

THE CANTERVILLE GHOST

Based on the story by Oscar Wilde
Script, Music and Lyrics by Darryl Bojanowski

SET: THE LIVING ROOM IN CANTERVILLE CASTLE. IT IS ABOUT 1885. A DOOR TO THE OUTSIDE DL; A STAINED-GLASS WINDOW ON THE SL WALL; SEVERAL ANCIENT PAINTINGS ARE ON THE WALL, INCLUDING ONE OF SIMON DE CANTERVILLE (WHICH IS RIGGED TO SPIN); THERE IS A TRUNK BENEATH THE PORTRAIT. A STAIRWAY ON THE US WALL LEADS TO A LANDING AND A DOORWAY TO THE UPSTAIRS HALLWAY; A DOORWAY TO THE REST OF THE CASTLE IS ON THE SR WALL NEXT TO A LARGE FIREPLACE. FURNITURE INCLUDES A BOOKCASE ON THE SL WALL AND A SOFA COVERED BY A WHITE SHEET. THE OLD CARPET ON THE FLOOR HAS A DARK RED STAIN. A CHANDELIER HANGS ABOVE THE SOFA.

SCENE 1: Night at Canterville Chase

(HOUSELIGHTS OUT; STAGE BLACK; MUSIC 1: WELCOME TO CANTERVILLE CHASE: SPOTLIGHT searches the stage and finds a ghostly face (SIMON) in the doorway which quickly disappears; sound off RIGHT; SPOT pans SR; another noise SL)

SIMON (at SL doorway, unlit)
SINCE THE YEAR OF FIFTEEN EIGHTY-FOUR
AT LEAST ACCORDING TO THE LOCAL LORE
THERE'VE BEEN THINGS YOU CAN'T IGNORE
GOING ON HERE AT CANTERVILLE CHASE

(SPOT SL doorway; SIMON disappears; MUSIC continues; SIMON appears behind sofa)

WHEN THE MOON IS FULL ESPECIALLY
YOU'LL HEAR SOMEONE LAUGH MANIACALLY
IT'S GONE ON FOR CENTURIES
RIGHT HERE AT CANTERVILLE CHASE

(AS SPOT catches him, SIMON disappears again; MUSIC continues; SIMON reappears on upstairs landing)

I KNOW IT SOUNDS LIKE BOASTING
BUT IN TRUTH AND HONESTY
THERE'S NO ONE WHO DOES GHOSTING QUITE LIKE ME

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(SPOT finds SIMON; he disappears again; MUSIC continues; SIMON reappears DR)

AT MOANING, GROANING THERE'S NOBODY WHO
CAN SHAKE A STICK OR HOLD A CANDLE TO
THE ONE THAT I'M REFERRING TO
THE GHOST OF CANTERVILLE CHASE

(LIGHTS ON CHANDELIER SLOWLY UP; SIMON points to PORTRAIT
which spins; he points to CANDLES on mantle, and they fly out landing on the
floor; LIGHTS DIM on stage; SPOT follows SIMON)

FROM THE CELLAR TO THE ATTIC I GO HAUNTING HAPPILY
I'VE A FLAIR FOR THE DRAMATIC, LOOK AT ME!

RATS AND SPIDERS SCAMPER ALL AROUND
MILLIPEDES AND FLYING BATS ABOUND
IN MY HAPPY HAUNTING GROUND
RIGHT HERE AT CANTERVILLE CHASE
SO WELCOME TO CANTERVILLE CHASE

(After music, keys rattle off left. SIMON motions to lights; BLACKOUT. SIMON
EXITS. MRS. UMNEY ENTERS and turns on lights. LIGHTS UP; UMNEY
removes sheet from sofa, takes it off right; she removes her hat and coat and RE-
ENTERS)

UMNEY

Well, I don't know what this place would look like if it wasn't for me.

(notices portrait)

Look at that.

(straighten portrait, but when she turns away it goes crooked again)

Every day it's the same thing. Straighten the curtains, pick up the candles. Straighten the rug.

(notices portrait crooked again)

Really! Why CAN'T you be like the spirit of Hornby Mills? HE never messes up the house. In
fact, HE's been known to dust the mantle himself every now and then. Still, I suppose if you weren't
so messy, I wouldn't have a job anymore.

(Sudden CRASH off right)

UMNEY

Oh, Lordie, protect me!

(A cat runs across the stage)

Oh, it's just YOU, is it? Shame on you, scaring me like that!

(UMNEY returns to cleaning; PORTRAIT spins again. HIRAM OTIS ENTERS behind UMNEY; he sees her and taps her on the shoulder. UMNEY SCREAMS, turns, and sees HIRAM; stops abruptly)

HIRAM (laughing)

There now! THAT'S a wonderful British welcome if I ever did see one. Are you Mrs. Umney?

UMNEY

Yes... Who are you?

HIRAM

Me? Why, I'm Hiram Otis. My family and I are moving in here, to Canterville Chase...

UMNEY

Mr. Otis. Of course. The American.

(LUCRETIA (MRS. OTIS) ENTERS, followed by the twins, VANESSA and VALERIE, about 10 years old, and VIRGINIA, about 14)

LUCRETIA

Well. Isn't this lovely? So very quaint. So -- English. Isn't it lovely, Hiram?

HIRAM

Yes, Lucretia. Very lovely. In a musty sort of way.

(TWINS look around, making faces to indicate their dislike of the place)

LUCRETIA

The whole place is sort of -- antique, don't you think? A little paint here, some new curtains. I can see this whole room in a sort of rose color. With accents of pale green. Oh, this picture will have to go.

(straightens portrait; turns and sees UMNEY)

Oh, hello.

UMNEY

I bid you welcome to Canterville Chase.

LUCRETIA (indicating UMNEY, to HIRAM)

Is this the ghost we've been hearing about, Hiram?

(TWINS show interest)

HIRAM

Ghost? Oh, no.

(looks closely at UMNEY)

At least I don't think so.

UMNEY

I am Mrs. Umney, the housekeeper.

LUCRETIA (looking around, disapprovingly; notices stain on carpet)

Really? I am afraid SOMETHING has spilt here.

UMNEY

Yes, ma'am. Blood has spilt there.

(TWINS are excited; VIRGINIA is startled)

LUCRETIA

Blood! How perfectly horrid! I don't care for bloodstains in the sitting room. It must be removed. At once!

UMNEY (smiling)

Remove it? My dear, Mrs. Otis. That is the blood of Eleanore de Canterville. She was murdered on that spot in 1575.

TWINS

Murdered!?!

UMNEY (walking toward TWINS, who react by walking backwards)

By her own husband, Sir Simon de Canterville.

HIRAM

Sir Simon?

LUCRETIA (moving away from HIRAM)

Murdered by her own husband?

UMNEY

Yes. And nine years later, Sir Simon suddenly disappeared. His body was never found, but his guilty spirit still haunts the Chase. That bloodstain has been admired by tourists for centuries. It cannot be removed.

LUCRETIA

Nonsense. A bit of Pinkerton's Champion Stain Remover and Paragon Detergent will clean it up in no time. Luckily, I brought some with me from America.

(takes jar of “Pinkerton’s” from her bag and hands it to HIRAM)
Here, show her.

HIRAM

Oh, very well.

(HIRAM takes handkerchief from pocket, removes coat)

LUCRETIA

Perhaps Europe has not yet discovered Pinkerton’s, Mrs. Umney. Let us enlighten you.
(she takes out a pitch pipe and blows an E, then a C)
Shall we?

(MUSIC 2: PINKERTON’S)

LUCRETIA and VIRGINIA

GREASE ON THE COUNTER, FINGERPRINTS ON THE WALL

HIRAM

DUST ON THE PICTURES HANGING IN THE HALL

TWINS

SMUDGES ON THE WINDOWS SOON WILL BE GONE

ALL

THANKS TO PINKERTON’S CHAMPION STAIN REMOVER AND PARAGON
DETERGENT

PINKERTON’S CHAMPION STAIN REMOVER

IT’S AMERICA’S HOME IMPROVER

PINKERTON’S CHAMPION STAIN REMOVER AND PARAGON DETERGENT

TWINS

RUB-A-DUB SCRUB-A-DUB, WIPE IT AWAY

FOR A CLEAN, CLEAN, CLEANER, CLEANER CLEANING DAY

LUCRETIA and VIRGINIA

RUB-A-DUB SCRUB-A-DUB, DIRT IS ALL GONE

ALL

WITH PINKERTON’S CHAMPION AND PARAGON

PINKERTON’S CHAMPION AND PARAGON

PINKERTON’S CHAMPION AND PAR-A-GON -- DETERGENT!

