

ЛЕГКО ЧИТАЕМ ПО-АНГЛИЙСКИ

3
УРОВЕНЬ

ЛУЧШЕЕ ЧТЕНИЕ
НА АНГЛИЙСКОМ
ЯЗЫКЕ



О. Уайльд
КЕНТЕРВИЛЬСКОЕ
ПРИВИДЕНИЕ

O. Wilde "The Canterville Ghost"

Г. Уэллс
ЧЕЛОВЕК-НЕВИДИМКА

H. Wells "The Invisible Man"

Сборник мистических историй

словарь • комментарии • упражнения

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**Кентервильское привидение.
Человек-невидимка / The
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Аннотация

В данный сборник включены две классические английские истории, объединенные мистической темой: «Кентервильское привидение» Оскара Уайльда и «Человек-невидимка» Герберта Уэллса. Тексты произведений сокращены, адаптированы для продолжающих изучать английский язык (уровень 3 – Intermediate) и снабжены комментариями, объясняющими значение различных словосочетаний. Также каждое произведение сопровождается упражнениями и небольшим словарем.

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Кентервильское привидение. Человек-невидимка /The Canterville Ghost. The Invisible Man

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О. Уайльд
Кентервильское привидение
O. Wilde
The Canterville Ghost
Адаптация текста, упражнения,
комментарии и словарь Д. Л. Абрагина

I

When Mr. Hiram B. Otis, the American Minister, bought **Canterville Chase**,¹ every one told him he was doing a very stupid thing, as there was no doubt at all that **the place was haunted**.² Indeed, Lord Canterville himself, **who was a man of the most punctilious honour**,³ had decided to mention the fact to Mr. Otis when they came **to discuss terms**.⁴

"We have not cared to live in the place ourselves," said Lord Canterville, "since my grandaunt, the Dowager Duchess of Bolton, **was frightened into a fit**,⁵ from which she never really recovered, by two skeleton hands being placed on her shoulders as she was dressing for dinner, and I feel bound to tell you, Mr. Otis, that the ghost has been seen by several living members of my family, as well as by the rector of the parish, the Rev. Augustus Dampier, who is a Fellow of King's College, Cambridge. After the unfortunate accident to the Duchess, none of our younger servants didn't want to stay with us, and Lady Canterville often couldn't sleep because she heard some mysterious noises that came from the corridor and the library."

"My Lord," answered the Minister, "I will take the furniture and the ghost at a valuation. I have come from a modern country, where we have everything that money can buy; and with all our spry young fellows painting the Old World red, and carrying off your best actors and prima-donnas, I reckon that if there were such a thing as a ghost in Europe, we'd have it at home in a very short time in one of our public museums, or on the road as a show."

"I fear that the ghost exists," said Lord Canterville, smiling, "**though it may have resisted the overtures of your enterprising impresarios**.⁶ It has been well known for three centuries, since 1584 in fact, and always **makes its appearance**⁷ before the death of any member of our family."

"Well, **so does the family doctor for that matter**,⁸ Lord Canterville. But there is no such thing, sir, as a ghost, and I guess the laws of Nature don't change for the British aristocracy."

"You are certainly very natural in America," answered Lord Canterville, who did not quite understand Mr. Otis's last observation, "and if you don't mind a ghost in the house, it is all right. Only you must remember I warned you."

¹ **Canterville Chase** – Кентервильский замок

² **the place was haunted** – в доме обитало привидение

³ **who was a man of the most punctilious honour** – который был человеком крайне щепетильным

⁴ **to discuss terms** – обсудить условия сделки

⁵ **was frightened to a fit** – так перепугалась, что с ней случился нервный припадок

⁶ **it may have resisted the overtures of your enterprising impresarios** – оно, возможно, отказалось от предложений ваших предприимчивых импресарио

⁷ **makes its appearance** – является

⁸ **so does the family doctor for that matter** – по такому случаю обычно приходит семейный доктор

A few weeks after this, the purchase was concluded, and at the close of the season the Minister and his family went down to Canterville Chase. Mrs. Otis, who, as Miss Lucretia R. Tappan, of West 53d Street, had been a celebrated New York belle, was now a very handsome, middle-aged woman, with fine eyes, and a superb profile. Many American ladies on leaving their native land **adopt an appearance of chronic ill-health**,⁹ under the impression that it is a form of European refinement, but Mrs. Otis had **never fallen into this error**.¹⁰ She had a magnificent constitution, and a really wonderful amount of animal spirits. Indeed, in many respects, she was quite English, and was an excellent example of the fact that we have really everything in common with America nowadays, except, of course, language. Her eldest son, christened Washington by his parents in a moment of patriotism, which he never ceased to regret, was a fair-haired, rather good-looking young man, who had qualified himself for American diplomacy by leading the German at the Newport Casino for three successive seasons, and even in London was well known as an excellent dancer. Gardenias and the peerage were his only weaknesses. Otherwise he was extremely sensible.

