

canterville ghost by oscar wilde

Canterville Ghost by Oscar Wilde: A Timeless Tale of Humor and Haunting

Canterville Ghost by Oscar Wilde is a charming and witty novella that has captivated readers for over a century. Blending humor, gothic elements, and social satire, this story remains one of Wilde's most beloved works, showcasing his unique literary style and sharp wit. Whether you're a fan of classic literature or simply curious about ghost stories with a twist, the Canterville Ghost offers a refreshing take on traditional haunted house tales.

Overview of Canterville Ghost by Oscar Wilde

At its core, the Canterville Ghost is a comedic ghost story, first published in 1887. It tells the story of the American Otis family who move into Canterville Chase, a grand English mansion reputed to be haunted by the ghost of Sir Simon de Canterville. What makes this ghost story stand out is the clash between the pragmatic, no-nonsense American family and the melancholic, ethereal ghost who is desperate to frighten his new residents.

Oscar Wilde's story cleverly subverts the typical gothic ghost narrative by injecting humor and irony. Instead of being terrified, the Otis family treats the ghost as more of a nuisance than a supernatural threat. This blend of humor and haunting offers a delightful reading experience that balances lightheartedness with deeper themes like forgiveness, redemption, and cultural contrasts.

The Plot and Characters of the Canterville Ghost

Understanding the plot and characters helps appreciate why the Canterville Ghost remains a classic.

The Otis Family: The Practical Americans

The Otis family consists of Mr. and Mrs. Otis, their twin sons, and their daughter Virginia. They represent a modern, pragmatic mindset that contrasts sharply with the old-world mysticism of the English setting. Mr. Otis, in particular, is a straightforward businessman who dismisses the ghost's attempts to scare them, even going so far as to offer practical solutions like oil for the ghost's chains to prevent noise.

Virginia, the daughter, is a pivotal character. Unlike the rest of her family, she shows empathy and kindness toward the ghost, which leads to significant developments later in the story.

Sir Simon: The Ghost with a Tragic Past

Sir Simon de Canterville is the ghost haunting Canterville Chase. He is a tragic figure condemned to haunt the mansion due to his past misdeeds, primarily involving murder and betrayal. Despite his efforts to frighten the Otis family using classic ghostly antics—clanking chains, eerie moans, and frightful appearances—he finds himself baffled and frustrated by their indifference.

Sir Simon's character adds depth to the story as Wilde explores themes of guilt, punishment, and the desire for redemption.

Themes Explored in Canterville Ghost by Oscar Wilde

One of the reasons this novella has enduring appeal is its rich thematic content. Wilde weaves several important themes throughout the narrative.

Culture Clash: American Pragmatism vs. British Tradition

The Canterville Ghost highlights the cultural differences between Americans and Brits in the late 19th century. The Otis family's practical, business-oriented approach clashes amusingly with the ghost's old-fashioned, gothic world. This contrast serves as a subtle social commentary on modernity versus tradition and the differing worldviews of the two cultures.

Humor as a Tool to Disarm Fear

Unlike typical ghost stories that aim to scare, Wilde uses humor to deflate the ghost's menace. The Otis family's nonchalant attitude and witty responses to the ghost's attempts at haunting turn the narrative into a satire of both ghost stories and societal fears. This approach not only entertains but also invites readers to reconsider what truly frightens us.

Redemption and Forgiveness

Beneath the humor lies a poignant message about forgiveness and redemption. Sir Simon's ghost is trapped in a cycle of torment because of his past sins, but through Virginia's compassion, he finds peace. Wilde suggests that understanding and kindness can break the chains of guilt and suffering, a theme that resonates deeply with readers.

Literary Style and Writing Techniques

Oscar Wilde's signature wit shines through every page of the Canterville

Ghost. His use of irony and paradox creates a playful tone that contrasts with the eerie setting.