LUCRETIA

Show her, Hiram.

(HIRAM bends down and starts to apply Pinkerton's)

HIRAM

Rub-a-dub, scrub-a-dub.

UMNEY

No! Don't!

HIRAM

There. All done.

LUCRETIA

I knew Pinkerton's could do it.

(Suddenly THUNDER; LIGHTNING through window; LIGHTS go out; SIMON appears at the window; UMNEY sees him and faints; LIGHTS come back on. TWINS hide behind sofa; VIRGINIA stands behind UMNEY)

HIRAM

What a monstrous climate. Only the English would CHOOSE to stay in England. If they had any sense, they would emigrate to America.

LUCRETIA (standing over UMNEY)

Hiram, what CAN we do about a housekeeper who faints?

HIRAM

Charge it to her salary, the same as if she broke something. She won't faint after that.

(UMNEY awakens; HIRAM gestures as if to say "I told you so"; helps UMNEY stand up)

UMNEY

I have seen things here with my own eyes that would make any Christian's hair stand on end. And many and many a night I have not closed my eyes in sleep for the awful things that have been done here.

LUCRETIA (gets her purse and takes out a bottle; hands it to UMNEY)

Well, a bit of Stanton Sleep Powder would help with that. Straight from America. Really, this is such a backward kind of country.

(THUNDER off; TWINS hide again)

LUCRETIA

It's probably the weather.

UMNEY

Mark my words. If it were me, I would leave this place now while I still had a chance. Sir Simon is not going to like having newcomers about the place. Especially newcomers from the provinces.

LUCRETIA

The provinces?

VIRGINIA

I think she means the states.

(to UMNEY)

Canada has provinces. America has states.

UMNEY

States, provinces. It's the same thing, you know. So --- provincial. The ghost of Sir Simon couldn't care less.

VIRGINIA

Father, do you think there really is a ghost here?

HIRAM

With all our young people over here painting the old world red, white and blue, and taking the best actors and prima donnas home with them? If there were any ghosts in Europe, there would be one at home in our public museums. Or on the road in a show.

LUCRETIA

Yes. I'd say our Mister P. T. Barnum would have one on display by now.

UMNEY

Believe what you will for now. You will find out for yourselves soon enough if you decide to stay here. Sir Simon's ghost has walked these halls since 1584.

HIRAM

Well, I don't believe in ghosts. They're not natural and I don't think the laws of nature are going to be lifted just for the British aristocracy.

UMNEY

Hmmph! If you don't mind a ghost in the house, that's your business. Only remember that I warned you.

LUCRETIA

Warning duly noted. Now, if you don't mind, there are bags to unpack

UMNEY

Yes, ma'am.

HIRAM

I'll help carry them in.

(UMNEY and HIRAM EXIT)

LUCRETIA

What do you think of Canterville Chase, Virginia?

VIRGINIA

It seems like a very sad place, Mother.

LUCRETIA

Sad? How so?

VIRGINIA

Don't you feel it? It's as if the sun never shines here. As if it's not ALLOWED to shine here.

(TWINS are sneaking up behind VIRGINIA)

LUCRETIA

It's just the dust, dear. If that housekeeper did what she is paid to do, you'd see plenty of sunshine.

VIRGINIA

It's not the dust, Mother. It's much more than that...

(TWINS flank VIRGINIA)

TWINS

Boo!

(VIRGINIA chases TWINS)

LUCRETIA

Here, now, you two! That's enough of that. Now, behave yourselves while I check out the bedroom. Don't fret, Virginia. We'll get this place straightened out in no time. A little wallpaper and yellow paint will do wonders.

(LUCRETIA EXITS upstairs)

VANESSA

You're not afraid of some ghost are you?

VIRGINIA

Of course not. It's like Papa said. If there really were ghosts in England, somebody would have caught one and put it in a museum by now.

(SIMON appears at the SR entrance and listens)

VALERIE

I don't know about that. I hear they can walk through walls and stuff. They would just walk out of any cage you put them in.

VANESSA

Yeah. And how would they catch one in the first place? I bet ghosts are just about the hardest things in the world to catch.

VALERIE

I bet WE could do it!

VIRGINIA

Why would you want to catch a ghost?

VALERIE

So he could grant us three wishes, silly.

VIRGINIA

Genies grant wishes, not ghosts.

VALERIE

Oh.

VANESSA

Look, the reason to catch a ghost is because it would be fun. It's like fishing. Most of the time you don't keep the fish you catch. You throw 'em back in the water.

VIRGINIA

I don't like fishing.

VANESSA

Nobody asked you.

VIRGINIA

If you caught a ghost, he'd probably just disappear. You couldn't prove you caught him.

VANESSA

That's true.

VALERIE

She's just trying to keep us from trying to catch this ghost.

VIRGINIA

Well, it wouldn't be very nice...

VALERIE

Nice? You're worrying about being nice to a spooky, creepy ghost?

VIRGINIA

Ghosts probably have feelings, too. Just like people.

VANESSA

I thought you said you don't believe in ghosts.

VIRGINIA

I don't. At least I don't think I do...

(UMNEY and HIRAM ENTER with baggage, start to take it upstairs; SIMON
EXITS)

HIRAM

What are you children doing? It's time you started getting ready for bed.

VANESSA

Aw, Papa, we just got here,

HIRAM

It's not my fault the English trains run so late. Now, in Boston, the trains are always on time.

UMNEY

I'm sure they are.

VALERIE

We want to explore the place.

HIRAM

Plenty of time for that tomorrow.

VANESSA

We were just talking about the ghost.

VALERIE

We were trying to figure out a way to catch him.

UMNEY (drops suitcase)

Catch him? Oh, dear!

HIRAM

Well, the first thing to do is find him. Have you seen any ghosts running around?

VALERIE

No.

HIRAM

And you won't either. There are no ghosts here or anywhere else. Now come to bed. We're taking your bags to your room.

(UMNEY picks up suitcase)

VANESSA

We'll be up in a few minutes, Papa.

HIRAM

Well, don't take too long.

(HIRAM and UMNEY take bags upstairs)

VANESSA

He's right. The first thing we have to do is find the ghost.

VALERIE

How do we do that?

(SIMON appears on landing)

VANESSA

I don't know yet. But I'll think of something.

VIRGINIA

This is silly.

VANESSA

Come on, Valerie. We'll figure out some way to do it.

VALERIE

All right.

VANESSA (to VIRGINIA)

Good night, scaredy-pants.

(SIMON DISAPPEARS; TWINS EXIT upstairs)

VIRGINIA

I'm not a scaredy-pants!