Miss Virginia E. Otis was a little girl of fifteen, lithe and lovely as a fawn, and with a fine freedom in her large blue eyes. She was a wonderful Amazon, and had **once raced old Lord Bilton on her pony twice round the park**,¹¹ winning by a length and a half, just in front of the Achilles statue, to the huge delight of the young Duke of Cheshire, who proposed for her on the spot, and was sent back to Eton that very night by his guardians, in floods of tears.

After Virginia came the twins, who were usually called "**The Star and Stripes**,¹²" as they were always getting swished. They were delightful boys, and, with the exception of the worthy Minister, the only true republicans of the family.

As Canterville Chase is seven miles from Ascot, the nearest railway station, Mr. Otis had telegraphed for a waggonette to meet them, and they started on their drive **in high spirits**.¹³ It was a lovely July evening, and the air was delicate with the scent of the pinewoods. Now and then they heard a wood-pigeon brooding over its own sweet voice, or saw, deep in the rustling fern, the burnished breast of the pheasant. Little squirrels peered at them from the beech-trees as they went by, and the rabbits scudded away through the brushwood and over the mossy knolls, with their white tails in the air. As they entered the avenue of Canterville Chase, however, the sky became suddenly overcast with clouds, a great flight of rooks passed silently over their heads, and, before they reached the house, some big drops of rain had fallen.

Standing on the steps to receive them was an old woman, neatly dressed in black silk, with a white cap and apron. This was Mrs. Umney, the housekeeper, whom Mrs. Otis, at Lady Canterville's earnest request, had consented to keep in her former position. She made them each a low curtsy and said in a quaint, old-fashioned manner, "**I bid you welcome to Canterville Chase**."¹⁴ Following her, they passed through the fine Tudor hall into the library, a long, low room, at the end of which was a large stained glass window. Here they found tea laid out for them, and, after taking off their wraps, they sat down and began to look round, while Mrs. Umney waited on them.

Suddenly Mrs. Otis noticed a dull red stain on the floor just by the fireplace and said to Mrs. Umney, "I am afraid something has been spilt there."

"Yes, madam," replied the old housekeeper in a low voice, "blood has been spilt on that spot."

"How horrid!" cried Mrs. Otis; "I don't at all care for blood-stains in a sitting-room. It must be removed at once."

⁹ **adopt an appearance of chronic ill-health** – приобретают вид хронически больной

¹⁰ **had never fallen into this error** – никогда не совершала подобной ошибки

¹¹ **once raced old Lord Bilton on her pony twice round the park** – однажды проскакала на пони два круга по парку со старым Лордом Билтоном

¹² **The Star and Stripes** – звездно-полосатые (Stars and Stripes – название американского флага)

¹³ **in high spirits** – в прекрасном расположении духа

¹⁴ **I bid you welcome to Canterville Chase** – приветствую Вас в Кентервильском замке

The old woman smiled, and answered in the same low, mysterious voice, “It is the blood of Lady Eleanore de Canterville, who was murdered on that very spot by her own husband, Sir Simon de Canterville, in 1575. Sir Simon survived her nine years, and disappeared suddenly under very mysterious circumstances. His body has never been discovered, but his guilty spirit still haunts the Chase. The blood-stain has been much admired by tourists and others, and cannot be removed.”

“That is all nonsense,” cried Washington Otis; **“Pinkerton’s Champion Stain Remover and Paragon Detergent”**¹⁵ will clean it up in no time,” and before the terrified housekeeper could interfere, he had fallen upon his knees, and was rapidly scouring the floor with a small stick. In a few moments no trace of the blood-stain could be seen.

“I knew Pinkerton would do it,” he exclaimed, triumphantly, as he looked round at his admiring family; but **no sooner had he said these words than a terrible flash of lightning lit up the room**,¹⁶ a fearful peal of thunder made them all **start to their feet**,¹⁷ and Mrs. Umney fainted.

“What a monstrous climate!” said the American Minister, calmly. “I guess the old country is so overpopulated that they have not enough decent weather for everybody. I have always been of opinion that emigration is the only thing for England.”

“My dear Hiram,” cried Mrs. Otis, “what can we do with a woman who faints?”

“Charge it to her like breakages”,¹⁸ answered the Minister; “she won’t faint after that;” and in a few moments Mrs. Umney certainly came to.