Use of Irony and Satire

Wilde masterfully employs irony to poke fun at both the ghostly tradition and the characters themselves. For example, Mr. Otis's practical solutions to ghostly problems, such as offering lubricating oil for the ghost's chains, are delightfully absurd. This satirical edge makes the story both thought-provoking and amusing.

Symbolism and Imagery

Wilde uses gothic imagery—dark corridors, creaking chains, and moonlit nights—to set the atmosphere, but he subverts these with humorous twists. Symbolism is also present, particularly in Sir Simon's chains, which represent the burden of his past deeds.

Impact and Adaptations of the Canterville Ghost

The Canterville Ghost has enjoyed enduring popularity since its publication, inspiring numerous adaptations across various media.

Film and Television Adaptations

From early silent films to modern television specials, the story has been adapted many times. Each adaptation offers a slightly different take on Wilde's original, sometimes emphasizing the comedic aspects and other times focusing on the ghost's tragic backstory.

Theatrical and Radio Versions

The novella's engaging dialogue and vivid characters make it a favorite for stage and radio dramatizations. These formats allow for creative interpretation, bringing Wilde's humor and gothic ambiance to life.

Why the Story Endures

The combination of humor, supernatural elements, and timeless themes ensures the Canterville Ghost remains relevant. Its ability to entertain while subtly exploring human nature and societal issues makes it a story that continues to resonate with audiences of all ages.

Tips for Readers New to *Canterville Ghost* by Oscar Wilde

If you're planning to read the *Canterville Ghost* for the first time, here are a few pointers to enhance your experience:

- **Enjoy the Humor:** Don't expect a traditional scary ghost story. Embrace the wit and satire Wilde injects into the narrative.
- **Consider the Historical Context:** Understanding the cultural backdrop of Victorian England versus America can enrich your appreciation of the cultural clashes in the story.
- **Reflect on the Themes:** Look beyond the surface humor to explore deeper themes like redemption, forgiveness, and the nature of fear.
- **Read Aloud:** Wilde's sparkling dialogue comes alive when spoken, making it a great choice for reading aloud to others.

Exploring these aspects can make your reading of the *Canterville Ghost* more rewarding and memorable.

Understanding the Legacy of Oscar Wilde through *Canterville Ghost*

The *Canterville Ghost* offers a window into Oscar Wilde's literary genius. Known for his flamboyant style, sharp social commentary, and mastery of paradox, Wilde uses this novella to both entertain and provoke thought.

This story encapsulates many of Wilde's recurring motifs—such as the clash between appearance and reality, the critique of social conventions, and the redemptive power of compassion. For readers and scholars alike, the *Canterville Ghost* stands as a testament to Wilde's ability to blend humor with profound insight.

As you delve into this novella, you not only enjoy a sparkling ghost story but also glimpse the mind of one of literature's most fascinating figures. Whether reading for pleasure, study, or adaptation, the *Canterville Ghost* remains a gem in the world of classic literature.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main theme of 'The *Canterville Ghost*' by Oscar Wilde?

The main theme of 'The *Canterville Ghost*' is the contrast between American modernity and British tradition, as well as redemption and forgiveness through understanding and compassion.

Who are the primary characters in 'The Canterville Ghost'?

The primary characters include Sir Simon, the Canterville Ghost; the Otis family, especially Mr. Hiram Otis and his daughter Virginia; and other members of the Otis family.

How does Oscar Wilde use humor in 'The Canterville Ghost'?

Oscar Wilde uses humor through the clash of American pragmatism with British supernatural beliefs, the ghost's failed attempts to frighten the Otis family, and witty dialogue that satirizes social norms.

What is the significance of Virginia Otis in the story?

Virginia Otis is significant as she shows compassion towards the ghost, helps him find peace, and symbolizes innocence and forgiveness, which ultimately leads to the ghost's redemption.

How does 'The Canterville Ghost' reflect Oscar Wilde's views on society?

The story reflects Wilde's views on cultural differences, social satire, and critiques of both American and British societies through irony and humor.

What role does the setting play in 'The Canterville Ghost'?