(MUSIC 3: GOBLINS AND GHOSTIES. VIRGINIA looks at bookshelf; sudden sound OFF RIGHT. VIRGINIA crosses and looks off to investigate; SIMON ENTER through fireplace, crawl across stage and EXIT LEFT. VIRGINIA circles couch and looks at mantle. Chandelier DIMS; during song VIRGINIA explores room and SIMON watches and sometimes follows her)

VIRGINIA

GOBLINS AND GHOSTIES, LONG-LEGGEDY BEASTIES
AND THINGS THAT GO BUMP IN THE NIGHT
ARE EASY TO JEER AT
TO MOCK AND TO SNEER AT
AS LONG AS THERE'S PLENTY OF LIGHT
WITCHES AND WEREWOLVES AND VAMPIRE BATS
AND THINGS THAT HIDE UNDER THE BED
MAY STARTLE AND BOO SOME
BUT STILL THEY'RE LESS GRUESOME
UNTIL ALL THE SUNSHINE HAS FLED

I'VE HEARD THERE ARE SPECTRES WHO HAUNT ANCIENT HALLS
IN CASTLES BUILT SO LONG AGO
WITH NO PROVOCATION THEY WALK THROUGH THE WALLS
I GUESS THEY JUST DO IT FOR SHOW

THEY TELL ME OF BANSHEES WHO HOWL ON THE MOOR
BY THE LIGHT OF AN OCTOBER MOON
IT'S AN OLD SUPERSTITION I'D LIKE TO EXPLORE
IF I CAN BE HOME BY NOON

(VIRGINIA goes upstairs. SIMON appears behind her on the landing as she faces the audience)

GOBLINS AND GHOSTIES, LONG-LEGGEDY BEASTIES
AND THINGS WITH A GREENISHY GLOW
ALL SHAPES AND ALL SIZES
AND FULL OF SURPRISES
SURPRISES I'D RATHER NOT KNOW

(she turns suddenly just as SIMON ducks into hallway; she starts downstairs)

WITCHES AND WEREWOLVES AND VAMPIRE BATS
AND THINGS THAT STAY OUT OF THE LIGHT
IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE IN A THING YOU CAN'T SEE
THAT CONVENIENTLY STAYS OUT OF SIGHT

I'VE HEARD THERE ARE PHANTOMS WHO FLY THROUGH THE AIR
WHEN YOU TURN BACK TO SEE THEM, THEY'RE GONE
WELL, IT'S MY OPINION THEY NEVER WERE THERE
BUT IF THEY WERE THERE THEN I'M WRONG
IF THIS ONE IS REAL THEN I HOPE THAT AT LEAST HE
CAN HELP ME DECIDE WHICH IS RIGHT
ABOUT GOBLINS AND GHOSTIES, LONG LEGGEDY BEASTIES
AND THINGS THAT GO BUMP IN THE NIGHT

(TWINS appear on landing and watch VIRGINIA; they tiptoe downstairs and EXIT
SR unseen)

GOBLINS AND GHOSTIES, LONG-LEGGEDY BEASTIES
GOBLINS AND GHOSTIES, LONG-LEGGEDY BEASTIES
GOBLINS AND GHOSTIES, LONG-LEGGEDY BEASTIES
AND THINGS THAT GO BUMP IN THE NIGHT
THINGS THAT GO BUMP IN THE NIGHT

(During applause, TWINS ENTER wearing sheet; SIMON watches from fireplace)

TWINS (charging VIRGINIA)

Boooo!

(VIRGINIA startles, then pulls sheet off TWINS; TWINS laugh; SIMON nods
disapprovingly and EXITS)

VIRGINIA

That was mean!

VANESSA

Mother says it's time for bed.

VALERIE

For ALL of us. That includes you.

VIRGINIA

Oh, all right.

(TWINS and VIRGINIA EXIT UPSTAIRS. SIMON ENTERS DL moaning and carrying chains which he rattles. Suddenly stops, looks at rug)

SIMON

By my troth, the stain is gone! What manner of magic can have done this?

(he sees the jar of Pinkerton's. picks it up)

So! That stain has been there for over three hundred years! How dare they come in here and destroy a part of my heritage? Well. At least I shall have the satisfaction of knowing they will not be here for long. No one ever stays here for long. Still, the stain. What shall I do?

(SIMON replaces jar, notices VIRGINIA's paint set on the bookshelf, picks it up; looks at floor again)

SIMON

Why not?

(he paints a new stain on carpet using GREEN paint)

Let them puzzle over that in the morning. Now, back to work.

(LIGHTS FADE to BLACK as SIMON goes upstairs rattling chains and moaning;
MUSIC 4: SCENE CHANGE)

SCENE 2: Next Morning

(LIGHTS UP. UMNEY ENTER DL. She carries a book. Notices stain on floor and smiles. She starts toward SR door as VIRGINIA ENTERS through same door, surprising UMNEY who drops book)

UMNEY

Goodness, child. You frightened me within an inch of my life.

VIRGINIA (picking up book)

I'm sorry, Mrs. Umney.

UMNEY

Are you always up and about this early?

VIRGINIA (putting book on sofa)

No. But I didn't sleep well. I kept thinking about poor Sir Simon.

UMNEY

Poor Sir Simon? Believe me, child. That is one person I shall never feel sorry for.

VIRGINIA (noticing the stain)

The stain! It's back!

UMNEY

Yes. I suppose that will prove to you that the ghost is real.

VIRGINIA

But it's not red like yesterday. It's green. I've never seen green blood before.

UMNEY

Exactly. Only a ghost could make green blood appear.

VIRGINIA (crossing to shelf and looking at paint set)

Yes. I suppose that could explain it.

UMNEY

I daresay.

VIRGINIA (looking at window)

Mrs. Umney, what is this verse on the window?

UMNEY

What is it? Why, centuries ago, someone etched it in the glass. It is supposed to have something to do with the ghost. But I don't know.

VIRGINIA (reading)

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

What does it mean?

UMNEY

I have no idea. Perhaps it means nothing at all.

(HIRAM and LUCRETIA ENTER on landing)

LUCRETIA

Really, Hiram. We must do something. I hardly got any sleep last night.

HIRAM

I know. You kept waking me up.

LUCRETIA

I don't know how anyone could have slept through all that racket. Chains rattling, moaning and groaning. It was enough to wake the dead. Really, Mrs. Umney, are all the ghosts in England so inconsiderate?

UMNEY

I beg your pardon?

LUCRETIA

Live Englishmen are bad enough, but English ghosts are intolerable.

UMNEY

I'm afraid I don't understand.

LUCRETIA

It's that infernal ghost! All night long he was dragging his chains down the hall. Didn't you hear it?

UMNEY

No. He stays here in the main house. Never comes to the guest house where I stay.

LUCRETIA (seeing stain)

Oh, no! Not again. Look, Hiram. That stain is back.

HIRAM

Well, I'll just clean it up again.

(HIRAM gets jar of Pinkerton's and cleans up stain)

HIRAM (sings a cappella)

RUB-DUB, SCRUB-A DUB, WIPE IT AWAY

FOR A CLEAN, CLEAN, CLEANER, CLEANER CLEANING DAY

LUCRETIA

He's your countryman, Mrs. Umney. What do you think we should do?

UMNEY

Do? Why, not a thing.

LUCRETIA

I beg your pardon?

HIRAM

Not a thing?

UMNEY

Sir Simon has been haunting Canterville Chase for 300 years. Really. You Americans have no respect for tradition.

LUCRETIA

I certainly have no respect for traditions that keep me awake all night long. And stain the carpet.

(HIRAM finishes cleaning and puts bottle back on shelf)

UMNEY

There is only one solution that I can think of.

HIRAM

And that is?

UMNEY

You must move out.

LUCRETIA

What?

UMNEY

Meaning no disrespect, ma'am, but the ghost has been here a long time. I don't think HE'LL be leaving any time soon.

LUCRETIA

We Otises are Americans, Mrs. Umney. We do not give up so easily as that. We are red, white and blue through and through.

(MUSIC 5: RED WHITE AND BLUE THROUGH AND THROUGH)

HIRAM

FROM THE WIDE WIDE PACIFIC
TO THE CAROLINA SHORE
AND THE HEART OF THE SWEEPING
PLAIN
FROM THE MOUNTAINS OF MONTANA
WHERE THE EAGLES SOAR
TO THE AMBER WAVES OF WHEAT
AND GRAIN
FROM THE LAKES OF MINNESOTA

LUCRETIA AND VIRGINIA

AH
AH
HEART OF THE SWEEPING
SWEEPING PLAIN
AH
EAGLES SOAR
TO THE AMBER FIELDS OF WHEAT
AND GRAIN, AND GRAIN
FROM THE LAKES OF MINNESOTA

TO THE MISSISSIPPI DELTA
NO ONE HAS EVER FELT A PRIDE
AS GREAT AS OURS

TO THE MISSISSIPPI DELTA
NO ONE – FELT A PRIDE
AS GREAT AS OURS

(TWINS ENTER on landing)

DO YOU HEAR THE DISTANT
DRUMMERS RUMPUMPUMMING?
FEEL THE HUMMING OF THE
CROWD'S ANTICIPATION
HEAR THE TOOTLE-OOTLE FLUTLE-
OOTLE
WARMING UP WITH YANKEE DOODLE
TRUMPETS CALL! TANTA-RAL! AND
DOWN THE AVENUE
THEY'RE COMING

