The Canterville Ghost

Written by Kathy Stout and Elliot Guerra

Based on the short story by Oscar Wilde

Directed by Elliot Guerra

“When a golden girl can win
Prayer from out the lips of sin,
When the barren almond bears,
And a little child gives away its tears,
Then shall all the house be still
And peace come to Canterville.”

Oscar Wilde

Drafted
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ACT 1. Scene 1

Lights up. Every character in the cast is introduced over music. The place is Canterville Chase, in England outside of London. The time is the late 1870’s. Blackout.

ACT 1. Scene 2

Introduction music plays. Enter LUCIUS and ROBIN.

NARRATOR (O.S.)

We now return to this week’s KCTS Seattle 9’s episode of Mystery, Mayhem and Murder: Famous Ghosts of England.

ROBIN

Welcome to another episode of Famous Ghosts of England, made possible by a grant from Mobile Oil Corporation. Whale Oil: the everlasting fuel.

LUCIUS

Good evening and welcome to a very special night of mystery, I’m star of stage and screen Lucius Cray.

ROBIN

And I’m three-time Broadway Participation Award winner, Robin Devereux. In just a moment you’ll see another one of our intriguing cases of deception and murder most foul!

LUCIUS

Universally renowned as the most fearsome of all English phantoms is the notorious ghost of Sir Simon de Canterville.

ROBIN

You’re in my light and on my mark Lucius.

LUCIUS

I don’t think so Robin.

ROBIN

Look down Lucius.

LUCIUS

Ah, of course, I’m terribly sorry Robin. I’m a little under the weather.

ROBIN
Beefeater flu?

LUCIUS
Ahem. The Canterville Ghost!

ROBIN
This remarkable apparition has manifested itself in a spectacular variety of forms and guises, each more awe-inspiring than the other, exhibiting the same flair for the theatrical that reputedly characterized Sir Simon himself.

LUCIUS
The origin of this apparition, so legend has it, dates from a fateful stag hunt in the year of our Lord 1584, which rode forth on a bright spring morning!

ROBIN
Continue watching if you dare!

LUCIUS
But first, a word from our sponsors!

They both laugh an absurdly villainous, over-the-top laugh. Lights fade to black. Curtain closes. In front of the curtain the SALESPERSONS act out two commercials directly to the audience.

ACT 1. Scene 3
Commercial Break.

NARRATOR 1
Are you bored by long meetings? Ever daydream or doodle when suddenly the boss turns to you with this question?

EXECUTIVE
What are your thoughts, Thompson?

THOMPSON
Why I um...I...

NARRATOR 2
You try and hide it- come up with something- anything- but you’re feeling like three owls in a trench coat just trying to put words together in a human fashion

THOMPSON
Second quarterly numbers are...soooo numberly?
NARRATOR 3
Boy you really blew it that time.

NARRATOR 1
Well fret no longer because now there’s Doctor Dobell’s Tincture!

CO-WORKER
Doctor Dobell’s Tincture?!

NARRATOR 2
That’s right Doctor Dobell’s Tincture is here to provide you with all of the buzzwords your boss is longing to hear.

THOMPSON
I really feel as though the appetite for our trajectory will be fulfilled with the bandwidth of quarterly sales

NARRATOR 3
No, it doesn’t make sense- but it sure sounds like it does.

EXECUTIVE
Quite right, Thompson. You deserve a raise!

NARRATOR 1
Yes folks, it’s Doctor Dobell’s Tincture. Guaranteed to make you sound smarter than you feel. Just take two drops and you’ll be sputtering lines like

THOMPSON
Let’s follow up with some action items. I think this will really affect our five year vision plan.

NARRATOR 2
Trust us, your co-workers are going to notice!

CO-WORKER
Wow Thompson- you really went from a zero to a hero- what’s your secret?

THOMPSON
Like I would tell you, Todd

NARRATOR 3
Doctor Dobell’s Tincture is here for you when you need it most

NARRATOR 1
Doctor Dobell’s Tincture may contain lead. It is not FDA approved and in some studies has been proven to cause restless leg syndrome, migraines, the inability to speak with sincerity, elbow acne, audible yawn disorder, and uncontrollable nose dander.

NARRATOR 2
You should call your doctor if you experience any of these side effects as they could be pretty gross and extremely uncomfortable.

NARRATOR 3
Yes it’s Doctor Dobell’s Tincture and it will have you saying

THOMPSON
That really marries our corporate statement with our mission philosophy.

NARRATOR 1
You’ll be the talking point of every staff room

CO-WORKER
I mean I really can’t stand Thompson.

Commercial break.

DAD
Ugh at this rate- I’ll never finish vacuuming the floor

A magic and extreme sound plays! The Dad transform into “cool dad.”

DAD
What’s this? Pinkerton power vac xtreme?

METAL NARRATOR 1
Your floor doesn’t know what’s coming!

COOL DAD
Wooooaahhhhh what’s this?

METAL NARRATOR 2
That’s the sound of a mosh pit banging out the dirt and grime from your filthy floor!

COOL DAD
Nice! I own this living room!

METAL NARRATOR 1
Feel the power of a thousand volts of true energy as you suck up the dust bunnies, destroy family heirlooms and cripple nicknacks. old bills?

