA: Poor, poor Ghost. Is there nowhere you can rest?

GHOST: Oh, yes. Behind the Church, there is a little garden. The grass grows long and the nightingale<sup>115</sup> sings. The moon looks down and the weeping willow<sup>116</sup> spreads its branches over the sleepers.

VIRGINIA: You ... you mean the graveyard?

GHOST: The graveyard, yes. Death must be so beautiful. To lie in the soft brown earth and listen to silence. No yesterday, no tomorrow. To forget time, forgive life, to be at peace. You can help me. Only you. You can help me into my grave, for you are full of love, and love is stronger than death.

112 Einmauern

113 Unverschämt, unhöflich

114 Höflich

115 Nachtigall

116 Trauerweide



VIRGINIA: What would I have to do?

GHOST: Have you read "the Canterville riddle"?

*Virginia goes to the coat of arms and reads ...*

VIRGINIA: "When good speaks for ill, peace will come to Canterville".  
I don't know what it means.

GHOST: It is you. You are good and kind and gentle. If you prayed for me, who is bad, ill and wicked, the Angel of Death will have mercy on me<sup>117</sup> and I shall rest in peace. It will be frightening for you - you will hear strange voices and see fearful sights, but they cannot harm you, for you are good and full of love.

VIRGINIA: I am not afraid. I will ask the Angel to have mercy on you.

GHOST: Oh! Miss Virginia!

*The Canterville Ghost goes down on one knee and kisses her hand.*

GHOST: Ha! The night is upon us.<sup>118</sup> We must go this way.  
Quick! Quick! Before it is too late.

*Virginia goes to him and takes his hand. They both disappear through the fireplace.  
Mrs Otis enters.*

MRS OTIS: Virginia was not missed until it was time for dinner.

*Mr Otis went to her bedroom.  
Mr Otis enters. We hear the chime of a clock.*

MR OTIS: Virginia is not there, Lucretia!

*Chime ...*

MRS OTIS: We looked for her throughout the house.

*Chime ...*

MR OTIS: Nobody has seen her!

*Chime ...*

MRS OTIS: The grounds were searched.

*Chime ...*

<sup>117</sup> Der Engel des Todes wird sich meiner erbarmen

<sup>118</sup> Die Nacht ist da



MR OTIS: She is nowhere to be found!

*Chime ...*

MRS OTIS: The police were informed.

*Chime ...*

MR OTIS: The station master at the station was asked to keep watch.

*Chime ...*

MRS OTIS: Mr Otis and Washington rode to all the villages nearby.

*Chime ...*

MR OTIS: The fishpond was dragged.<sup>119</sup>

*Chime ...*

MRS OTIS: But still they could not find her.

*Chime ...*

MR OTIS: It was as if she had disappeared into thin air.

*Chime ...*

MRS OTIS: As the clock struck midnight ...

*We hear a loud thunderclap. Virginia comes through the fireplace.  
She is holding a skull and a small wooden box.*

MRS OTIS: Good heavens, child! Where have you been?

MR OTIS: Washington and I have looked for you everywhere.  
Your mother has been so worried.

VIRGINIA: I have been with the Ghost. (Holding up the skull) This is all that is left of Sir Simon Canterville, this and a few old bones behind the fireplace. He was sorry that he had killed poor Eleanor, and I hope he is forgiven. He is dead now and laid to rest.<sup>120</sup> He gave me this box of beautiful jewels before he died.

*Music ... introduction to a song. Washington enters ...*

WASHINGTON: Four days later a funeral was held.

*Mr and Mrs Otis and Virginia bury the skull and the bits of armour in the wicker basket.*

WASHINGTON: The whole family went. So did Mrs Umney, and even Lord Canterville came from London. A deep grave was dug in the corner of the churchyard, under an old yew tree.<sup>121</sup>

119 Mit einem Schleppnetz durchsuchen

120 Zur Ruhe gebettet

121 Eibe

## Lay down your head and rest

VIRGINIA: Lay down your head and rest,  
Your wanderings are over.  
Lay down your head and rest,  
The brown earth for a cover.



Sleep, sleep in the ground so deep  
And never wake no more.

Sleep well and never dream,  
Lay down your head and rest.  
Sleep well and never dream,  
Your soul will be blessed.

And never wake no more,  
And never wake no more.

*At the end of the song the trunk is closed. Mrs Otis comforts<sup>122</sup> Virginia.  
Mrs Otis and Virginia look at the jewels.*

MR OTIS: Lord Canterville, these jewels are family heirlooms. Please take them to London with you. Virginia is too young for such rich gems. I ask only for the box, which Virginia would like to keep to remember the Canterville Ghost by.

LORD CANTERVILLE: My dear sir, your daughter has done a great favour to Sir Simon. He would want her to keep them. We never knew about the jewels, so they are not heirlooms. They are treasure and they belong to Virginia.

*He shakes Mr Otis by the hand and goes. The family follow him off.  
A Tour Guide appears.*

TOUR GUIDE 3: So Virginia found a treasure, after all. The Canterville Ghost was never seen again and Sir Simon sleeps peacefully in his grave just beyond the church. For the last hundred years Canterville House has been quiet in the dead of night. Mind you, you would think an old house like this would be haunted by lots of ghosts - but it isn't so ...



*Ghosts appear - on different parts of the stage. The Tour Guide stops, as if he senses something behind him, but as he turns to look all the ghosts disappear.*

TOUR GUIDE 3: No. Not one. I hope you've enjoyed the tour of Canterville House. Your bus is waiting for you in the car park. Do visit the shop on the way out and come back to visit us again soon. We'd just like to say ...

*Music - the other tour guides join ...*

### **Goodbye from Canterville!**

We are the tour guides tour guides tour guides  
Tour guides tour guide tour guides  
Tour guides tour guides tour guides  
And we showed you, showed you showed you  
showed you showed you showed you  
Showed you showed you showed you Canterville

La la la la la la  
La la la la la  
La la la la  
La la la la la la  
Can can you do the cancan?  
Can you do the Cancan?

So long<sup>123</sup> from Canterville  
Farewell<sup>124</sup> from Canterville

Goodbye goodbye  
Goodbye from Canterville!

*The End.*

## Ticket Reservation

Gallusanlage 7, 60329 Frankfurt/Main

**Tel** (069) 242 316-20

**Fax** (069) 242 316-45

**E-Mail** [box-office@english-theatre.de](mailto:box-office@english-theatre.de)

**Online Booking** [www.english-theatre.de](http://www.english-theatre.de)

Also at advance sales agencies.



## Box Office Times

Monday 12.00 pm – 6.00 pm

Tuesday – Friday 11.00 am – 6.30 pm

Saturday 3.00 pm – 6.30 pm

Sunday 3.00 pm – 5.00 pm

## Location and Public Transport

The theatre is located at Gallusanlage 7, and can easily be reached from the main station (Hauptbahnhof), Taunusanlage or from Willy-Brandt-Platz. A taxi stand is opposite the theatre. You can find convenient parking at Parkhaus am Theater, Hauptbahnhof, Goetheplatz and Kaiserplatz.

## Education Team

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Head of Education

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**Lea Dunbar**

Plays for Young Audiences

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