RUM, PUM
RUM, PUM, PUM
RUM, PUM
RUM, PUM, PUM
TOOTLE-OO, TOOTLE-OO-TOO
TOOTLE-OO, TOOTLE-OO-TOO
TRUMPETS CALL! TANTA-RAL! AND
DOWN THE AVENUE
THEY'RE COMING

HUT TWO THREE FOUR
HUNDRED FEET RESOUNDING
AND OUR HEARTS ARE POUNDING
IN EXHILARATION
WHEN OLD GLORY PASSES BY
THERE'S A TEAR IN EVERY EYE
FOR WE'RE RED WHITE AND BLUE
THROUGH AND THROUGH

HUT 2, 3, 4
HUT 2, 3, 4
HEARTS POUND
TIME TO CELEBRATE
WHEN OLD GLORY PASSES BY
THERE'S A TEAR IN EVERY EYE
FOR WE'RE RED, WHITE AND BLUE
THROUGH AND THROUGH

HIRAM, LUCRETIA AND VIRGINIA
YES WE'RE RED WHITE AND BLUE THROUGH AND THROUGH

TWINS
THROUGH AND THROUGH

HIRAM, LUCRETIA AND VIRGINIA
AND WE'LL SING IT OUT IN VOICES STRONG AND TRUE

TWINS
STRONG AND TRUE

ALL BUT UMNEY
THERE'S NOBODY WHO CAN DO WHAT AMERICANS CAN DO
YES, WE'RE RED WHITE AND BLUE THROUGH AND THROUGH

HIRAM
DING, DONG

LUCRETIA AND VIRGINIA
DO YOU HEAR

DING, DONG
DING, DONG

THE BELL OF LIBERTY IS RINGING
DING DONG DINGING OUT A SONG
OF CELEBRATION

DING-A-DING, DING, DONG

HIRAM, LUCRETIA AND VIRGINIA
SEE THE CHILDREN'S FACES LIGHT IN WONDER
WHILE THE ROCKETS ROAR AND THUNDER
GLARING RED OVERHEAD
IT'S QUITE A BALLYHOO

HIRAM
WE ARE THE HEIRS OF GEN'RAL WASHINGTON AND LINCOLN
AND I'M THINKIN' THAT THERE IS NO OTHER NATION
THAT IS HALF AS A-OKAY
AS THE GOOD OLD U S A

HIRAM, LUCRETIA AND VIRGINIA
YES, WE'RE RED WHITE AND BLUE THROUGH AND THROUGH
YES, WE'RE RED WHITE AND BLUE THROUGH AND THROUGH

TWINS
THROUGH AND THROUGH

HIRAM, LUCRETIA AND VIRGINIA
AND WE'LL SING IT OUT IN VOICES STRONG AND TRUE

TWINS
STRONG AND TRUE

ALL BUT UMNEY
THERE'S NOBODY WHO CAN DO WHAT AMERICANS CAN DO
YES, WE'RE RED WHITE AND BLUE THROUGH AND THROUGH

LUCRETIA (spoken)
We Americans have everything. Mrs. Umney. What do the English have --- except ghosts?

UMNEY
WE HAVE MANNERS, STABILITY, GOOD POSTURE AND GENTILITY
A THOUSAND YEARS OF HISTORY HAVE MADE US WHAT WE ARE
WE HAVE TEA, WE HAVE CRUMPETS
AND GUARDS WITH HERALD TRUMPETS
WE ALWAYS DINE ON BEEF AND CAVIAR
WE HAVE DICTION AND USE IT

WE NEVER WOULD ABUSE IT
SPEAKING ENGLISH IS AN ART DEMANDING SPECIAL CARE
YOU CAN KEEP YOUR NORTH DAKOTA AND YOUR DELAWARE
OUR FLAG IS EVERYWHERE
GOD SAVE THE QUEEN
YES, OUR FLAG IS EVERYWHERE

(TWINS EXIT and return concealing small American flags which they give to
Hiram, Lucretia and Virginia behind their backs)

VIRGINIA, HIRAM AND LUCRETIA (sing acapella)
THERE'S A FEELING DEEP INSIDE US THAT CANNOT BE IGNORED
IN EVERY LOYAL YANKEE A PATRIOTIC CHORD
IT STRETCHES ALL THE WAY FROM GETTYSBURG TO VALLEY FORGE
AS AMERICAN AS THOMAS EDISON AND HENRY FORD

(MUSIC STARTS AGAIN; TWINS sing with their family)

THE OTISES
DO YOU HEAR THE DISTANT DRUMMERS
RUMPUMPUMMING
FEEL THE HUMMING OF THE CROWD'S
ANTICIPATION
HEAR THE TOOTLE-OOTLE FLUTLE-
OOTLE
WARMING UP WITH YANKEE DOODLE
TRUMPETS CALL, TANTA-RAL AND DOWN
THE AVENUE
HUT 2 3 4 HUNDRED FEET RESOUNDING
AND OUR HEARTS ARE POUNDING IN
EXHILARATION
WHEN OLD GLORY PASSES BY

THERE'S A TEAR IN EVERY EYE

FOR WE'RE RED WHITE AND BLUE
THROUGH AND THROUGH
YES WE'RE RED WHITE AND BLUE
THROUGH AND THROUGH
YES WE'RE RED WHITE AND BLUE
THROUGH AND THROUGH

UMNEY
WE HAVE MANNERS, STABILITY,
GOOD POSTURE AND GENTILITY
A THOUSAND YEARS OF HISTORY
HAVE MADE US WHAT WE ARE
WE HAVE TEA, WE HAVE CRUMPETS
AND GUARDS WITH HERALD
TRUMPETS
WE ALWAYS DINE ON BEEF AND
CAVIAR
WE HAVE DICTION AND USE IT
WE NEVER WOULD ABUSE IT

SPEAKING ENGLISH IS AN ART
DEMANDING SPECIAL CARE
YOU CAN KEEP YOUR NORTH
DAKOTA AND YOUR DELAWARE
OUR FLAG IS EVERYWHERE
GOD SAVE THE QUEEN

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN

(At end of song, ALL wave flags; OTISES on stairway; UMNEY DS in front of
sofa)

UMNEY

Well, if you aren't leaving, I'd best get to my cleaning. If you'll excuse me, Mister and Missus.

HIRAM

Of course.

VANESSA

Did you hear all that noise last night, Papa?

HIRAM

Only by proxy. Your mother kept me updated.

VALERIE

I got up once and looked out in the hall, but I didn't see anything.

VANESSA (to VIRGINIA)

I don't suppose you heard anything?

VIRGINIA

No. Not a thing.

VANESSA

That figures.

LUCRETIA (loudly, as if also complaining to SIMON)

It was that noisy ghost, dear. The rudest ghost in all England. In all Europe!

(LIGHTS flicker; PORTRAIT spins)

VALERIE

Papa! The picture!

LUCRETIA

Do something, Hiram!

HIRAM

Now see here, Salmon...

VIRGINIA

His name is Simon.

HIRAM

Oh. Now see here, Simon dee Canterburg.

LUCRETIA

CanterVILLE, dear, not CanterBURG.

HIRAM

CanterVILLE! Really, what difference does it make?

LUCRETIA

It is important to be accurate in these things.

HIRAM

Very well. Sir SIMON duh CanterVILLE. We have had quite enough of this rude behavior. I hate having to be so stern, but if this continues, I will have to --- I shall have to --- I shall have to DO something about it.

LUCRETIA

What, dear?

HIRAM

Pardon?

LUCRETIA

What will you have to do?

HIRAM

I shall have to --- I shall have to take drastic measures!

LUCRETIA

Well, that should do it.

HIRAM

I've never threatened a ghost before.

LUCRETIA

You sounded stern enough. Perhaps you've had some effect on him. Now, we need to go to town and pick up some paint and order some curtains. You children can come along if you wish.

(TWINS roll their eyes)

LUCRETIA

I didn't think so. Virginia, you'd better stay here and mind the twins. We shouldn't be too long.