The setting, Canterville Chase, a traditional English manor, serves as a backdrop for the supernatural elements and the cultural clash between the American family and British ghost.

What is the resolution of 'The Canterville Ghost'?

The resolution occurs when Virginia helps Sir Simon, the ghost, find forgiveness and peace, allowing his spirit to rest and ending the haunting.

How does 'The Canterville Ghost' blend elements of horror and comedy?

The story blends horror and comedy by presenting traditional ghost story elements with humorous twists, such as the ghost's failed scares and the Otis family's practical responses.

Why is 'The Canterville Ghost' considered a classic of English literature?

'The Canterville Ghost' is considered a classic due to its clever use of satire, memorable characters, timeless themes of redemption, and its innovative mixing of genres by Oscar Wilde.

Additional Resources

****The Enduring Charm and Wit of *Canterville Ghost* by Oscar Wilde****

canterville ghost by oscar wilde stands as one of the most celebrated and enduring works in English literature, blending gothic elements with sharp social satire. Published initially in 1887, this novella defies traditional ghost story conventions by infusing humor and irony into its haunting narrative. Oscar Wilde's distinctive style, characterized by wit and a keen eye for human folly, shines throughout the tale, making it an intriguing subject for literary analysis and continued readership.

Exploring the Narrative and Themes of *Canterville Ghost* by Oscar Wilde

At its core, **Canterville Ghost** is a unique fusion of comedy and supernatural fiction. The story revolves around the American Otis family, who purchase the ancient Canterville Chase mansion in England, only to encounter the ghost of Sir Simon de Canterville, a centuries-old specter doomed to haunt the estate. Unlike traditional ghost stories that evoke fear and suspense, Wilde subverts expectations by portraying the ghost as both pitiable and comically ineffective against his new, pragmatic tenants.

The novella deftly critiques class distinctions and cultural clashes, particularly between the brash, practical American family and the dignified, yet somewhat archaic, British aristocracy. This cultural juxtaposition serves as a vehicle for Wilde's broader commentary on Victorian society, materialism, and the clash between old-world traditions and modern sensibilities.

Characterization and Social Satire

Oscar Wilde's characterization in **Canterville Ghost** is instrumental in conveying the story's themes. The Otis family, especially the pragmatic Mr. Otis and the compassionate Virginia, embody modern rationalism and moral virtue, respectively. Mr. Otis's dismissal of the ghost's haunting attempts with practical solutions—such as offering lubricant for creaky chains—highlights the skepticism and utilitarian mindset often associated with American pragmatism.

Conversely, Sir Simon de Canterville represents the fading British aristocracy, clinging to honor and tradition but rendered powerless in the face of modernity. Wilde's satirical treatment of the ghost's futile attempts to frighten the Otis family exposes the absurdity of rigid social hierarchies and outdated customs.

Thematic Depth: Redemption and Forgiveness

Beyond humor and satire, **Canterville Ghost** delves into profound themes of redemption and forgiveness. Virginia Otis's empathy towards Sir Simon culminates in her aiding the ghost to find peace and release from his earthly torment. This narrative arc underscores the novella's moral message that

compassion transcends social and supernatural boundaries.

This theme resonates with Wilde's broader literary oeuvre, where love and forgiveness often serve as redemptive forces. The ghost's ultimate salvation through Virginia's kindness challenges the reader to consider the humanizing power of empathy, even towards the seemingly otherworldly.

Literary Style and Influence

Wilde's prose in **Canterville Ghost** is marked by its elegance and wit, blending Victorian literary traditions with a modern sensibility. His use of irony and paradox not only entertains but also invites readers to question societal norms. The novella's humor arises from unexpected contrasts—the ghost's attempts at terror are met with practical indifference, undermining gothic conventions.

Moreover, Wilde's sharp dialogue and memorable epigrams contribute to the text's lasting appeal. The interplay between characters is rich with double meanings and subtle critiques of social pretensions, enhancing the work's complexity beneath its lighthearted surface.