COOL DAD
See ya!

METAL NARRATOR 2
Your house cat?

CAT
Meoooooooh Noooooooo!

COOL DAD
Bubbles! Bubbles my cat! It’s Ok, Bubbles!

METAL NARRATOR 2
Bubbles will never forgive you!

METAL NARRATOR 1
That’s what it’s like to be EXTREEMEEE!

Well hang on a sec...

METAL NARRATOR 2
Sunday, Sunday, Sunday- and Saturday- Call 555-755-7555 and order now!

METAL NARRATOR 1
For just 4 easy payments of $999,999 Pinkerton’s power can be in your hands!

METAL NARRATOR 2
Pinkerton Power Vac Xtreme, just like a regular vacuum but xtremem!

Blackout.

ACT 1. Scene 4

Lights up on the house. It is a stately manor but covers are on furniture and it isn’t “Opened.” LORD CANTERVILLE and DOWAGER DUCHESS enter, the Lord is flustered.

DUCHESS
You need to relax Lord Canterville!

CANTERVILLE
No, No. I’m having a crack up! I can feel it!

DUCHESS
You’re not having a crack up; you just need to calm down. Dobson!

DOBSON (Enters.)
Madam Dowager you called?

DUCHESS
Yes, could you get Lord Canterville some Dr. Dobell’s Tincture and a glass of water?
CANTERVILLE

Also a revolver.

DUCHESS

Lord Canterville!

DOBSON

Sir?

DUCHESS

Jesting. He’s jesting Dobson. Do hurry.

DOBSON

Of Course. (Exits.)

DUCHESS

Please sit, relax.

CANTERVILLE

My heart is running like a pedestrian at a walking wager.

DUCHESS

Do try and calm yourself dear. This sale is for the best, we wanted to move to London, remember? It is where your business is and well, you said it: it’s the modern age! Out with these stuffy manor houses and in with townhouses, cobbled streets and women wearing pants!

CANTERVILLE

Americans Duchess! Americans! I sold my family’s estate to A...oh I can hardly say it. –Mericans.

DUCHESS

Well they are like our cousins; they are from England after all?

CANTERVILLE

Oh yes, my dear, we have really everything in common with America nowadays, except, of course, language, manners and history.

DOBSON (Entering.)

Your tincture sir. I’ve heard (to the audience.) “a mere drop can cure all ails!”

CANTERVILLE
Thank you Dobson. I’m expecting members of the Psychological Society, please let me know when they have arrived.

DOBSON

Of course. (Exits.)

DUCHESS

Lord Canterville you didn’t!

CANTERVILLE

Of course I did. I have to– the American buyers must know.

DUCHESS

But darling it could ruin the sale of our ancient and beloved estate Canterville Chase.

CANTERVILLE

No, no. I must tell them, if I were to sell the manor without letting them know this house’s blood-curling history they could rescind the sale, or worse have me sued for fraudulent conversion.

DUCHESS

Americans are quite litigious.

CANTERVILLE

Yes, it is settled. We must tell the new owner of this house that this manor, Canterville Chase is haunted!

Thunder cracks loudly and the lights flicker immediately. Appears Mr. RANDOLPH, MR. PODMORE, MADAME DE BALLIOU, and MS. MULLDINE. CANTERVILLE and DUCHESS scream!

MADAME

You rang for us Lord Canterville? (To MULLDINE) Back. Two steps back. One more. (Once more, with emphasis.) You rang for us Lord Canterville?

CANTERVILLE

Dobson! I thought you would tell us when our esteemed members of the psychological society would arrive!

DOBSON

The bell didn’t ring. Creeps.

DUCHESS

Dobson?
DOBSON
Crams, sir, I said. Crams. I have a cramp in my, I believe it is my hammy sir. I shall attend to it. (Exits.)

DUCHESS
Please see you do. Now, um, Madame-

MADAME
Madame de Ballilou! Benefactor of the Psychological Society!

RUDOLPH
Seer of Sprites-

CANTERVILLE
Of course.

RUDOLPH
Guardians against goblins and ghouls, trance lecturers, mediums,

CANTERVILLE
We’re well aware Mr. Rudolph.

RUDOLPH
Teller of tales from beyond the grave! Ender of sentences.

PODMORE
Spirit Rappings and Séance services at your... services.

RUDOLPH
Taxes not included. Of course.

MULLDINE
The most wonder-

MADAME
Shh. Quiet Ms. Mulldine.

MULLDINE rolls her eyes.

CANTERVILLE
Right. Well Madame, gentlemen, thank you for coming. For years my family has hired you to cleanse this house of its terrible history but I must inform you that we are going to
sell Canterville Chase and we wanted you to meet the new owners that are on their way.

MADAME
What?!

RUDOLPH
Sell(Slithering.) Sell the house? Whatever do you mean?

DUCHESS
Well we just think its best-

RUDOLPH
Silence!

MADAME
Psychological society! Gather! (They huddle together.) One-step—just one step back, two steps, OK, one back toward me. Perfect. This is perfect! Americans are dumb and rich! We will be in business for years with a new family in Canterville Chase.

RUDOLPH
The new family will offer more contributions of cash, coinage, currency and circulation.

