

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

Meoooooooooh Noooooooooo!

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 EXTREEEEEEME!

NOT SO COOL DAD

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 xtreamme!

*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

Cramps, sir, I said. Cramps. 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.

RUDOPH

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 than 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-

OTIS

I don't care about Lord who-so-ever or the scoundrel of Brighton what's-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 Presbyterian 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 lightning, 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 its 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.

VIRGINIA

They're so wonderfully sublime aren't they? My favorites really take us beyond ourselves.

RUFFORD

They sure do.

VIRGINIA

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!

RUFFORD

I'll let the Duke of Chessire know.

VIRGINIA

Take care Laird.

RUFFORD

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.*

MARTY (Deadpan.)

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 Eureka!

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. How are things going with Ashley Jes?

*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!

STUTFIELD

And they didn't promote you?

CARBURY

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

STUTFIELD

Oh, I see. Well...

CARBURY

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.

STUTFIELD

You said it Sir.

CARBURY

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

STUTFIELD

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

CARBURY

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

STUTFIELD

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.

SEAGULL

Oh ladies, that just tickles like a feather!

HORNTON

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! Write Down. Psychological. Write Down. Society. Write down. Criminal! They might see us. Down! No, Down.

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 than 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

OTIS enters with LUCRETIA. *The Psychological Society and members of the Otis Family are seated at a table with a glowing orb at its center. MR. PRICE is waiting on everyone with MS. UMNEY. STILTON, SEAGULL, CASTELTON all laugh.*

OTIS

I still think this is so ridiculous; we're going to have a Séance? A ghost? Give me a break!

LUCRETIA

Well honey cheers for good ol' George Washington for getting us out, but we're here and poor Yvette was scared out of her mind. We'll get these here spiritual-olics, they'll do their mumbo jumbo and we'll have a ball!

OTIS

I guess so.

MULLDINE

OK, Mr. and Mrs. Otis, please take your seats.

BALLIOU

Shhh Mulldine! If you will take your seats please.

PODMORE

When you sit, one is shorter than when standing.

CARBURY and STUTFIELD enter.

CARBURY

OK Stutfield, we're in. Make sure to take note of all the happenings.

STUTFIELD

You sure we don't look to suspicious Colonel?

CARBURY

Are you kidding? No one will suspect that we're a couple of blokes, with this here beautiful bobs, we're wearing.

STILTON

Well here we go ladies, let's see if this fiction becomes fact.

*They all laugh.*

RUDOLPH

Silence! We shall begin.

RUFFORD

This is really exciting, hey, Virginia, do you think afterward I can see you? I have something important to say.

VIRGINIA

Sure Laird.

RUDOLPH

I said Silence! The portal is opening.

BALLIOU

Ladies, please remove your gloves. Gentlemen, please remove your rings. Place your hands forward and let us connect.

RUDOLPH

Spirit of Sir Canterville. If you are present knock once!  
(*A knock is heard.*) Spirit of Sir Canterville if you are here knock twice! (*A second knock is heard.*)

WASHINGTON

I don't feel so good.

OTIS

Ooh this is exciting!

LUCRETIA

I feel like I'm on one of those steeplechase rides!

RUDOLPH

Spirit of Sir Canterville, Speak to us!

WASHINGTON

(*Possessed.*) *Leave me alone!* (*The audience is shocked, the Otis' laugh.*)

BALLIOU

Sir Simon de Canterville! Is that you?

WASHINGTON

*Yes! Leave Canterville Chase. Now! Leave me!*

CARBURY

Blimey! He's Possessed! The spirit speaks through him!

BALLIOU

You murdered your wife Sir Canterville! You are doomed to walk the Earth forever!

WASHINGTON

*I Never murdered anyone! I loved my wife!*

BALLIOU

Lies!

VIRGINA

The Ghost seems like he is in pain! We should stop this!

WASHINGTON

*Listen to the Girl!*

OTIS

Honestly this is so good!

LUCRETIA

This beats any vaudeville show!

RUDOLPH

Let the boy go Canterville! Show your true self!