Comparison with Contemporary Gothic Literature

Unlike many gothic tales of the 19th century that emphasize horror and suspense, **Canterville Ghost** occupies a distinctive niche by incorporating humor and satire. While authors like Edgar Allan Poe and Mary Shelley focused on terror and the supernatural's darker aspects, Wilde's approach is more playful and reflective.

This divergence broadens the scope of ghost stories and has influenced subsequent writers who blend genres to challenge conventional storytelling. The novella's accessibility and charm have made it a favorite in both literary circles and popular culture, inspiring numerous adaptations in film, theater, and television.

Adaptations and Cultural Legacy

The enduring popularity of **Canterville Ghost** is evident in its numerous adaptations across various media. These reinterpretations often highlight different facets of Wilde's story, from the comedic elements to the poignant themes of redemption.

- **Film and Television:** Various adaptations have brought the story to life on screen, emphasizing either the comedic or supernatural aspects. Notable versions include the 1944 Hollywood film starring Charles Laughton and the more recent British adaptations that stay faithful to Wilde's tone.
- **Theatrical Productions:** The novella's rich dialogue and dynamic characters make it a favorite for stage adaptations, where its mix of humor and pathos resonates well with live audiences.

- **Literary Influence:** Writers and scholars often cite *Canterville Ghost* as a pioneering work that blends genre conventions to explore social commentary through a supernatural lens.

These adaptations demonstrate the story's versatility and its capacity to engage audiences across generations, confirming its place in the canon of classic English literature.

SEO-Optimized Keywords in Context

Throughout literary analysis and discussions, terms like *Oscar Wilde ghost story*, *Victorian satire*, *gothic comedy*, and *classic supernatural fiction* frequently appear alongside mentions of *canterville ghost by oscar wilde*. These keywords help contextualize the novella within broader literary genres and Wilde's body of work, enhancing discoverability for readers seeking in-depth information on the subject.

In addition, phrases such as *ghost story with humor*, *Victorian ghost tale*, and *literary satire by Wilde* naturally complement the primary keyword, enriching content relevance and search engine performance without disrupting narrative flow.

The novella's unique combination of supernatural elements and sharp social critique makes it an exemplary study in how literature can entertain while provoking thoughtful reflection on cultural and ethical issues.

Oscar Wilde's *Canterville Ghost* endures not merely as a ghost story but as a sophisticated social satire that continues to captivate readers with its blend of humor, humanity, and haunting charm. Its timeless appeal lies in Wilde's ability to transform a traditional gothic narrative into a witty exploration of cultural differences, redemption, and the power of kindness. For those interested in literary history, social commentary, or simply a clever ghost tale, *canterville ghost by oscar wilde* remains a compelling and richly rewarding read.

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canterville ghost by oscar wilde: The Canterville Ghost Oscar Wilde, 2024 »The Canterville Ghost« is a short story by Oscar Wilde, originally published in 1891. OSCAR WILDE, born in 1854 in Dublin, died in 1900 in Paris, was an Irish prose writer, playwright, essayist, and poet. Wilde's significance as a symbol for persecuted homosexuals around the world is immeasurable. Wilde himself was sentenced to prison and hard labour, his works were boycotted, theatrical productions

were shut down, and he was publicly vilified. The Picture of Dorian Gray [1890] is his most famous work.

canterville ghost by oscar wilde: The Canterville Ghost Oscar Wilde, 2019-09-17

Annotations-AUTHOR-The Canterville Ghost Summary-The Canterville Ghost Glossary-The Canterville Ghost Themes-The Canterville Ghost Quotes and Analysis-The Canterville Ghost Symbols, Allegory and Motifs-The Canterville Ghost Metaphors and Similes-The Canterville Ghost Irony-The Canterville Ghost Imagery-The Canterville Ghost The Canterville Ghost and Gothic Literature