PODMORE
Americans are from America. (They all stare at him.)

MADAME
Right.

DUCHESS
We don’t want to upset you.

RUDOLPH
Nonsense.

DOBSON (Entering.)
A Mr. Otis and Madame Lucretia Otis to see you sir.

DUCHESS
Ah, of course, of course. This is perfect, they’re here!

MR. OTIS and LUcretia OTIS enter.

DOBSON
May I take your coats?

OTIS

No thanks Bud I got it.

DOBSON

Ah, “Bud?” How... colloquial. Madame.

LUCRETIA

Sure thing Dobby! (She tosses her coat over his head.)

DOBSON slumps his shoulders, turns to exit, slams into door, and then exits.

CANTERVILLE

Welcome to Canterville Chase! This is my wife Dowager Duchess and these are Spiritualists from...

LUCRETIA

Spiritualists, how exciting! Hey Dobby? Can we get some tea please, (sitting down.) My dogs are barking. We’re Episcopalians.

PODMORE

I’m shaking your hand. Your hand feels nice... in my hand.

OTIS

OK. Hi Mr. Otis, from New York.

MS. MULLDINE goes to shake OTIS’ hand but is pushed away by MADAME.

MADAME

Charmed, charmed. I’m Madame De Balliou, benefactor of the Psychological Society.

RUDOLPH

Guardians against goblins and ghouls, trance lecturers, mediums...

OTIS

I think I got it pal.

MADAME

Perhaps you’ve heard of our work with the ghost of Jean Lafitte and the haunted Bayou?
OTIS

Nope.

MADAME

Or perhaps Monseigneur Jourdan who appears in a restaurant’s second-floor lounge from time to time,

DOBSON enters with tea.

RUDOLPH

Usually as a wandering glimmer of light rather than in human form.

LUCRETIA

I thought it was never sunny in England. Dobby, be an angel and put a little Thunderbird in that tea.

DUCHESS

I don’t think you understand. These members are gifted with extraordinary gifts.

RUDOLPH

Allow us to offer our services,

MADAME

For a fee of course.

RUDOLPH

We can cleanse this house on a weekly basis, through the use of transcendental, transformative transient telekinesis.

LUCRETIA

Cleanse? Don’t we have staff for that?

CANTERVILLE

No, you don’t understand this house you’re buying is haunted!

Thunder strikes. The OTIS family laughs.

LUCRETIA

We come from America and America is a modern country we don’t believe in ghosts.

OTIS

Have you ever seen the ghost?
CANTERVILLE
Well no...

OTIS
Uh huh.

RUDOLPH
But we’ve heard him! At night.

PODMORE
At night the sun is asleep and it is darker outside then when it is daylight.

LUCRETIA
Gotcha.

OTIS
I’m sorry sir, no one has ever found a ghost and no one has ever put a ghost in a museum...

LUCRETIA
Oh honey, the ghost can entertain the children!

RUDOLPH
Entertain the children?

OTIS
You see Mr. Canterville, we want to buy this beautiful house, and so we’ll buy your ghost too.

MADAME
But the madness of Lord Canterville, who in 158-

CANTERVILLE
I don’t care about Lord who-so-ever or the scoundrel of Brighton whats-it called...

RUDOLPH
But the servants have seen it! Mrs. Umey, the head maid once saw...

OTIS
Look here Lord Canterville. I know here in England y’all got a King, but in America, our cash is King. How about this? *(Shows him a check.)*
CANTERVILLE

(Sees the number on the check and shows his wife.)
You have a deal!

OTIS
Looks like we won’t be needing your Presbyterial spirit services. Good Day gentlemen, ladies.

LUCRETIA
Show us around our new digs Cantervilles!

OTIS, LUcretIA, CANTERVILLE and DUCHESS exit.

PODMORE
This is terrible. Have we been fired?

MADAME
Ugh! Americans. We need this money!

MULLDINE
Perhaps the family will live in peace with the Ghost.

MADAME
Oh shut it Mulldine, we have to make these people suffer!

RUDOLPH
It will take all our sway and supremacy with the spirits, but we’ll make them pay!

They all laugh evilly but then all cough. They exit. The room is empty. Thunder breaks outside with lighting, in the window a solitary figure stares out.

ACT 1. Scene 5

Lights up. MRS. UMEY and DOBSON carry furniture; YVETTE dusts the house and takes off covers of furniture as well as opening windows. MR. PRICE enters carrying boxes. SAM, CAROL, VIRGINIA, WASHINGTON enter and meet OTIS and LUCRETIA. The staff and family meet each other while a complicated dance ensues between unpacking, cleaning and meeting.

SAM
You’ll never catch me!

CAROL
We’ve been on a boat for two weeks and I just want to run around!

LUCRETIA
Sam! Sam! Carol!

WASHINGTON
What an amazing Manor!

OTIS
Not bad right son? Do you love it Virginia?

VIRGINIA
It’s beautiful Father! It’s so romantic and all a bit dreadful, like in my stories, The Modern Prometheus.

OTIS
Hey! Twins! Calm down, won’t you?

CAROL
This looks expensive!

SAM
Let’s destroy it!

The twins run off.

OTIS
Rascals.