*Suddenly the GHOST appears.*

GHOST

It is I! The dreaded Ghost of Sir Simon de Canterville! The most feared specter in England! Behold my chains! Weep before the site of doo--

*The twins yell "nice!"*

CAROL

*Get over here Ghost!*

SAM

*A chain! We're gonna capture a ghost!*

*The twins begin to tie up the ghost! They remove the sheet from his head.*

GHOST

Get your blasted hands off me you feral cats!

LUCRETIA

Oh look! I told you the kids would have fun with the Ghost!

OTIS

He can babysit for free!

VIRGIINA

Sam, Sam! Carol! Leave him alone!

GHOST

Now feel the wrath of centuries of plague and scourge upon this Manor, you will all suffer!

RUDOLPH

I summon the ghost of your murdered wife Lady Eleanore, the bride of the Ghost of Canterville!

*Suddenly the Ghost of ELENORE appears.*

*The ladies laugh that turns to a scream. The detectives yell, "Blimey!"*

GHOST

No! My beloved! No, release her!

VIRGINIA

She seems so sad! Leave them alone Mr. Rudolph.

GHOST

Release my beloved Elenore or I'll have revenge on the pack of you!

*Lighting. Thunder. The ghosts disappear. Everyone looks around. Not known to anyone else, VIRGINIA is missing.*

RUFFORD

Oh, I don't feel so good. Hey, where's Virginia?

OTIS

That was so much! Honestly, do you guys do birthdays? Mitzvahs?

WASHINGTON

Hey pa! I'm... I smell something. Pa- fellas! Something's getting Funky in here.

RUDOPHL

The ghost has control of us!

*A dance sequence breaks out. All dance. Thunder strikes! When the light returns. VIRGINIA is missing.*

LUCRETIA

Woo wee! That was fun!

RUFFORD

Wait, where is Virginia!

PRICE

She's missing Sir!

OTIS  
(Grabbing RUDOLPH.)

What did you do with my daughter!

PODMORE  
She was here and now she is not here.

STUTFIELD  
Shouldn't we stop this?

CARBURY  
Not yet, I know just what to do! I'm going to call Scotland  
Yard's best!

SAM  
Woah. Virginia is missing?

CAROL  
They'll blame us! Run.

SAM and Carol run.

LUCRETIA  
Where is my missing daughter?

BALLIOU  
I'm afraid it's too late everyone. The Spirit has taken your  
daughter to the Underworld and only we can release her, but first  
you'll be doing my bidding if you ever want to see her again!

*The Spiritualists all laugh. Then they cough.*

Intermission

ACT 2. Scene 1

*A group of three gossipy friends sipping Jamba Juice, walking  
through the mall when one of them spots someone familiar just off  
stage.*

LINDA  
Gurl! Act normal...but look who just walked in

MARGOT  
No. That's not him.

CHARLIE  
I dunno it sorta looks like him.

*The TIN MAN walks smoothly and confidently past the friends.*

TIN MAN

Ladies, good day.

LINDA

I told you it's him! Do you think I should ask for his autograph?!

MARGOT

OK Linda there's no WAY that is THE Tin Man. I mean sure- I can kinda see a slight resemblance but he doesn't have the creaks or the cranks!

CHARLIE

She's right, this guy is so smoooooooooth!

LINDA

That's it, I'm going to say something. Excuse me, sir! Can I ask you a question?

TIN MAN

Why of course, what can I do you for?

MARGOT

OMG! She can be ROYALLY cringy!

CHARLIE

I think she's brave.

LINDA

Would you settle a little debate we're having, you're not *the* Tin Man, are you?

TIN MAN

Guilty as charged.

MARGOT

What?! I am screaming.

CHARLIE

But where's all your rust? Your clinks and clanks?! If you really are the Tin Man why are you so smooth???

TIN MAN

Ha! Why it's the magical power of Tammany Rising Sun Oil.

THREE FRIENDS

Tammany Rising Sun Oil?

TIN MAN

Yes Tammany Rising Sun Oil. Curing all of your creaky clinkity clanks so that you can be as smooth as the Tin Man.

THREE FRIENDS

Tammany Rising Sun Oil it's oil

TIN MAN

But from the sun!

ACT 2. Scene 2

NARRATOR (O.S.)