Horace B. Otis, a wealthy American, purchases Canterville Chase, an ancient English manor-house, despite warnings that the house is known to be haunted. He moves into the house accompanied by his wife, his eldest son Washington, his daughter Virginia, and his two younger twin sons. Immediately upon arrival, the family is confronted by a bloodstain in a sitting room. The housekeeper, Mrs. Umney, explains that the stain has been there since 1575 and is the result of Lady Eleanore de Canterville having been brutally murdered by her husband, Sir Simon de Canterville. The Otis family takes a pragmatic perspective and scrubs the stain away; they repeat the process when the stain continues to reappear every morning. The stubborn reappearance of the stain, as well as other strange occurrences around the house, leads them to consider that the rumor of the ghost may not be totally unfounded. These ideas are confirmed when one night, the sound of clanking chains wakes Mr Otis from his sleep. He gets out of bed and confronts a terrifying ghost, but responds only by recommending that the ghost oil his chains so that he does not cause so much noise when he is walking around at night. Mr. Otis is not the only family member who is not afraid of the ghost: the young twins enjoy tormenting the ghost with pranks. The ghost is very proud of his tradition of terrifying visitors for hundreds of years, and he is determined to strike fear into the American family. However, the more and more terrifying he tries to be, the more they either make fun of or ignore him. Things hit rock bottom for the Canterville Ghost when the twins actually create a fake ghost of their own to scare the real ghost. He accepts that he has lost his status and power, and he begins to become depressed and pine away. Meanwhile, Virginia's beauty has attracted the attention of the young Duke of Cheshire, who comes to stay at Canterville Chase. While he is visiting, Virginia unexpectedly comes across the secret hiding lair of the ghost. The ghost explains his sadness and suffering, telling her that he longs for the peaceful experience of death. He also tells her that because of her purity and innocence, she can help him to achieve this peace. Even though she is frightened, Virginia agrees to help; the two of them pass through a secret opening in the wall and vanish. When Virginia cannot be found, her family and the Duke become very upset. A few hours later, Virginia appears in the dark at the top of the stairs. Her only explanation of her disappearance is that she has assisted in finally bringing eternal rest to the Canterville Ghost. As a token of his thanks and affection, Sir Simon has given her a box filled with jewels. Virginia leads the family into a secret chamber, where they are greeted by the sight of his skeletal remains. Four days later, Sir Simon's body is finally laid to rest with a proper burial. Virginia subsequently marries the Duke of Cheshire. Although she never tells anyone what she experienced when she vanished with the Ghost, she always reflects affectionately on him and his memory.

canterville ghost by oscar wilde: The Canterville Ghost Annotated Oscar Wilde, 2021-05

The Canterville Ghost is a short story by Oscar Wilde. It was the first of Wilde's stories to be published, appearing in two parts 23 February and 2 March 1887. The story is about an American family who move to a castle haunted by the ghost of a dead nobleman, who killed his wife and was starved to death by his wife's brothers. The story begins when the American Minister Mr Otis and his family move into Canterville Chase, despite warnings from Lord Canterville that the house is haunted. Mr Otis says that he will take the furniture as well as the ghost at valuation. The Otis family includes Mr and Mrs Otis, their eldest son Washington, their daughter Virginia, and the Otis twins. The other characters include the Canterville Ghost, the Duke of Cheshire Mrs Umney and Rev Augustus Dampier. At first, none of the Otis family believe in ghosts, but shortly after they move in, none of them can deny the presence of Sir Simon de Canterville. The family hears clanking chains, they witness reappearing bloodstains on the floor just by the fireplace, which are removed every

time they appear in various forms. But, humorously, none of these scare the Otis family in the least. In fact, upon hearing the clanking noises in the hallway, Mr Otis promptly gets out of bed and pragmatically offers the ghost Tammany Rising Sun Lubricator to oil his chains.