MRS. UMEY
Mr. Otis, I’m Mrs. Umey, the head maid, in my thirty years of service to this manor I have never seen such reckless behavior of this estate...

LUCRETIA
You’re all a bit stuffy here in Merry ‘ol England but its time to kick the tires and light the fires. Right kids?

WASHINGTON
You said it Ma!

OTIS
Oh please, I know we’ll take some getting used to Mrs. Umey, but this can’t be as bad as that dreaded fantastical ghost y’all talk about!
All the servants stop their chaotic business and line up.

YVETTE
So you have heard of him.

PRICE
The dreaded visage of Sir Simon de Canterville!

MRS. UMEY
Mr. Otis, heed our warning, most of the staff will not stay here overnight.

YVETTE
We’re all much too terrified sir.

WASHINGTON
Really? Y’all that spooked?

VIRGINIA
Oh! What is that red stain?

YVETTE
Well madam its…. BLOOD!

Gasps from the staff. A Pause.

LUCRETIA
Ah, well, I don’t want blood in our new library, will you be so kind as to have it removed.

PRICE
Well that’s the thing Madame every time we remove it… IT REAPPEARS!

LUCRETIA
Pinkerton! That’s what you need! The Pinkerton cleaning service, we used them in America, I’m sure they have a local branch office in Jersey— have them come in the morning Mrs. Umey.

YVETTE
But Sir and Madame, you don’t understand it is the blood of Eleanor de Canterville she was murdered by her husband in 1584.

PRICE
Her husband is the specter of Sir Simon de Canterville. Doomed to walk the halls of Canterville Chase so long as her murder is not avenged.

WASHINGTON
I’m feeling a little jeepers, creepers here pop.

OTIS
Don’t be ridiculous Washington.

Suddenly creaking and clangs can be heard. The staff is frightened.

VIRGINIA
What is that dreadful sound?

MRS. UMEY
Oh it’s the fearsome chains of Sir Simon!

YVETTE
He’s burdened and shackled by his guilt.

PRICE
Listen!

A scary moan and distant cry is heard.

VIRGINIA
That poor ghost.

OTIS
Pssht. Sounds tired, OK, let’s get back to work. Lots to do! We’ll be hosting a ball for our house warming.

MRS. UMEY
A Ball sir?

OTIS
Of course, what’s the point of having money if you can’t show everybody how much you have.

MRS. UMEY
We’ll have so much to do!

PRICE
So let’s get to it!
OTIS
That’s the spirit Mr. Price!

Another groan from the GHOST.

OTIS
Not that spirit, ugh. Does he do that all the time?

YVETTE
Oh I should very much like to attend a ball.

VIRGINIA
And you shall Yvette! None of this upstairs, downstairs business right Mother?

LUcretia
All are welcome!

MRS. UMEY
To be Frank Sir, this house has quite the reputation; do you think guests will come?

OTIS
Sure they will! How else can we find a smart situation for my eldest Washington here, and of course the Belle of the Ball will be our darling Virginia!

LUcretia
Yvette! Add some Tammany Rising Sun Oil for those chains; imagine trying to sleep with that racket—am I right?

DOBSON
(Entering with the two twins attacking him.)
Rev. Augustus Carbier, Rector of Canterville Parish to see you Sir.

AUGUSTUS enters. DOBSON and twins exit. Most of the staff and family work in the background, everyone else is busy working but VIRGINIA is listening to her father’s conversation.

OTIS
Reverend! How are you? Mr. Otis, from America.

AUGUSTUS
How are you Mr. Otis, welcome to Canterville!
OTIS
Good to meet you. How can I help you Reverend.

AUGUSTUS
Well frankly sir, I wanted to welcome you and see if there is anything I can do for you and your home. As you must’ve heard stories of...

OTIS
Oh that old Ghost? I think it’s all a bit of hogwash really Reverend. Do you often have any encounters with ghosts?

AUGUSTUS
Other than the Holy Ghost?

OTIS
Ha! That’s a good one.

AUGUSTUS
As you may know, the previous owners relied on, well, a group of champions of the latest rage, a group of so-called Spiritualists.

OTIS
Oh yeah... what say you Reverend? Do you believe in all this hocus-pocus?

AUGUSTUS
I’ll say this Mr. Otis. While the Canon is quite definitive on the matter, I don’t put the Lord’s ways in a small box. If this specter is indeed true then he must be in great pain and I believe mercy should be in order.

OTIS
Sounds good to me Reverend, now if you’ll excuse me I have to get ready for this Ball, expect an invitation in the parish rectory by Noon today!

AUGUSTUS
Thank you and I’ll expect you at services?

OTIS
Right in the front pew!

AUGUSTUS
Excellent!
DOBSON (Re-enters.)
A package for the family sir from the Rufford family. Reverend, I can show you out. (Aside as they exit.) How much for an exorcism, for two young boys, perhaps I can get a discount?

AUGUSTUS
Ha! Relax Mr. Dobson, they aren’t demons, they’re just American teenagers.

DOBSON
I have yet to find a difference Sir.

AUGUSTUS
Go in peace!

OTIS is given papers to look over by PRICE and leaves the room. RUFFORD enters with a small package and VIRGINIA greets him.

VIRGINIA
Hello.

RUFFORD
(Nervous.)
Oh hi.