You're watching KCTS Seattle 9's episode of *Mystery, Mayhem and Murder: Famous Ghosts of England*.

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.)

You're watching KCTS Seattle 9's episode of *Mystery, Mayhem and Murder: Famous Ghosts of England*.

LUCIUS

Here's part whatever, of the story!

*Theme music plays.*

ACT 2. Scene 3

The netherworld. EARL's floating head in the arms of RUPERT. VIRGINIA awakens and is startled.

EARL

It's Showtime!

VIRGINIA

(Screams!) How dreaded, don't hurt me!

EARL

Hurt you? I can't hurt you? Hi. I'm headless Earl. Don't worry about getting hurt, None of us can hurt you!

VIRGINIA

Us? There are more of you?

RUPERT

Oh sure there are—

EARL



Woah, Reckless Rupert, you wanna stop finishing my sentences for me?

VIRGINIA

I don't understand, where am I? Where's my family?

*Suddenly, a BLOOD-sucker and CORPSE appear, as well as BLOODY MARY. VIRGINIA is terribly frightened.*

BLOOD

Hiya sweetheart. I'm the Blood-sucker of Bexley Moor.

CORPSE

And I'm the Corpse-Snatcher of Chertsey Barn.

MARY

Hi, I'm bloody Mary!

VIRGINIA

I'm filled with wonder and, you're Bloody Mary? The spirit that is conjured to reveal the future in a mirror?

MARY

What? Oh, no. Not that Bloody Mary, that's just folklore, they call me Bloody Mary because after I drank five Bloody Mary's I slipped and drowned while vacationing in the Lake district.

BLOOD

Not for nothing lady, but most of us ghosts, phantoms, spirits aren't what ya think!

VIRGINIA

This is all so terribly frightening.

EARL

Frightening? Lady, try being beheaded and then having to have your head carried around by this joker.

RUPERT

Don't make me drop you Earl.

BLOOD

I know this might sound all crazy, hey, I remember when I first bit the big one- it's a shock really. Hey, by the way, what blood type are you?

CORPSE

Hey! She's a guest! Stop it.

BLOOD

You stop it.

CORPSE

Oh yeah? Why don't you make me?

BLOOD

I'll hit you so hard, you'll die twice.

CORPSE

Oh really? Well come on and try to break a piece off of the old Corpse-Snatcher of Chertsey Barn!

EARL

Hey you morons! Stop it! We have company! Just wait until the strangled duchess gets a look at you!

*Strangled Duchess appears.*

DUCHESS

The headless Earl is right, knock it off fools! Hello Miss Virginia Otis I presume?

VIRGINIA

Why yes.

DUCHESS

Hello, I'm the Strangled Duchess.

VIRGINIA

Strangled?

DUCHESS

Yes, strangled, see the rope? Look at the way I'm dressed, the style. She's headless earl, no head. He's a corpse snatcher, snatches corpses; we all have our parts to play— What's with you living?

VIRGINIA

I didn't mean to presume.

DUCHESS

Whatever. Listen...

VIRGINIA

Am I dead?

DUCHESS

No, I just said you we're living.

VIRGINIA

I'm sorry I'm very confused.

EARL

Relax lady; don't lose your head over it. Haha. Get it?

RUPERT

That's it I am going to drop you!

VIRGINIA

Did those terrible members of the psychological society send me to the netherworld?

*They all laugh except VIRGINIA.*

BLOOD

What? No!

RUPERT

Those people are a bunch of bozos!

MARY

Cornballs.

CORPSE

It was the spirit of Lady Eleanor, the Bride of the Ghost Canterville!

VIRGINIA

She brought me here? But why? I thought she was murdered by that terrible Ghost Sir Simon!

ELENORE *appears.*

ELANORE

Hello Virginia.

VIRGINIA

Oh! Hello ma'am. I'm so sorry to hear of your murder... it's all so horrid!

ELANORE

Oh my child, I wasn't murdered.

BLOOD

Well this is all pretty fascinating but I have to turn into a bat at seven so... I'll see you all later.

CORPSE

Yeah I'm haunting a mansion out in Basking Ridge.