canterville ghost by oscar wilde: The Canterville Ghost Annotated Oscar Wilde, 2021-08-03 The Canterville Ghost is a short story by Oscar Wilde. It was the first of Wilde's stories to be published, appearing in two parts 23 February and 2 March 1887. The story is about an American family who move to a castle haunted by the ghost of a dead nobleman, who killed his wife and was starved to death by his wife's brothers. The story begins when the American Minister Mr Otis and his family move into Canterville Chase, despite warnings from Lord Canterville that the house is haunted. Mr Otis says that he will take the furniture as well as the ghost at valuation. The Otis family includes Mr and Mrs Otis, their eldest son Washington, their daughter Virginia, and the Otis twins. The other characters include the Canterville Ghost, the Duke of Cheshire Mrs Umney and Rev Augustus Dampier. At first, none of the Otis family believe in ghosts, but shortly after they move in, none of them can deny the presence of Sir Simon de Canterville. The family hears clanking chains, they witness reappearing bloodstains on the floor just by the fireplace, which are removed every time they appear in various forms. But, humorously, none of these scare the Otis family in the least. In fact, upon hearing the clanking noises in the hallway, Mr Otis promptly gets out of bed and pragmatically offers the ghost Tammany Rising Sun Lubricator to oil his chains.

canterville ghost by oscar wilde: The Canterville Ghost. by Oscar Wilde, 2016-09-27 The Canterville Ghost is a short story by Oscar Wilde, widely adapted for the screen and stage. It was the first of Wilde's stories to be published, appearing in two parts in The Court and Society Review, 23 February and 2 March 1887.[1] The story is about a family who moves to a castle haunted by the ghost of a dead nobleman, who killed his wife and was starved to death by his wife's brothers. The home of the Canterville Ghost was the ancient Canterville Chase, which has all the accoutrements of a traditional haunted house. Descriptions of the wainscoting, the library panelled in black oak, and the armour in the hallway characterise the setting. Wilde mixes the macabre with comedy, juxtaposing devices from traditional English ghost stories such as creaking floorboards, clanking chains, and ancient prophecies. The story begins when Mr Otis and family move into Canterville Chase, despite warnings from Lord Canterville that the house is haunted. Mr Otis says that he will take the furniture as well as the ghost at valuation. The Otis family includes Mr and Mrs Otis, their eldest son Washington, their daughter Virginia and the Otis twins. The other characters include the Canterville Ghost, the Duke of Cheshire (who wants to marry Virginia), Mrs Umney (the housekeeper), and Rev. Augustus Dampier. At first, none of the Otis family believe in ghosts, but shortly after they move in, none of them can deny the presence of Sir Simon de Canterville. The family hears clanking chains, they witness reappearing bloodstains on the floor just by the fireplace, which are removed every time they appear in various forms. But, humorously, none of these scare the Otis family in the least. In fact, upon hearing the clanking noises in the hallway, Mr Otis promptly gets out of bed and pragmatically offers the ghost Tammany Rising Sun Lubricator to oil his chains.

canterville ghost by oscar wilde: The Canterville Ghost by Oscar Wilde Oscar Wilde, 2021-02-26 HOW IS BOOK UNIQUE ? □ Original & Unabridged Edition □ Tablet and e-reader formatted □ Short Biography is also included □ more than 15 Illustrations are included The Canterville Ghost is a popular 1887 novella by Oscar Wilde, widely adapted for the screen and stage. The Canterville Ghost is a parody featuring a dramatic spirit named Sir Simon and the United States minister (ambassador) to the Court of St. James's, Hiram B. Otis. Mr. Otis travels to England with his family and moves into a haunted country house. Lord Canterville, the previous owner of the house, warns Mr. Otis that the ghost of Sir Simon de Canterville has haunted it ever since he killed his wife, Eleonore, three centuries before. But Mr. Otis dismisses the ghost story as bunk and disregards Lord Canterville's warnings. When the Otises learn that the house is indeed haunted, they succeed in victimizing the ghost and in disregarding age-old British traditions. What emerges is a satire of American materialism, a lampoon of traditional British values, and an amusing twist on

the traditional gothic horror tale.