(LUCRETIA EXITS as UMNEY ENTERS wearing apron, carrying feather duster)

HIRAM (to UMNEY)
Is there someplace in town where I might buy a pair of earplugs?

UMNEY
So the ghost won't keep you awake?

HIRAM
So the ghost won't keep HER awake.

UMNEY
Try Lambright's. They might have some.

HIRAM
Thanks.

LUCRETIA (off)
Come along now, Hiram.

HIRAM
Coming.

(HIRAM EXIT; UMNEY straightens portrait and dusts it)

UMNEY
If you children need me, I'll be dusting the library.

(UMNEY EXITS right; PORTRAIT goes crooked)

VANESSA
I've been thinking. Maybe instead of catching the ghost, we should just have a little fun with him.

VALERIE
What do you mean?

VANESSA
Come on. I have an idea.

(TWINS EXIT; VIRGINIA sees UMNEY's book on sofa and picks it up)

VIRGINIA (reading cover)
"Strange Goings-On at Canterville Chase"

[(UMNEY ENTERS)

UMNEY

Excuse me. I meant to take that with me.

VIRGINIA (handing her the book)

What is it, exactly?

UMNEY

It's a sort of record book. I have compiled all the stories I have ever heard about Simon de Canterville's appearances here and written them down. I thought someday it might make an interesting history. People are always intrigued by the supernatural.

VIRGINIA

The supernatural?

(TWINS appear on landing and listen in)

UMNEY

Things that cannot be explained scientifically. Like ghosts.

VIRGINIA

Do you mind if I look at your book?

UMNEY

You might find it rather frightening reading.

VIRGINIA

If I find it's too scary, I'll just stop reading.

UMNEY (handing her the book reluctantly)

Well. All right.

(UMNEY EXITS RIGHT. VALERIE EXITS & RETURNS immediately with a sheet. TWINS put it over themselves and slowly approach VIRGINIA as she reads. SIMON appears on landing.)

VIRGINIA (reading)

"These are the true accounts of the ghost of Canterville Chase, compiled from letters, notes and personal remembrances of those who encountered him first-hand. It all began in 1584 when Simon de Canterville, the most evil man to ever walk on the face of the earth, died mysteriously...

TWINS

Boooo!

(VIRGINIA startles, then pulls sheet off TWINS; TWINS EXIT LEFT running (outside), followed by VIRGINIA. SIMON comes downstairs, picks up book and starts reading)

SIMON

“Strange Goings-On at Canterville Chase.” I’m flattered. To think that someone would think my story interesting enough to collect all these anecdotes.

(UMNEY ENTERS, sees SIMON and faints. SIMON shrugs and continues reading. He crosses to the sofa and notices stain is gone again)

SIMON

Not again!

(SIMON gets paint set and paints blue stain)

SIMON

There. That should give them something to think about.

(SIMON returns paint set, EXITS upstairs. TWINS ENTER LEFT followed by VIRGINIA; UMNEY stirs)

VIRGINIA

Just you wait until Papa gets back. He’ll take care of you.

VANESSA

Look! The stain is back!

VALERIE

It’s blue this time.

(UMNEY groans; VIRGINIA crosses to her)

VIRGINIA

Mrs. Umney, what happened? Did you fall?

UMNEY (slowly standing)

I saw him. Right there on the sofa. He was reading my book!

VANESSA

Saw who?

UMNEY

Him! The ghost! Simon de Canterville!

VALERIE

Darn! We missed him. It's all your fault, Virginia.

UMNEY

All these years I've never heard of him coming out in the daytime.

VANESSA

Maybe he was always here but you didn't see him.

UMNEY

I'm going to give notice. I can't stay here now. Ghosts wandering around the house at night is one thing. During the day is quite another. It's positively non-British.

VIRGINIA

Please don't leave Canterville Chase, Mrs. Umney.

(to TWINS)

This is all your fault.

VANESSA

How is it our fault? We didn't scare her.

VIRGINIA

No, but if you hadn't been playing around with that sheet, I would have been here and maybe she wouldn't have seen that ghost.

(VIRGINIA EXIT LEFT. TWINS look at each other and smile. TWINS EXIT upstairs; HIRAM and LUCRETIA ENTER. HIRAM carries shopping bags. LUCRETIA crosses to sofa and sees stain)

LUCRETIA

Hiram, I thought you cleaned up this stain.

HIRAM

I did. Honestly, if this keeps up, we're going to run out of stain remover. I'll put these things away and clean it up again.

(HIRAM EXITS upstairs with bags. LUCRETIA stares at spot. Behind her, SIMON ENTERS LEFT, takes stain remover from shelf and EXITS. HIRAM returns, comes downstairs and looks for stain remover)

HIRAM

That's strange. I could have sworn I left the Champion Stain Remover right here.

LUCRETIA

You're so forgetful. Here. I have an extra bottle. I never go anywhere without an extra bottle of Pinkerton's Champion Stain Remover and Paragon Detergent.

HIRAM (takes bottle from her)

I'm sure I left it right here.

LUCRETIA

I'm sure it will show up. I'm going to go change my clothes.

(LUCRETIA EXIT UPSTAIRS. HIRAM puts Stain Remover on rag and bends down to clean stain. SIMON ENTERS behind him, scowls at HIRAM. He picks up jar, drinks the contents and EXITS. HIRAM gets up, attempts to put more Stain Remover on rag, but finds jar is empty. He looks puzzled, then EXITS UPSTAIRS. BLACKOUT)

SCENE 3: That Evening

(MUSIC 6: SCENE CHANGE. LIGHTS UP on same set. HIRAM sits on sofa reading newspaper. LUCRETIA holds up swatches of wallpaper near the window. She nods no to each one. TWINS are sitting on floor DR plotting how to have fun with the ghost)

LUCRETIA (finding a swatch she likes]

I think this will be very nice in this room. What do you think, Hiram?

HIRAM (not looking)

Very nice.

LUCRETIA

Of course we would have to get a new rug. Not that replacing that monstrosity would be bad. What do you think, Hiram?

HIRAM (not looking)

Whatever you say, dear.

LUCRETIA

Perhaps something with little blue flowers running through it...

HIRAM (not looking)

Good idea.

LUCRETIA (cross and take newspaper)

You're not listening to me, are you?

HIRAM

Of course I am. You want to put a rug on the wall and plant some blue flowers. Right?

LUCRETIA (returning newspaper)

Not exactly. That horrid portrait will have to be replaced. It is so ugly!

(turn to HIRAM, who is reading again)

Don't you agree?

(PORTRAIT goes crooked)

HIRAM

My dear, I leave the decorating entirely up to you. I trust you completely. Your taste is impeccable.

LUCRETIA

That's true.

(LUCRETIA straighten portrait. VIRGINIA ENTER from upstairs, reading UMNEY's book. PORTRAIT goes crooked again)

LUCRETIA

What are you reading, dear?

VIRGINIA

It's a book Mrs. Umney is writing.

LUCRETIA

Umney? Writing a book?

VIRGINIA

It's very interesting.

LUCRETIA (takes book and looks at cover)

"Strange Goings-On at Canterville Chase." Oh, my. I don't that is suitable reading for a young girl like you, Virginia. No. Not at all.

(LUCRETIA opens book and starts reading. She immediately gets interested, crosses to sofa and sits down. CLOCK chimes TEN)

HIRAM (putting paper down and looking at watch)

Ten o'clock. Time to head off to bed now, children.

VANESSA

Aw, Papa, we want to stay up and see the ghost.

HIRAM

No. It's bedtime. You, too, Virginia.

VIRGINIA

All right. Good night, Mother.

LUCRETIA (engrossed in book)

Good night.

(VIRGINIA EXITS upstairs; HIRAM shoos TWINS upstairs and starts up himself)

HIRAM

Are you coming, Lucretia?

LUCRETIA

Hmmm? Oh, yes. I'll be up in a few minutes.

(HIRAM straightens portrait on way upstairs and EXITS. SIMON ENTER LEFT, see LUCRETIA and motions for lights to DIM)

LUCRETIA

Stop playing with the lights, Hiram. I'll be up in a minute or two.