RUPERT

Old ghost house?

CORPSE

Yeah, you guys want to come?

DUCHESS

I love haunting that place!

EARL

Let's get it!

*All exit.*

VIRGINIA

Oh this is so confusing, what's happening Lady Eleanor?

ELENORE

Come sit with me. Listen to a story. When I was a young lady I fell in love with a brave and kind man. I met him one fate filled day at a stag hunt. The year was 1584, it was spring and it was lovely.

VIRGINIA

You fell in love with Sir Simon? Then why would he murder you!

ELENORE

He didn't murder me Virginia, but he did murder our love in a way. Prospect after prospect came his way. He was driven, but turned severe when he made so much money, enough money to buy the beautiful Canterville Chase, but enough to grow cold. So I told him I was going to leave him. It broke my heart to do it but I was determined. So one cold morning in March, I left, when suddenly my carriage crashed and I was killed.

VIRGINIA

Oh how dreadful!

ELENORE

He became crueler, more isolated and when rumors spread of my murder he became even crueler to all he met. When he died he was condemned by his anger and stubbornness.

VIRGINIA

But why does he haunt everyone, why is he still so cruel?

ELEANORE

He's angry Virginia, and anger and fear can be so blinding. If only a person can show love to him, if only his heart could melt and warm like that beautiful spring day when we met can we be reunited.

VIRGINIA

Oh, I'm so sorry Lady Eleanore.

ELENORE

Listen to this:

"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."

VIRGINIA

That's beautiful. It sounds so familiar. Oh wait, That's the inscription that hangs in the Manor house!

ELENORE

Any idea what it could mean?

VIRGINIA

Well it sounds like— it could mean— that someone must feel sorry for the old ghost of Sir Simon.

ELENORE

Exactly. You've done that Virginia; you've felt mercy for my beloved Simon. Oh sweet Virginia, if only you could show him that, if only you can melt his heart of stone and once that is done, we can live in peace and harmony together, forever, as beloved. Do you think you can do that Virginia? For me? For Canterville?

VIRGINIA

Yes, of course. It's decided! I'll go to him now. I'm sure my family will be worried, but It shouldn't take long, I mean, how bad can your husband be?

*A dreaded sound is heard.*

ACT 2. Scene 4

*The lights come up on chaos, family members are fighting.*

STUTFIELD

Colonel Carbury shouldn't we end this madness?

CARBURY

The game is afoot! We have a missing girl, and we have to see just how these psychological loonies did the criminal doings!

LUCRETIA

Hold me back! I'm gonna show you how we do in the United States of America!

OTIS

Give us back our daughter!

BALLIOU

Pay us what is due and then we shall release her!

MULLDINE

We weren't the ones who made her disappear! We can't make her reappear.

BALLIOU

I said shut it!

CAROL

I love a good fight!

SAM

Anarchy! Anarchy!

MARCHIONESS and DE BUCKLEY enter. Everyone freezes.

MARCHIONESS / De BUCKLEY

Silence!

MARCHIONESS

There's only one way to settle this.

DE BUCKLY

We must evoke the rule of The Code Of Honor.

MARCHIONESS

El Duello.

WASHINGTON

Who are those people?

RUFFORD

It is Mademoiselle de Buckly and Old Marchioness of Dumbleton. They are the keepers of the ancient ritual.

WASHINGTON

Ancient what?

MARCHIONESS

We must settle this like our forefathers have settled disputes for ages!

DE BUCKLY

A grievance has been made. We must settle this in a duel!

BALLIOU

Fine by me!

LUCRETIA

Now we're talking! Heck yes! These colors don't run! USA! USA!

MARCHIONESS

The rules of El duello is as follows.

DE BUCKLY

It could be fought with swords or pistols.

LUCRETIA

Pistols!

OTIS

Honey, no, we're liberals.

LUCRETIA

Whatever.

STUFIELD

Can't we do anything Colonel?

CARBURY

Absolutely not! The legal ritual has been revoked.

MARCHIONESS

The person who felt offended or dishonored has to "challenge" his or her opponent.

DE BUCKLY

This will be done by throwing their glove down in front of the opponent.