VIRGINIA
Can I help you? (He’s caught off guard.) I’m Virginia

RUFFORD
Me too. I mean, yes, you are...

VIRGINIA
And you are?

RUFFORD
Me.

VIRGINIA
Well of course you are you, but your name, sir?

RUFFORD
Oh right, I’m sorry, I’m Laird. That’s my name. Don’t Laird it out. (To himself.) Come on Laird.

VIRGINIA
Well hello Laird, shall we try again? I’m Virginia.

RUFFORD
Right, of course. Hello Virginia, I’m Laird. I saw the family move in; I wanted to bring this over. (Hands over a package.)

VIRGINIA
That’s quite lovely of you.

RUFFORD
Well it’s from the Rufford estate just across your new meadow.

VIRGINIA
Oh yes! I hear the Duke of Chessire lives there, right? Are you from that house?

RUFFORD
Oh, well, I live on the land there.

VIRGINIA
Oh excellent. I should have to get used to these stately manors with all sorts of wonderful people living on the estates.

RUFFORD
(Noticing her book.) You’re a reader I see?

VIRGINIA
Oh yes, I can’t get enough of them I’m afraid, my favorites are Gothic romances and adventure stories. I just finished The Turn of the Screw by Henry James!

RUFFORD
“I seemed to float not into clearness, but into a darker obscure, and within a minute there had come to me out of my very pity the appalling alarm (with VIRGINIA.) of his perhaps being innocent.”

VIRGINIA
“...of his perhaps being innocent.” Oh excellent you read them too!

RUFFORD
Oh sure.
They’re so wonderfully sublime aren’t they? My favorites really take us beyond ourselves.

They sure do.

Oh look at me rambling, I must go, I will share your Duke’s gift with Father and look forward to meeting him at the Ball, make sure he comes!

I’ll let the Duke of Chessire know.

Take care Laird.

It was nice to meet you Virginia.

The two exit. A Crash. The twins run across the room with MR. PRICE tied as if to be sacrificed. The room is empty.

Music and mystery. The tossed blanket that was used to cover the couch slowly rises and a person, shrouded appears in the classic sheet GHOST image. The scepter exits.

ACT 1. Scene 6

Commercial Break.

Hi, I'm Marty Michaels of Marty Michael’s Cars and Auto in Motorville, NJ. Does your car’s engine go jingle when it should go jangle? Do you feel the tingle on da hairs on da back of ya neck every time the car’s engine light goes on? If so, call me Marty Michaels of Marty Michael’s Cars and Auto in Motorville, NJ.

Do you hear a mysterious wooshing sound? Do you feel a mild chill when you pull out of the driveway? Feel as if there is da presence of a mysterious old woman in da trunk or headless gnome in da glove compartment? Newsflash, ya car’s haunted. By previously bad service or neglect. No worries, here at Marty Michael’s Cars and Auto in Motorville, NJ yours truly, me, Marty Michaels of Marty Michael’s Cars and
Auto in Motorville, NJ can exercise da demons! Spook-tacular savings for viewers of Famous Ghosts of England! Come on down to 460 Route 46 in Motorville right next to da pool store!

Commercial break.

DANNY
OK guys, I have an awesome idea, let’s jump from the couch to the loveseat, but be careful bros, if you fall in the floor, you fall into lava!

The song “Angel” begins to play.

NARRATOR 1
Did you know that every year thousands of children die when they are plunged into imaginary lava all over their living room floors?

NARRATOR 2
Without knowing it suddenly they are playing jump from the couch to the loveseat when suddenly and inexplicably they fall into the depths of imaginary lava.

BILLY
Oh no I’m melting! Melting!

DANNY
Billy no!

NARRATOR 1
If only they had the gift that keeps on giving.

BOTH NARRATORS
Imaginary lava boots.

NARRATOR 2
For as little as a dollar a day, you can purchase a pair of life saving imaginary lava boots.

DANNY
Billy no!

BILLY
It’s OK Danny, I’m wearing my imaginary lava boots!

NARRATOR 1
Right now there’s a mom at work with children destroying her living room by jumping on the furniture...
NARRATOR 2
And those children are saying, "we need you."

NARRATOR 1
Your call says, we hear you!

NARRATOR 2
Here's how to help.

NARRATOR 3
Call now. Imaginary Boots for Kids, LLC is specifically not a 501 C tax-exempt organization. Also, lava in living rooms does not exist.

Blackout.

ACT 1. Scene 7

We return to the play’s opening.

LUCIUS
Well of course she said that about me, but did you see her last picture?

ROBIN
What about my last picture?

LUCIUS
Robin, your performance reminded me of the ancient ruins at Delphi, lifeless.

ROBIN
I can’t believe I’m working with this Public television hack! Don’t you know who I am? I am Hedda Gabbler, "These impulses come over me all of a sudden!" I am Helena! "O you leaden messengers, That ride upon the violent speed of fire!" I am Emily Webb, "Good bye Grover’s Corners, goodbye! Regional understudy, but still. I’m the entire Chorus Line, (singing) “I hope I get it! How many people does he need?”

NARRATOR (O.S.)
We now return to KCTS Seattle 9’s episode of Mystery, Mayhem and Murder: Famous Ghosts of England.