(SIMON stands behind LUCRETIA and makes a scary pose over her shoulder)

LUCRETIA

Stop reading over my shoulder, Hiram. You can read it when I'm finished.

(SIMON moans)

LUCRETIA

Now, that's quite enough. Making fun of me like that.

(SIMON looks disgusted and EXITS RIGHT)

HIRAM (from upstairs)

Lucretia! Come to bed!

LUCRETIA

Just a minute.

(LUCRETIA suddenly realizes she was not talking to HIRAM. She puts book down, looks around and hurriedly goes upstairs. As soon as she EXITS, SIMON ENTERS DR)

SIMON

These invaders from the colonies have been here long enough. Redecorating the Chase. The very idea. It's perfect just the way it is. Now, how shall I make their evening memorable? The standard floating through the air routine didn't have much effect last night. I need something more theatrical. Perhaps the fire-eyed monster. Yes! One of my favorite characters. They will be so frightened they won't even wait until morning to pack.

(SIMON takes out costume from trunk and EXITS RIGHT; MUSIC 7: SIMON CHANGES; after music, SIMON ENTERS as the Fire-Eyed Monster, making a lot of noise, rattling chains and moaning)

LUCRETIA (from upstairs)

Hiram! Do you hear that? It's that ghost again.

HIRAM (upstairs)

Well, what of it?

LUCRETIA

Hiram! Give him the Tammany's!

HIRAM

Oh, all right.

(HIRAM ENTERS from upstairs, dressed in nightshirt and cap. He carries a small bottle. SIMON hides and moans quietly. When HIRAM reaches the bottom stair, SIMON jumps out pointing at HIRAM and laughing maniacally)

HIRAM

Sir, I must insist on your oiling those chains. You kept the missus awake all last night and I'll not have it again. This bottle of Tammany Rising Sun Lubricant will take care of it. It is said to be effective with one small application.

(shows SIMON the label)

See the label? Here, let me read it to you.

(MUSIC 8: TAMMANY'S RISING SUN LUBRICANT)

SQUEAKY HINGES, SQUEAKY DOORS
SQUEAKY STAIRS AND SQUEAKY FLOORS
SQUEAKINESS IS ON THE RUN
WITH TAMMANY'S, TAMMANY'S RISING SUN

TAMMANY'S, TAMMANYS RISING SUN LUBRICANT
OH, YES
IT'S TAMMANY'S, TAMMANY'S RUSING SUN LUBRICANT

(speaking)

The cant that can. Get it? Lubri-CANT that CAN.

(SIMON doesn't react; HIRAM stiffens)

If you need more, just let us know. Tomorrow. Good night.

(HIRAM puts bottle in SIMON's hand and EXITS upstairs. SIMON doesn't move)

SIMON

What was all that about?

(SIMON looks at bottle, takes it to shelf. TWINS ENTER on landing carrying a ghost made from a white rag on a balloon. TWINS moan, SIMON turns, they throw the "ghost" at him)

SIMON

A ghost!!!

(SIMON hides beside fireplace; TWINS laugh)

LUCRETIA (off)

Go to bed, you two!

TWINS

Yes, Mother.

(TWINS EXIT; SIMON goes to investigate "ghost"; kicks it then picks it up.
Throws it off right)

SIMON

How could I have been taken in by such a childish trick? Well, now I will take my revenge!

(SIMON moans and rattles his chains and starts upstairs. LUCRETIA and HIRAM appear on landing. She is carrying a bottle. She starts downstairs walking directly to SIMON, who continues to moan, rattle and thrash)

LUCRETIA (putting bottle in SIMON's hand)
I am afraid that you are far from well, so I have brought you a bottle of Doctor Dobell's Tincture.
If you are suffering from indigestion, you will find it a most excellent remedy. Perhaps you have
heard of it. Hiram?

(HIRAM reveals a ukulele and strums; MUSIC 9: TINCTURE YOUR TROUBLES)

LUCRETIA
WHEN YOU'RE NOT FEELING RIGHT, BE IT MORNING OR NIGHT
PLEASE LISTEN TO WHAT I SAY
NO, DON'T TAKE A PILL, IF YOU'RE FEELING ILL
JUST TINCTURE YOUR TROUBLES AWAY

IF YOU'RE NOT FEELING WELL, REACH FOR DOCTOR DOBEL

HIRAM and LUCRETIA
AND TINCTURE YOUR TROUBLES
JUST TINCTURE YOUR TROUBLES
JUST TINCTURE TROUBLES AWAY

LUCRETIA
IF YOU'LL JUST TAKE A DRINK

HIRAM
YOU'LL BE BACK IN THE PINK

BOTH
JUST TINCTURE YOUR TROUBLES AWAY.

LUCRETIA (speaking)
DO try Dobel's. Good night.

(BOTH EXIT upstairs. SIMON puts bottle on shelf)

SIMON
Never was a spirit more scorned, berated and humiliated. Well, no more!

(SIMON starts upstairs. TWINS appear on landing with pillows. They hit SIMON
with them, then throw them at him. He cowers DR. HIRAM ENTERS on landing)

HIRAM
What is all this noise? Here now, you two. There's no reason to inflict personal injury upon him.
Considering how long he has been here, I don't think it's right to throw pillows at him.

LUCRETIA (off)

You two get to bed!

TWINS

Yes, Mother.

(TWINS EXIT; HIRAM pics up pillows and EXIT. SIMON crosses to sofa carefully holding chains so they won't rattle. He sits and picks up book. VIRGINIA appears on landing and kneels so SIMON can't see her)

SIMON

Is it possible that I have lost my touch? Am I no longer the spectre described herein? Oh, woe is me!

(On word "woe" SIMON's voice cracks. He tries a few more times, but each time the same thing happens. He notices bottle of Tincture on shelf, crosses and reads the label. He opens the bottle, drinks and replaces the bottle)

SIMON (making a face)

Oooh

(SIMON realizes voice sounds better; repeats "woe" several times, smiles and starts off. Returns, picks up bottle)

SIMON

Doctor Dobel. (singing) Tincture your troubles away.

(SIMON EXITS. VIRGINIA crosses downstairs and watches off left. BLACKOUT)

SCENE 4: Next Morning

(MUSIC 10: SCENE CHANGE; LIGHTS UP on next morning. UMNEY ENTERS LEFT, looks at where the stain should be and stares because it's not there. Turns to straighten picture but it is already straight. Crosses to fireplace to pick up candles but they are still in place)

UMNEY

This is most peculiar.

HIRAM (ENTERING on landing)

What is most peculiar?

UMNEY

The house. The candles are in place, the picture is straight, the windows haven't been opened...

HIRAM

Is that strange?

UMNEY

It is, sir. Strange for Canterville Chase. Even the stain on the carpet hasn't returned.

HIRAM

Now, that is strange.

(LUCRETIA ENTERS upstairs and starts down)

LUCRETIA

What is strange?

HIRAM

Good morning, dear. Did you sleep well?

LUCRETIA

Finally. But what is strange?

HIRAM

The stain on the rug.

LUCRETIA

I suppose it's plaid or polka-dotted today.

HIRAM

No. It's not there at all.

LUCRETIA

No stain? Why, you're right. Do you know what this means?

HIRAM

We won't have to replace the rug after all.

LUCRETIA

Of course we have to replace the rug. What it means is that the ghost has either given up or gone!

UMNEY (gravely)

I've seen it happen before, ma'am.

LUCRETIA

Seen what happen before?

UMNEY

It's the lull before the storm. The stillness before the hurricane hits.

HIRAM

That beastly weather again.

UMNEY

No, sir. I was speaking metaphorically.

LUCRETIA

I would rather you speak plainly.

UMNEY

What I mean is that perhaps Sir Simon is laying low for awhile. And when you least expect it, he'll start all over again, worse than before.

HIRAM

You think so?

UMNEY

There is not an ounce of doubt in my mind.

LUCRETIA

There is not an ounce of sense in your head either, from what I can tell.

HIRAM

Now, now, Lucretia...

UMNEY

You mark my words. He'll be back. He'll be back.

(UMNEY EXIT RIGHT)

LUCRETIA

Well, Hiram. We won. The ghost is gone. He is gone, isn't he?

HIRAM

He certainly seems to be.