There was no doubt, however, that she was extremely upset, and she sternly warned Mr. Otis to beware of some trouble coming to the house.

“I have seen things with my own eyes, sir,” she said, **“that would make any Christian’s hair stand on end”**,¹⁹ and many and many a night I have not closed my eyes in sleep for the awful things that are done here.” Mr. Otis, however, and his wife warmly assured her that they were not afraid of ghosts, and, after blessing of her new master and mistress, and **making arrangements for an increase of salary**,²⁰ the old housekeeper went away to her own room.

¹⁵ **Pinkerton’s Champion Stain Remover and Paragon Detergent** – великолепный пятновыводитель и очиститель Пинкертона

¹⁶ **no sooner had he said these words than a terrible flash of lightning lit up the room** – не успел он это сказать, как комнату озарила вспышка молнии

¹⁷ **start to their feet** – вскочить на ноги

¹⁸ **Charge it to her like breakages** – вычтите у нее из жалования, как за разбитую посуду

¹⁹ **that would make any Christian’s hair stand on end** – от которых у любого христианина волосы встанут дыбом

²⁰ **making arrangements for an increase of salary** – договорившись о прибавке к жалованию

Exercises

1. Answer the questions:

1. What did everyone tell Mr. Otis about Canterville Chase?
2. What happened to the Duchess of Bolton?
3. Where did the Otis family come from?
4. What did Mrs. Otis look like?
5. How many children did the Otis family have?
6. Who was Mrs. Umney?
7. What did Mrs. Otis suddenly notice on the floor?
8. When was Lady Eleanore de Canterville murdered?
9. What did Washington Otis do with the blood stain?
10. Why was Mrs. Umney extremely upset?

2. True or false?

1. When Mr. Otis bought Canterville Chase everyone told him he was doing a very stupid thing.
2. Rev. Augustus Dampier has never seen the ghost.
3. Mr. Otis didn't mind a ghost in the house.
4. Mrs. Otis was an ugly old lady.
5. Virginia E. Otis was a little girl of five.
6. The twins were the only true democrats of the family.
7. Mrs. Otis noticed a beautiful handmade carpet on the floor just by the fireplace.
8. Lady Eleanore de Canterville was murdered by her cousin in 1575.
9. Sir Simon's body has never been discovered.
10. Mrs. Umney warned Mr. Otis to beware of some trouble coming to the house.

3. Find in the text the English equivalents to the following words and expressions:

выздороветь, приходской священник, замечание, в конце сезона, знаменитая красавица, женщина средних лет, телосложение, во многих отношениях, светловолосый, сделал ей предложение, достопочтенный, в прекрасном расположении духа, стая грачей, витраж, пережил ее на 9 лет, при загадочных обстоятельствах, раскат грома, лишиться чувств, остерегаться, прибавка к жалованию.

4. Write questions to the following answers.

1. When Mr. Hiram B. Otis, the American Minister, bought Canterville Chase, everyone told him he was doing a very stupid thing.
2. The Dowager Duchess of Bolton was frightened to a fit.
3. Lady Canterville often couldn't sleep because she heard some mysterious noises.
4. It always makes its appearances before the death of any member of the family.
5. The Minister and his family went down to Canterville Chase at the close of the season.
6. Gardenias and the peerage were his only weaknesses.
7. Virginia was a girl of fifteen.
8. Duke of Cheshire proposed for Virginia on the spot.
9. Mrs. Otis noticed a dull red stain on the floor.
10. His body has never been discovered.

5. Fill in the gaps with the words from the box.

proposed, delicate, overcast, guilty, trace,
no doubt, observation, assured, purchase,
haunted

1. There was no doubt at all that the place was _____.
2. Lord Canterville did not quite understand Mr. Otis's last _____.
3. A few weeks after this, the _____ was concluded.
4. Duke of Cheshire _____ for Virginia on the spot.
5. The air was _____ with the scent of the pinewoods.
6. The sky became suddenly _____ with clouds.
7. His _____ spirit still haunts the Chase.
8. In a few moments no _____ of the blood-stain could be seen.
9. There was _____, however, that she was extremely upset.
10. Mr. Otis and his wife warmly _____ her that they were not afraid of ghosts.