They stare as if trapped.
LUCIUS
Good evening and welcome back to Mystery, Mayhem and the other one.

ROBIN
Tonight we present part two of our Famous Ghosts of England series. You know Lucy.

LUCIUS
Lucius.

ROBIN
Whatever. I’ve just finished reading the haunting tale of Sir Simon de Canterville and I just don’t know where to place it among my most favorite tales of the uncanny.

LUCIUS
Well Robin why don’t you...

A blackout and a cut straight back to the theme music.

ACT 1. Scene 8

DOBSON enters with TOMMY and JESSE from the Pinkerton Cleaning Company.

DOBSON
This way gentlemen.

JESSE
Yo, some place you got here bro.

TOMMY
Nice digs, Kid.

JESSE
Yo Jesse, what’s that wainscoting?

TOMMY
Tommy, Bro, do I look like my name is Charlie Carpenter over here?

JESSE
True. True. No disrespect.

DOBSON
Pardon me gentlemen, but I was told you from The Bailiwick of Jersey, the great isle in the English Channel.

TOMMY

Nah bro, we’re from

Both

New Jersey!

JESSE

Just outside of Bayonne, Kid.

TOMMY

Yeah we just founded the town! We got a baseball diamond near the port. Let’s go Eurekas!

JESSE

Let’s go!

TOMMY

So like where’s the mess?

DOBSON

Here is the stain gentlemen.

TOMMY

Ill! Bro, what is that?

DOBSON

Well it is... BLOOD!

Thunder strikes. TOMMY and JESSE jump back.

JESSE

Gross!

DOBSON

It is the rumored blood of Lady Elenore, the bride of Sir Simon De Canterville who was Murdered!

Thunder strikes.

JESSE

Yo, rest in peace. (They both take off their hats and make the Sign of the Cross.) North, South, West, East.

TOMMY
Alright bro, get to steppin’ we got it from here. We’ll let you know when you can come back in.

DOBSON
I leave you to your task. (*Exits.*)

TOMMY
Easy peasy lemon squeezy kid, (*he scrubs the stain*) look the stain comes right up. Who’s better than us Jess?

JESSE
Wait! Woah. Look, it is reappearing!

TOMMY
Yo, strange things are afoot in cup o’ tea England. What should we do?

BOTH
Lunch break! (*They turn their buckets over and sit on them and begin to eat.*)

JESSE
Bro, these Brits over here are killing me with the mayo dude. You want a bite of my Sammy?

TOMMY
Nah.

While the two are talking, slowly two mysterious figures arise, the lights flicker and the room gets darker but they do not notice at first.

JESSE
Bro, you know she’s my Bayonne beauty, but like she’s killing me dude. The other day she’s, like “you don’t cut enough fire wood, you’re at the public house all the time.” Blah. Blah. Blah. And I’m like, “No disrespect babe, no disrespect, but like, I had a full shift at the yard, then I had to go to my mother-in-law’s house and change her gaslights, Then I had to get new spokes for the carriage and my horse is pregnant so I’m out at the general store buying apples in the middle of the night like a schmuck.”

TOMMY
I hear ya brother. I was out to dinner with Marie and she’s like this place ain’t fancy enough, I’m like babe, babe,
babe, babe, can I, babe, let me say something, babe, but she ain’t trying to hear me.

JESSE
It’s like I know she works hard, no disrespect,

TOMMY
None!

JESSE
...but I’m supposed to be a scallywag, because I want to crack open a couple of hard ciders and spend a little money on bearbaiting.

TOMMY
What’s this world coming to? We’re getting too sensitive as, like you know, a civilization, sooner or later we’re going to be using leather gloves in baseball games.

JESSE
I rue the day my friend.

TOMMY
You hear something?

JESSE
Nah, you know these old houses.

TOMMY
Nah bro, I’m feeling something I ain’t ever felt before. Like a sense of existential impending doom kid.

Suddenly the scepters appear. The two are frightened and run out screaming! On their way out they run into Washington.

WASHINGTON
Morning gentlemen.

JESSE
This place is haunted!

WASHINGTON
Don’t be ridiculous, it’s just...

TOMMY
We’re outta here!
The two run off.

WASHINGTON
What curious fellows. What’s this? (he follows a white thread.) Curiouser and curiouser.

Suddenly he pulls and the twins come tumbling from their hiding spot.

SAM
Hahaha! We can do whatever we want!

CAROL
We’re spoiled!

The twins run off. WASHINGTON is left alone and he’s a little freaked out and hears the moan of the Ghost. YVETTE enters with Mr. PRICE.

PRICE
Did you hear that young master Washington?

WASHINGTON
I’m afraid I did Mr. Price.

YVETTE
How are we ever to be ready for the Ball with the Ghost of Sir Simon in a rage?

WASHINGTON
It’s nothing Yvette, it was just my rambunctious siblings.

PRICE
Look! The blood stain is back and it is glowing!

Scary noises, the moan of the dead—creaking sounds, a rumble.

YVETTE
Look! Look at the picture!

The picture on the wall begins to turn in a 360 degree angle and suddenly falls. When the picture drops away the GHOST is suddenly present. They all scream. Blackout.