LUCRETIA

Still, it might be good if you took a good look around. Just to be sure.

HIRAM

Perhaps later.

LUCRETIA

Now, Hiram.

HIRAM

Very well.

(HIRAM EXITS LEFT; LUCRETIA picks up book, sits on sofa and starts reading.
VIRGINIA ENTERS upstairs and comes down)

VIRGINIA

Good morning, Mother.

LUCRETIA

Oh, you startled me!

VIRGINIA

Do you think all those things are true?

LUCRETIA

What things?

VIRGINIA

In the book. Do you think Sir Simon could be as evil as the stories say?

LUCRETIA

I don't know.

VIRGINIA

I don't think so.

LUCRETIA

You don't?

VIRGINIA

No. I think he is just very sad. And maybe a bit tired.

LUCRETIA

Why do you say that?

VIRGINIA

I saw him last night. He drank some of that medicine you gave him.

LUCRETIA

He did?

VIRGINIA

He made an awful face. Just like the twins do when you make them take it. Then he left.

LUCRETIA

Well, thank heaven for that.

VIRGINIA

I don't think he left the Chase. I think he just went to hide somewhere.

LUCRETIA

Hide? Whatever for?

VIRGINIA

I think he feels a bit ashamed. Ghosts are supposed to scare people away, but we haven't gone yet.

LUCRETIA

Well, to tell the truth, I was that close to saying we should leave last night. Then I remembered the Otis family motto: Never give up.

VIRGINIA

So we're staying?

LUCRETIA

Of course we're staying. That ghost may not have left, but if he's willing to behave, I don't really care. Now, it's time to get dressed. We're going into town to look at some wallpaper samples.

(LUCRETIA EXIT upstairs. VIRGINIA cross to window to read verse;
BLACKOUT)

SCENE 5: Midnight

(CLOCK strikes midnight. LIGHTS up. SIMON sits on sofa, reading UMNEY's
book)

SIMON

Bless Mrs. Umney for her obsession with my history. I had forgotten so many of the parts I have played. Certainly in all these pages there is at least one that will rid the house of these foreigners.

(MUSIC 11: STAR OF CANTERVILLE)

SIMON

I GUESS I'M JUST OLD-FASHIONED BUT I CAN STILL RECALL
HOW LORDS AND LADIES FAINTED WHEN I WALKED THROUGH THE WALL
A LITTLE "BOO" WAS ALL IT TOOK TO GIVE THE CROWD A THRILL
LONG, LONG AGO, WHEN I BECAME THE STAR OF CANTERVILLE

(SIMON cross to trunk and open it. Takes out costume pieces, masks, props that he tries out throughout the song)

SHAKESPEARE WOULD HAVE LOVED ME, I WOULD HAVE BEEN THE RAGE
NOBODY KNOWS AS WELL AS I THAT ALL THE WORLD'S A STAGE
A DOORWAY OR A GABLE OR A KITCHEN WINDOW-SILL
ARE ALL THE STAGE THAT'S NEEDED BY THE STAR OF CANTERVILLE
I'VE ALWAYS PLAYED THE VILLAIN, THE MONSTER OR THE GHOUL
OF ALL THE PARTS THAT I HAVE PLAYED, I'VE NEVER PLAYED THE FOOL

A LITTLE BIT OF MAKEUP, A COSTUME PIECE OR TWO
IT DOES TAKE SOME REHEARSAL BUT THEN WHEN I AM THROUGH
MY ENTRANCE IS ACCOMPANIED BY SHOUTS AND SCREAMS SO SHRILL
IT WAS WORTH THE PREPARATION FOR THE STAR OF CANTERVILLE

I'VE PLAYED THE GHOST IN ARMOR AND THE GHOUL OF BEXLEY MOOR
MY BLOODLESS BENEDICTINE WOULD HAVE BEEN A WOW ON TOUR
THE BODY-STEALER OF CHERTNEY BARN ALWAYS FILLED THE BILL
AND THERE'S NO ONE WHO CAN DO IT LIKE THE STAR OF CANTERVILLE
I'VE ALWAYS PLAYED THE VILLAIN, I'VE ALWAYS PLAYED THE GHOUL
OF ALL THE PARTS THAT I HAVE PLAYED, I'VE NEVER PLAYED THE FOOL

(TWINS ENTER on landing)

THERE ARE NO STANDING OVATIONS, NO OPENING NIGHT REVIEWS
JUST SELF-CONGRATULATIONS AND A PRIDE IN WHAT I DO
I'VE ALWAYS BEEN AN ACTOR AND I GUESS I ALWAYS WILL
THE SHOW GOES ON FOREVER FOR THE STAR OF CANTERVILLE
THE SHOW GOES ON FOREVER FOR THE STAR OF CANTERVILLE
BA-DU-DN-DU-DN-DU-BE-DU-BE-DU-BA – OH YEAH

SIMON (looking at book)

Aha! Reckless Rupert, the Headless Earl! That should certainly do for those two young scalawags who have been making my life so miserable. Let's see. It's been seventy-some years since I played that part. I hope I have all the pieces.

(Pulls out costume pieces, holds them up. TWINS EXIT)

SIMON

Yes. I shall march brazenly into their room, make the most hideous gestures and fly around their heads. That should frighten them enough. Now, to find a safe place to put my head...

(SIMON EXIT. TWINS ENTER with a bucket and EXIT RIGHT. HEADLESS GHOST ENTERS carrying a box, which he places on the shelf. GHOST turns away. There is a cough from inside box. GHOST turns back, takes lid off box revealing SIMON's head)

SIMON

Thank you.

(TWINS appear right of sofa)

VANESSA

Ooooo! Mister ghost.

VALERIE

Oh, look. The ghost ain't got no head!

VANESSA

A definite improvement.

TWINS (singsong)

Ghost ain't got no head! Ghost ain't got no head!

(MUSIC 12: HEADLESS GHOST; Headless Ghost starts toward them; they EXIT RIGHT; SIMON adlibs encouragement as GHOST EXITS. Crash offstage. GHOST re-ENTERS with bucket where the head should be. HIRAM, LUCRETIA and VIRGINIA ENTER upstairs. LUCRETIA and HIRAM laugh; VIRGINIA watches in horror. TWINS appear, shooting GHOST with pea shooters. SIMON adlibs directions to GHOST to put his head in the box and leave. GHOST EXITS with box. ALL LAUGH except VIRGINIA; LIGHTS SLOWLY OUT, VIRGINIA in SPOT; SPOT OUT)

SCENE 6: Next Morning

(LIGHTS UP. UMNEY is picking up bucket and peas left from night before. TWINS ENTER wearing adult clothes, pretending to be well-to-do. They speak in bad English accents)

VANESSA

Good morning, Mrs. Umney. I must say you're looking well

VALERIE

Quite chipper, I might say.

UMNEY

I don't suppose you two know anything about this mess.

VANESSA

Oh, no. Not we. Perhaps it were the specktree.

(to VALERIE)

That's British for ghost, don'tcha know?

VALERIE

Oh.

UMNEY

Perhaps it was two poltergeists with nothing better to do than turn the house upside down.

VANESSA

Are you accusing my dear, dear sibling and I?

(to VALERIE)

Sibling is British for sister or brother.

UMNEY

No, I'm not accusing you. Just confirming my suspicions.

VANESSA

I have no idea to what you are referring. Come along, Valerie. Tata, Mrs. Umney.

(to VALERIE)

Tata is British for good-bye.

VALERIE

Why don't the British just speak English? Like us.

(TWINS EXIT RIGHT. UMNEY works on hands and knees. LUCRETIA and
HIRAM ENTER from upstairs, ready to go shopping)

LUCRETIA

Good morning, Mrs. Umney. You are looking well.

UMNEY

Quite chipper.

LUCRETIA

Mr. Otis and I are going into town again.

UMNEY

More wallpaper?

LUCRETIA

Yes. And the children are going with us this time. They've been here a week and still haven't seen your quaint little village. They are so looking forward to it.

UMNEY

I'm sure they are.

HIRAM (calling off right)

Children! Come along. We're going to town.

(TWINS ENTER)

VANESSA

Do we have to?

VALERIE

I don't want to go into that boring old town.