canterville ghost by oscar wilde: The Canterville Ghost Oscar Wilde, 2016-10-24 The Canterville Ghost Oscar Wilde The Canterville Ghost is a short story by Oscar Wilde, widely adapted for the screen and stage. It was the first of Wilde's stories to be published, appearing in two parts in The Court and Society Review, 23 February and 2 March 1887. The story begins when Mr Otis and family move into Canterville Chase, despite warnings from Lord Canterville that the house is haunted. Mr Otis says that he will take the furniture as well as the ghost at valuation. The Otis family includes Mr and Mrs Otis, their eldest son Washington, their daughter Virginia and the Otis twins. The other characters include the Canterville Ghost, the Duke of Cheshire (who wants to marry Virginia), Mrs Umney (the housekeeper), and Rev. Augustus Dampier. At first, none of the Otis family believe in ghosts, but shortly after they move in, none of them can deny the presence of Sir Simon de Canterville . The family hears clanking chains, they witness reappearing bloodstains on the floor just by the fireplace, which are removed every time they appear in various forms. But, humorously, none of these scare the Otis family in the least. In fact, upon hearing the clanking noises in the hallway, Mr Otis promptly gets out of bed and pragmatically offers the ghost Tammany Rising Sun Lubricator to oil his chains.

canterville ghost by oscar wilde: The Canterville Ghost/ Oscar Wilde Oscar WILDE, 2021-03-22 Horace B. Otis, a wealthy American, purchases Canterville Chase, an ancient English manor-house, despite warnings that the house is known to be haunted. He moves into the house accompanied by his wife, his eldest son Washington, his daughter Virginia, and his two younger twin sons. Immediately upon arrival, the family is confronted by a bloodstain in a sitting room. The housekeeper, Mrs. Umney, explains that the stain has been there since 1575 and is the result of Lady Eleanore de Canterville having been brutally murdered by her husband, Sir Simon de Canterville. The Otis family takes a pragmatic perspective and scrubs the stain away; they repeat the process when the stain continues to reappear every morning. The stubborn reappearance of the stain, as well as other strange occurrences around the house, leads them to consider that the rumor of the ghost may not be totally unfounded. These ideas are confirmed when one night, the sound of clanking chains wakes Mr Otis from his sleep. He gets out of bed and confronts a terrifying ghost, but responds only by recommending that the ghost oil his chains so that he does not cause so much noise when he is walking around at night. Mr. Otis is not the only family member who is not afraid of the ghost: the young twins enjoy tormenting the ghost with pranks. The ghost is very proud of his tradition of terrifying visitors for hundreds of years, and he is determined to strike fear into the American family. However, the more and more terrifying he tries to be, the more they either make fun of or ignore him. Things hit rock bottom for the Canterville Ghost when the twins actually create a fake ghost of their own to scare the real ghost. He accepts that he has lost his status and power, and he begins to become depressed and pine away. Meanwhile, Virginia's beauty has attracted the attention of the young Duke of Cheshire, who comes to stay at Canterville Chase. While he is visiting, Virginia unexpectedly comes across the secret hiding lair of the ghost. The ghost explains his sadness and suffering, telling her that he longs for the peaceful experience of death. He also tells her that because of her purity and innocence, she can help him to achieve this peace. Even though she is frightened, Virginia agrees to help; the two of them pass through a secret opening in the wall and vanish. When Virginia cannot be found, her family and the Duke become very upset. A few hours later, Virginia appears in the dark at the top of the stairs. Her only explanation of her disappearance is that she has assisted in finally bringing eternal rest to the Canterville Ghost. As a token of his thanks and affection, Sir Simon has given her a box filled with jewels. Virginia leads the family into a secret chamber, where they are greeted by the sight of his skeletal remains. Four days later, Sir Simon's body is finally laid to rest with a proper burial. Virginia subsequently marries the Duke of Cheshire. Although she never tells anyone what she experienced when she vanished with the Ghost, she always reflects affectionately on him and his memory.