Act 1. Scene 9
STUTFIELD and CARBURY walk the promenade.

CARBURY
Well Inspector Stutfield, tis a beauty of a night here in her Majesty Queen Victoria’s Realm, isn’t it?

STUTFIELD
Oh yes Sir Colonel Carbury.

CARBURY
Yep, I bet no one will be up to any mischief on a proper night like this. Eh governor?

STUTFIELD
Oh no Sir, Colonel Carbury.

CARBURY
You know, I reckon Inspector, a proper night like this, when were on patrol, just strolling along, like a couple of chimney sweeps or lamplighters, it gets me philosophizing.

STUTFIELD
Ah good and proper to do so Sir.

CARBURY
I love me my profession

STUTFIELD
Ah Sir, and quite a career it has.

CARBURY
Thirty-two years I’ve been patrolling for her Majesty’s service. Solving proper capers I’ve been.

STUTFIELD
Yes sir, remind me again why you’re no longer on the top of Scotland Yard again sir?

CARBURY
Oh well that’s an old story, y’all see, I care to much about me job. That’s thing!

STUTFIELD
Didn’t you arrest the old Park Street Strangler.

CARBURY
I did!
And they didn’t promote you?

Beat him to death with my own shoes governor, that’s what I did.

Oh, I see. Well...

No one cares about disciplinin’ proper villains, that’s for sure, we’re bloomin’ coddling them I say. Ah but (breathes in deeply) on a beautiful night like tonight, it’s OK to just patrol.

You said it Sir.

Let me get a sip of that hot toddy you’re carrying Inspector.

Oh, righto Colonel. *(Hands Carbury a flask.)*

I do miss the chase of the hounds though, Oh, I guess stopping proper mischief is no longer on the old schedule.

Aw don’t worry Colonel I’m sure something will pop up. On with the patrol governor.

CASTELTAN, SEAGULL, STILTON and HORNTON enter with parasols giggling uncontrollably.

Oh ladies, that just tickles like a feather!

Give us another one Francine, they’re devilishly delightful!

STILTON
OK, here it goes. “There once was a man whose last name was Rose. As a lark, he named his daughter Wild, "with the happy conceit of having her called Wild Rose." But that sentiment was "knocked out" when the woman grew up to marry a man whose last name was Bull!”

They all laugh.

CASTELTAN

“Wild Bull!” Oh I love it!

SEAGULL

Well I heard there is a family of wild bulls that just moved into Canterville Chase.

STILTON

Oh do tell Ms. Seagull!

SEAGULL

Well, I heard from Lord Marbury, who was told by Sir Walter who was at a luncheon with Dr. Mugglesboard, that Lord Canterville finally sold his beloved Canterville Chase to Americans!

HORNTON

He didn’t!

SEAGULL

Oh yes he did!

STILTON

Looks like his old wife, Dowager is getting all his money, just like we thought!

SEAGULL

Well there is no getting a word in edgewise with the Cantervilles.

They all laugh.

CASTELTAN

That reminds me of another funny tale ladies.

SEAGULL/STILTON/HORNTON

Oh, do tell. Please do. Oh yes.

CASTELTAN
A man said to a preacher, "That was an excellent sermon, but it was not original." The preacher was taken aback. The man said he had a book at home containing every word the preacher used. The next day the man brought the preacher a dictionary.

They all laugh.

STILTON
Oh so devilishly fun ladies. You do tickle me, they’ll write on your graves, “here lies old feather-fingers themselves, the ladies of England!”

They all laugh.

SEAGULL
Now ladies, have our new colonial invaders know of the haunted happenings at Canterville Chase?

HORNTON
Oh I don’t believe those tales!

STILTON
Oh you should! Because I heard from Lady Abram, who told Dr. Acker, who spoke to Reverend Acton, who whispered it to Sir Addington, who was next to Lady Adley that old duchess Ainsley, who was sitting with Duke Ainsworth, whose very driver Alby’s cousin works at Canterville Chase, that just this very night the staff was so spooked that they will no longer stay overnight in the manor!

Just then STUTFIELD and CARBURY pop their heads up, begin writing notes.

CARBURY
Blimey Inspector! Did you ear that in your ear?

STUTFIELD
OH I eard it.

CARBURY
Haunted happenings at Canterville Chase?

STUTFIELD
Sounds like a bunch of bloomin, blimey, baloney to me!

CARBURY

Let’s hide in this shrubbery.

SEAGULL

Old crazy Canterville believes those loons over at the Psychological society!

STILTON

They are having one of those séance, you know the ones that are all the rage these days.

HORNTON

What is a Séance?

CASTELSTAN

Oh it’s the silliest thing I’ve ever heard! These fools, the Psychological Society swear they can contact spirits from the dead!

HORNTON

Sounds ghastly!

STILTON

It sounds like hogwash.

SEAGULL

Yes, you mean to tell me those jokers can raise the dead? Of course they can’t!

CASTELSTAN

And they charge money for it! It’s downright criminal!

In the shrubbery.

CARBURY

(STUTFIELD repeats each word back.)

STUTFIELD
Writing down, No, Down.

They hide again.

STILTON
Yes, the whole affair is terrible, but after the rumors I’ve heard from Lord James, who spoke to Sir Wilson, who mentioned it Young Lord Davies...