UMNEY (to LUCRETIA)

Have a lovely time.

LUCRETIA

We will. Won't we, children?

(LUCRETIA shoos TWINS out left and EXITS)

HIRAM (calling upstairs)

Virginia! Are you about ready?

(VIRGINIA ENTERS on landing)

VIRGINIA

Papa, is it all right if I stay here? I'll stay out of Mrs. Umney's way. I promise.

HIRAM

Oh, I suppose so. We shouldn't be too long. Be good.

VIRGINIA

Good-bye, Papa.

(HIRAM EXIT)

UMNEY

Well, I have a lot of cleaning to do. Just call if you need anything.

(UMNEY EXIT. VIRGINIA sits on stairs. SIMON ENTERS, sits on sofa, reads book. VIRGINIA slowly crosses to left of sofa. She coughs quietly. SIMON looks up and immediately ducks on other end of sofa)

VIRGINIA

I am so sorry for what my sisters did. But they'll be going away to school tomorrow. Then, if you behave yourself, no one will annoy you.

SIMON

Behave myself?

VIRGINIA

Don't try to scare everyone. Don't wander the hallways at night.

SIMON

My dear child. I am a ghost. A ghost must rattle his chains and groan through the keyholes at night. Those are my only reasons for existing.

VIRGINIA

Those are no reasons at all.

SIMON

Perhaps. But they are MY reasons.

VIRGINIA

Are you hungry? I can get you a sandwich...

SIMON

No, thank you. I never eat anything. But it was kind of you to ask. You are much nicer than the rest of your horrid, rude, vulgar, dishonest family.

VIRGINIA

That was very unkind! It is YOU who are rude and horrid and vulgar. And as for dishonesty, you know you stole the paints from my paint box to replace that ridiculous bloodstain.

SIMON

Ridiculous?

VIRGINIA

I never told on you even though I was very annoyed. And it was MOST ridiculous. The whole thing. Who ever heard of green blood?

SIMON

Well, really. What was I to do? It is very difficult to find real blood. And besides, it was your father that started it with that Paragon Detergent, so why shouldn't I use your paints? As for color, that is all a matter of taste. They say the Cantervilles have blue blood. The very bluest in all England. Not that that matters to you Americans.

VIRGINIA

You don't know anything about it! You should emigrate to America and see for yourself!

SIMON

I don't think I should like America.

VIRGINIA

Why? Because we have no ancient falling-down buildings like Canterville Chase?

SIMON

No. Because you Americans have no manners!

(VIRGINIA glares at him, then starts off left)

SIMON

Oh, wait. Please don't go. I am so lonely and unhappy. I really don't know what to do. All I really want is to go to sleep.

VIRGINIA

How silly. All you have to do is blow out the candle and lie down. Actually it's harder to stay awake sometimes. Like in school. But it isn't hard to go to sleep. Even babies can do that.

SIMON

I have not slept for three hundred years. For three hundred years I have not slept and I am so tired.

VIRGINIA (crossing to him)

Poor, poor ghost. Is there no place where you can sleep?

SIMON (crossing to window)

Beyond the pine trees there is a little garden where the grass grows long and deep. The nightingale sings all night long...

(MUSIC 13: THERE IS A LITTLE GARDEN)

SIMON

THERE IS A LITTLE GARDEN WHERE THE PINE TREE GROWS
THE GENTLE BREEZES WHISPER AND THE LONG GRASS GROWS
THE SINGING OF A BIRD IS THE ONLY SOUND
AND THE COLD CRYSTAL MOON SHINES DOWN

THERE IS A LITTLE GARDEN WHERE THE RIVER FLOWS
A LOVELY LITTLE GARDEN WHERE NO ONE GOES
A SECRET PLACE THAT IS ONLY FOUND
WHEN THE COLD CRYSTAL MOON SHINES DOWN
AND IT'S THERE THAT I LONG TO BE
IF TIME WOULD SET ME FREE

(MUSIC CONTINUES under dialogue)

VIRGINIA

Do you mean the garden of death?

SIMON

Death must be beautiful. To lie in the soft brown earth with the grasses waving above. Listening to the silence. To have no yesterday and no tomorrow. To forget time and forgive life. To be at peace.

THERE IS A LITTLE GARDEN WHERE THE GRASS GROWS DEEP
A QUIET LITTLE GARDEN WHERE A SOUL CAN SLEEP
AND THE SOUND OF PEACE IS ALL AROUND
AND THE COLD CRYSTAL MOON SHINES DOWN

(After song, SIMON sits; there is a moment of silence and he looks up at VIRGINIA)

SIMON

Have you ever read the prophecy in the window?

VIRGINIA (reciting it by memory)

When a golden girl can win
Prayer from 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.

Mrs. Umney couldn't tell me what it means.

SIMON

It means someone must weep FOR me, for I have no tears. And pray FOR me, for I have no faith. And if that person has always been sweet and good and gentle, the Angel of Death will have mercy on me.

VIRGINIA

I think I can do that.

SIMON

I can't ask you. It's far too frightening.

VIRGINIA

Frightening?

SIMON

You would have to go with me. You would see fearful shapes and hear wicked voices.

VIRGINIA

But if I have been good and gentle, they will have no power over me. When we get to the garden will you be at peace?

SIMON

Yes. And only then.

VIRGINIA

Then I shall ask the Angel to have mercy on you. How do we start?

SIMON

You need only take my hand...

(VIRGINIA takes SIMON's hand. MUSIC 14: CHASE QUAKE; LIGHTS flicker and walls shake. BLACKOUT)

SCENE 7: A Little Later

(LIGHTS up following music. VIRGINIA and SIMON are gone. HIRAM, LUCRETIA, and the TWINS ENTER LEFT)

LUCRETIA (calling upstairs)

Virginia, we're home.

VALERIE

We'll go get her.

(TWINS EXIT upstairs; UMNEY ENTERS RIGHT)

UMNEY

How was your shopping trip?

LUCRETIA

Very fruitful, I think. I found some excellent wallpaper.

(TWINS ENTER on landing)

VANESSA

She's not up here.

HIRAM

Is Virginia in the kitchen, Mrs. Umney?

UMNEY

No. I haven't seen her since you left. I thought she was in her room.

HIRAM

Well, she's not up there.

UMNEY

Gypsies! I heard there were gypsies nearby!

LUCRETIA

Oh, dear. I should have known better than to leave her in your care

HIRAM

Now, settle down. Children, you run along outside and look. Don't miss a bush or a tree.

TWINS

Yes, Papa.

(TWINS EXIT)

HIRAM

Now, Mrs. Umney, you look around down here. Check every room and every closet.

UMNEY

Every room and every closet.

HIRAM (to LUCRETIA)

You and I will look upstairs.

(They start upstairs when lights flicker and walls shake again. VIRGINIA ENTERS LEFT carrying a small box; she seems shaken)

HIRAM

Virginia!

VIRGINIA

Papa! And Mother!

(They run toward each other)

LUCRETIA

Where were you?

VIRGINIA

I was with Sir Simon. It was the prophecy on the window. He is at rest now.

(VIRGINIA sits on sofa. TWINS and UMNEY ENTER; HIRAM takes box)

HIRAM

What is this?

VIRGINIA

Sir Simon gave it to me just before he disappeared.

(HIRAM opens box; it is filled with jewels)

LUCRETIA

Virginia! It's filled with jewelry!

VIRGINIA

He said it would be.

LUCRETIA

They must be worth a fortune.

VANESSA

No wonder you helped him.

VALERIE

Yeah. I would have helped for a box of jewels.

VIRGINIA

I didn't help him for any reward. I helped him because he needed my help.

LUCRETIA

You must be tired. Come and lie down awhile.

VIRGINIA

I am tired.

(ALL EXIT except UMNEY; she picks up her book and a pen; sits on sofa)

UMNEY (writing)

Final chapter. And now all the house is still and peace has come to Canterville. Good night, Sir Simon.

(UMNEY closes book, she EXITS; PORTRAIT goes crooked)

(MUSIC 15: TAG; BLACKOUT)

(MUSIC 16: BOWS; LIGHTS UP)

(BLACKOUT: MUSIC 17: EXIT)