BALLIOU *throws the glove down*. LUCRETIA *goes to smack BALLIOU but smacks PODMORE in the face*.

MARCHIONESS

or by hitting him in the face with a glove.

PODMORE

My face is now hit. I accept the challenge on behalf of my brethren and my sister-en.

LUCRETIA

Give me the sword, I got this!

DE BUCKLY

Remember, The game of chess, is like a sword fight.

MARCHIONESS

You must think first before you move!

RUFFORD

You know, I'm going to go and actually look for Virginia, it seems so much more reasonable!

MARCHIONESS

You may use any style of fighting you prefer. Shaolin shadowboxing and the wu-tang sword style. Toad style is immensely strong and is immune to almost weapon.

DE BUCKLY

If what you say is true, the shaolin and the wu-tang could be dangerous.

LUCRETIA

Do you think your wu-tang sword can defeat me?

PODMORE

En guard, Ill let you try my wu-tang style.

*PODMORE and LUCRETIA fight, fence, and battle. The crowd cheers on their respective sides. Thunder, the lights suddenly go off. When the lights return, PODMORE falls dead.*

PODMORE

I was once alive and now I'm dead.

LUCRETIA

That's how we do it funky north Philly! Don't mess with this Tiger mama!

RUDOLPH

No! Podmore! Good night sweet prince, and may eternal angels sing thee to thy rest.

DE BUCKLY

Wait a minute... This isn't a sword wound. This is a pistol bullet!

CAROL / SAM

Nice!

PODMORE

I am back alive to say, that is shocking. Now, I am dead again.

LUCRETIA

Well I mean, don't start nothing, won't be nothing am I right? Come into our house poppin off and get mad when we pop back.

OTIS

You said it honey.

MARCHIONESS

Well that means, someone here didn't just die, they were... MURDERED!

CARBURY

Blimey! That's our move! Everyone freeze!



STUTFIELD

Don't move!

CARBURY

Scotland yard! Everyone freeze, there is a murderer in this house!

*Blackout.*

ACT 2. Scene 5

*In the netherworld.*

GHOST

I'm upset!

VIRGINIA

I know you're upset.

GHOST

Betrayed!

VIRGINIA

Yes, betrayed.

GHOST

Wounded, dismayed and disappointed!

VIRGINIA

Those all seem like the same thing to me.

GHOST

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

VIRGINIA

We can get paint...

GHOST

Ah!

VIRGINIA

We can get sheets.

GHOST

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

VIRGINIA

Maybe...

GHOST

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

VIRGINIA

I'm just saying maybe it was the rust; the color looked a little fake, if the rust...

GHOST

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! (*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!

VIRGINIA

I don't know how I'm supposed to help you. Oh, Lady Elenore, I'm not sure how I'm going to help you!

GHOST

Wha— What did you say? Lady who?

VIRGINIA

Lady Elenore.

GHOST

You've spoken to my beloved Elenore?

VIRGINIA

She's the one who sent me.

GHOST

Oh Elenore! Does she still despise me?

VIRGINIA

No, she loves you very much.

GHOST

Really? People say I seem cold and cruel.

VIRGINIA

I can't imagine why.

GHOST

Don't mock me Virginia! I'm fragile. Oh, how I long to see my beloved again. I was so terrible to her. Success became my drug, I became like this house, shuttered— closed off. When she passed her terrible brothers lied and said I murdered her but how can I murder the thing I love so? I'd give anything to see her again and be released from this sorrow, but alas, it is my fault.

VIRGINIA

*(Crying.)* I'm so sorry to hear that Sir Canterville, I can see now how repentant you are.

GHOST

Wait, what's happening? Virginia, my dear Virginia! Your tears of mercy have given me a new sense of faith! Quickly my girl, come with me! Let us return what's full of life and beauty to Canterville Chase!

ACT 2. Scene 6

*Back at the Mansion in the world of the living, chaos continues, with everyone yelling at one another. STARTUP enters the room.*

STARTUP

Silence!

CASTELTON

That's Scotland Yard's Constable Startup, the most famous detective in the entire Empire!

STARTUP

Quiet! I don't need you to tell me how great I am, I know it. OK, clues, clues. Clues are like mushrooms, they are often buried and in the dark!