SEAGULL
Yes, yes, Lady Francine Stilton, I believe you.

CASTELTON
We’re all invited you know, to that little soiree from the beyond.

HORNTON
Will you go Ms. Castelton?

CASTELTON
Of course, provided theirs a luncheon provided.

SEAGULL
Yes, I want to meet our American cousins, see how rugged they are!

STILTON
Yes, I wouldn’t miss if for the world, but beware of that psychological society charlatan! They are just stealing people’s money. They promise you that you could meet old nana again and then their off with your money!

SEAGULL
That reminds me of a joke!

HORNTON
Oh do tell!

SEAGULL
Well, “A man got up one morning and couldn't find his alarm clock, so he asked his wife what had become of it. She said, "It went off at 6 o'clock."

They all giggle off. The Officers return from the shrubbery.

CARBURY
You hear that governor! We have a group or proper villains to capture. We’ll have to attend that séance.

STUTFIELD
But sir, won’t they get wise if we just arrived in our uniforms?

CARBURY
Blimey! You’re right. We can’t be showing up wearing these pantaloons, they’ll know we’re from her Majesty’s government and that we’re on to their thieving ways!

STUTFIELD
We shall disguise ourselves?

CARBURY
Brilliant! We’ll do just that! Hurry Stutfield, we must go!

They go to run off but Stutfield trips.

STUTFIELD
Ow! I think I broke me leg.

CARBURY
A little less noise there, wha— Stutfield are you OK?

STUTFIELD
I don’t think so sir, I think I pulled me hammy.

CARBURY
Oh bad form, bad form, stiff upper lip now Stutfield, stip upper lip! On your feet.

STUTFIELD
I can’t do it!

CARBURY
Nonsense my boy, on a scale of one to ten how much does it hurt.

STUTFIELD
An eleven sir!

CARBURY
An eleven! Great Scott! We’ll have to amputate!

STUTFIELD
No! No! Sir! I need me legs!

CARBURY
Sorry Stutfield, you know I’m a man of action, that hammy is getting carved like it was next to a Christmas puddin’

STUTFIELD
I can take the pain, I can take it!

CARBURY
Is it worse that a snakebite?

STUTFIELD
No, you know sir, it’s more like a 2 or even a proper 2 and ½.

CARBURY
Nonsense, I know when a man is bloomin’ tell tales out of school! I’ll amputate! This is my father’s knife from the first Boar War, a little dull it is, but it’ll get the job done.

STUTFIELD
No, no I can— I’m fine! Let’s go get our disguises on!

CARBURY
I suppose you’re right, eye on the prize, let’s go get those psychological loonies and put them in jail! –

ACT 1. Scene 10

A Séance. RUDOLPH communicates with the Dead. VIRGINIA goes missing!

Intermission

ACT 2. Scene 1

Commercial Break.

ACT 2. Scene 2

NARRATOR (O.S.)

LUCIUS
I have feelings Robin! Feelings! I’m not some emotional punching bag you can just—

ROBIN
No, no, you’re not the one who respects me! Respects my gravitas! I am a star! An artist! I have a vision!

NARRATOR (O.S.)

LUCIUS
Here’s part, whatever of the story!

Theme music plays.

ACT 2. Scene 3
The netherworld.
I’m upset!

I know you’re upset.

Betrayed!

Yes, betrayed.

Wounded, dismayed and disappointed!

Those all seem like the same thing to me.

They’re not the same thing! They’ve stolen my sheet; they’ve painted my walls!

We can get paint...

Ah!

We can get sheets.

My metal chains! How incalculable the terrors, how impenetrable the mystery of my chains, and they laughed!

Maybe...

They laughed! Like I was some community actor playing Marley’s ghost!

I’m just saying maybe it was the rust; the color looked a little fake, if the rust...
Sunset Rose’! That’s the color they were painted, (mockingly) ruusst. Ugh Americans. For centuries I’ve haunted Canterville Chase, The walls used to weep with wonder, this earth, haec terra, this isle, would quake with terror, in 1590 I gave them the Corpse-Snatcher of Chertsey Barn, in 1655 I wowed them as the mad and murdered skeleton of Drury Lane...

VIRGINIA
I know...

GHOST
(Broken down crying, comically, pathetically.) And those two boys... those American braggarts! Laughed.

VIRGINIA
With you....

GHOST
At me Virginia! They were laughing at me! Don’t patronize me!

VIRGINIA
(Looking to the sky.) Oh cruel posterity. Punish me, yes, I deserve your cosmic justice, but I cry mercy! This family is haunting me! They are driving me crazy!

VIRGINIA
You have to understand Sir Simon, we’re Americans, what really scares us is the DMV or when they say they toasted your bagel but you know they didn’t.

GHOST
My dear child... I lay here bleeding, heart exposed and you speak of- a what? A bag-el?

VIRGINIA
Well I just thought you’d want to hear...

GHOST
What I hear is... Listen, listen.

They pause to listen.

VIRGINIA
I don’t hear anything.

GHOST
EXACTLY! All you hear is silence! Silence with a house full of humans, living, humans during prime-time haunting hour. Oh Jonas the Grave-less, my dear, dear mentor how I failed you!