canterville ghost by oscar wilde: The Canterville Ghost by Oscar Wilde. Oscar Wilde., 2016-10-07 The Canterville Ghost By Oscar Wilde. The Canterville Ghost is a short story by Oscar

Wilde, widely adapted for the screen and stage. It was the first of Wilde's stories to be published, appearing in two parts in *The Court and Society Review*, 23 February and 2 March 1887. The story is about a family who moves to a castle haunted by the ghost of a dead nobleman, who killed his wife and was starved to death by his wife's brothers.

canterville ghost by oscar wilde: The Canterville Ghost by Oscar Wilde Oscar Wilde, 2021-04-14 *The Canterville Ghost*. This is Oscar Wilde's tale of the American family moved into a British mansion, Canterville Chase, much to the annoyance of its tired ghost. The family -- which refuses to believe in him -- is in Wilde's way a commentary on the British nobility of the day -- and on the Americans, too. The tale, like many of Wilde's, is rich with allusion, but ends as sentimental romance...

canterville ghost by oscar wilde: The Canterville Ghost Oscar Wilde, 1997 This classic ghost story tells of a malevolent ghost, who discovers there is no peace for the wicked when a rumbustious American family moves into his ancestral home. This is one of the Walker Treasures series - a collection of classic works of literature for children.

canterville ghost by oscar wilde: The Canterville Ghost Oscar Wilde, 2019-10-11 *The Canterville Ghost* is a short story by Oscar Wilde. It was the first of Wilde's stories to be published. The story is about an American family who move to a castle haunted by the ghost of a dead nobleman, who killed his wife and was starved to death by his wife's brothers. It has been adapted for the stage and screen several times.

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The *Canterville Ghost* was Oscar Wilde's first published story, and it premiered in the magazine *The Court and Society Review* (February, 1887). Later, it was published in a collection of short stories titled *Lord Arthur Savile's Crime and Other Stories* (1891). Set in late the 19th century, it tells about an American family's encounter with the ghost of an English nobleman. The setting is an old English country house, *Canterville Chase*. It has all the trappings of a traditional haunted house, but the family that comes to live there belongs to a practical, modern way of life. This sets the stage for the novella. A contrast is shown between traditional English society, which has its roots in a nearly two thousand-year-old history and modern, practical American society, which belongs a nation discovered only in the 17th century. The seller of *Canterville Chase*, Lord *Canterville*, and the buyer, Mr *Otis*, represent these two cultures, respectively. The ghost of Sir *Simon*, a family ancestor, tries his best to scare the *Otis* family with the most gruesome appearances. However, the realistic American family refuses to get scared, and Sir *Simon* ends up only with comic failures. The *Canterville Ghost* is the kind of story one would write if one wanted to make fun of hair-raising ghost stories. Yet, there are moments of pure sentiment that do not seem misplaced in the narrative. Wilde's mastery over sentiment and comedy alike makes this book a perennial favourite. Not surprisingly, the novella has been widely adapted for the screen, theatre, and graphic medium.

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Ghost, the Duke of Cheshire (who wants to marry Virginia), Mrs Umney (the housekeeper), and Rev Augustus Dampier. At first, none of the Otis family believe in ghosts, but shortly after they move in, none of them can deny the presence of Sir Simon de Canterville. The family hears clanking chains, they witness reappearing bloodstains on the floor just by the fireplace, which are removed every time they appear in various forms. But, humorously, none of these scare the Otis family in the least. In fact, upon hearing the clanking noises in the hallway, Mr Otis promptly gets out of bed and pragmatically offers the ghost Tammany Rising Sun Lubricator to oil his chains. Despite the ghost's efforts to appear in the most gruesome guises, the family refuses to be frightened, and Sir Simon feels increasingly helpless and humiliated. When Mrs Otis notices a mysterious red mark on the floor, she simply replies that she does not at all care for blood stains in the sitting room

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