OTIS

This is unbelievable.

STARTUP

I know, someone's been murdered, but I'll discover who it is!

OTIS

No, literally, this is unbelievable this doesn't make any sense.

STARTUP

No, no sense at all! This man has clearly been shot! Though the duel took place with swords!

OTIS

You're not getting it, how hard is this?

STARTUP

Harder than wood, but a case can be a tough nut to crack.

OTIS

I'm drowning in imbeciles. I'm not angry, I'm just disappointed, well, no, I'm angry and disappointed. Constable, no one has left the room, just tell us to empty our pockets!

STARTUP

Ah, of course, ladies turn out your handbags, sirs, your pockets.

MULLDINE

Ms. Balliou has the weapon! She's the murderer!

*Everyone gasps.*

BALLIOU

Blast you Mulldine! I would've gotten away with it too!

STARTUP

Have these psychological loonies shackled inspector! (*They arrest the culprits.*) Ah, that was easy! Another brilliant case solved by me! Now, if only to solve the problem of the missing girl!

RUFFORD

(*Running in.*)

Mr. Otis! Everyone! Look, I found Virginia, she was in the garden and she's not alone!

GHOST *enters scared being led by VIRGINIA.*

CANTERVILLE

It's Sir Simon de Canterville!

LUCRETIA

Well, look at that, the ghost is real!

STARTUP

Be careful he can be dangerous!

VIRGINIA

No, friends, please. Sir Simon is kind and gentle.

GHOST

Dear friends, I come in good faith, I apologize for terrorizing this house, and now due to this sweet girl's love and forgiveness, I see the error of my ways.

ELENORE *appears. Everyone gasps!*

DOWAGER

The bride of the Canterville Ghost! She appears!

ELENORE

Thank you Virginia. I can finally be reunited with my love. Thank you as well Lord Rufford.

VIRGINIA

Lord Rufford? Laird, why did she call you Lord?

LUCRETIA

Oh a Lord, wow.

RUFFORD

Wait! Well, because I lied, I am Lord Rufford, the Duke of Cheshire, and well I don't care, I have one thing to say!

VIRGINIA

What is it Laird?

RUFFORD

Mr. and Mrs. Otis, with your permission, Virginia, I'm-

I uh- well I love you! Virginia will you marry me?

VIRGINIA

Yes!

OTIS

I guess instead of a grand ball, we're going to have some in-laws! This is a special day! Everyone is invited to Virginia's wedding, including our new ghost friends!

GHOST

Really? You mean it?

ELENORE

It's OK if we live here together in harmony?

LUCRETIA

Of course! On one condition.

GHOST

What is it?

LUCRETIA

Let's boogie Sir Canterville!

*Music plays and they all begin to dance as if in the séance.*

STARTUP

Take them away gentlemen!

CARBURY

OK, no fussing, let's go!

BALLIOU

No! No! Get your hands off me! I'll have my revenge!

RUDOLPH

*(Hisses.)* We'll be back! We shall never be defeated!

*They all dance. Blackout.*

ACT 2. Scene 7

*Lights up on ROBIN and LUCIUS is wiping away tears.*

ROBIN

My dear, dear Lucius! It's fine, it's OK. Our winter of discontent, is made glorious summer by your apologies

LUCIUS

I just don't know what came over me Robin, it's a fear of, not so much failure as of success, I'm not saying I work better, just different...

ROBIN

Go gentle Libra; your Gemini wishes you success. I wish you happy return!

LUCIUS

Thank you for forgiving me Robin. You're an amazing actress, sentimental to the point of saccharine, and sure you tell, you don't show much, but that's OK, basic cable needs actors am I right?

ROBIN

Of course, I'm happy we've reconciled, I can feel a weight has been lifted off my shoulders really, I felt like I was in a locker for dead meat, the way you just hang, like a vulture over a carcass.

LUCIUS

Well perhaps I'm a vulture because—

NARRATOR

We now present the finale of KCTS Seattle 9's episode of *Mystery, Mayhem and Murder: Famous Ghosts of England*.

*They both go to speak. Blackout.*

THE END