II

The storm raged fiercely all that night, but **nothing of particular note occurred**.²¹ The next morning, however, when they came down to breakfast, they found the terrible stain of blood once again on the floor. "I don't think it can be the fault of the Paragon Detergent," said Washington, "for I have tried it with everything. It must be the ghost." He rubbed out the stain a second time, but the second morning it appeared again. The third morning also it was there, though the library had been locked up at night by Mr. Otis himself, and the key carried up-stairs. The whole family were now quite interested; Mr. Otis began to suspect that he had been too dogmatic in his denial of the existence of ghosts, Mrs. Otis expressed her intention of joining the Psychical Society, and Washington prepared a long letter to Messrs. Myers and Podmore on the subject of the Permanence of Blood Stains when connected with Crime. That night all doubts about the existence of ghosts were removed for ever.

The day had been warm and sunny; and, in the cool of the evening, the whole family went out to drive. They did not return home till nine o'clock, when they had a light supper. The conversation in no way turned upon ghosts. The subjects discussed, as I have since learned from Mr. Otis, were merely such as form the ordinary conversation of cultured Americans of the better class, such as the immense superiority of Miss Fanny Davenport over Sarah Bernhardt as an actress; the difficulty of obtaining green corn and buckwheat cakes, even in the best English houses; the importance of Boston in the development of the world-soul; the advantages of the **baggage-check system**²² in railway travelling; and the sweetness of the New York accent as compared to the London drawl. No mention at all was made of the supernatural. At eleven o'clock the family retired, and by half-past all the lights were out. Some time after, Mr. Otis was awakened by a curious noise in the corridor, outside his room. It sounded like the clank of metal, and seemed to be coming nearer every moment. He got up at once, struck a match, and looked at the time. It was exactly one o'clock. He was quite calm. The strange noise still continued, and with it he heard distinctly the sound of footsteps. He put on his slippers, took a small phial out of his dressing-case, and opened the door. Right in front of him he saw an old man **of terrible aspect**.²³ His eyes were as red burning coals; long grey hair fell over his shoulders in matted coils; his garments, which were **of antique cut**,²⁴ were soiled and ragged, and from his wrists and ankles hung heavy manacles and rusty gyves.

"My dear sir," said Mr. Otis, "**I really must insist on your oiling those chains**,²⁵ and have brought you for that purpose a small bottle of the **Tammany Rising Sun Lubricator**.²⁶ I shall leave it here for you by the bedroom candles, and will be happy to supply you with more, if you need it." With these words the United States Minister laid the bottle down on a marble table, and, closing his door, retired to rest.

²¹ **nothing of particular note occurred** – ничего необычного не произошло

²² **baggage-check system** – система регистрации багажа

²³ **of terrible aspect** – жутковатого вида

²⁴ **of antique cut** – старинного покроя

²⁵ **I really must insist on your oiling those chains** – Я настоятельно прошу вас впредь смазывать эти цепи

²⁶ **Tammany Rising Sun Lubricator** – смазочное средство демократической организации «Восходящее солнце»



For a moment the Canterville ghost stood quite motionless in natural indignation; then, **dashing the bottle violently upon the floor**,²⁷ he went down the corridor, uttering hollow groans, and emitting a green light. Just, however, as he reached the top of the staircase, a door was flung open, two little white-robed figures appeared, and a large pillow whizzed past his head! There was evidently no time to be lost, so, **adopting the Fourth dimension of Space as a means of escape**,²⁸ he vanished through the wainscoting, and the house became quite quiet.

On reaching a small secret chamber in the left wing, he leaned up against a moonbeam to recover his breath, and began to try and realize his position. Never, in a brilliant and uninterrupted career of three hundred years, had he been so grossly insulted. He thought of the Dowager Duchess, whom he had frightened into a fit as she stood before the glass in her lace and diamonds; of the four housemaids, who had gone into hysterics when he merely smiled at them through the curtains on one of the spare bedrooms; of the rector of the parish, whose candle he had blown out as he was coming late one night from the library; and of old Madame de Tremouillac, who, having wakened up one morning early and seen a skeleton seated in an armchair by the fire reading her

²⁷ **dashing the bottle violently upon the floor** – яростно разбив пузырек об пол

²⁸ **adopting the Fourth dimension of Space as a means of escape** – используя четвертое измерение как способ улизнуть

diary, had been **confined to her bed**²⁹ for six weeks with an attack of brain fever, and, on her recovery, had become reconciled to the Church, and broken off her connection with that notorious sceptic, Monsieur de Voltaire. He remembered the terrible night when Lord Canterville was found choking in his dressing-room, **with the knave of diamonds half-way down his throat**,³⁰ and confessed, just before he died, that he had cheated Charles James Fox out of 50,000 pounds at Crockford's by means of that very card, and swore that the ghost had made him swallow it. All his great achievements came back to him again, from the butler who had shot himself in the pantry because he had seen a green hand tapping at the window-pane, to the beautiful Lady Stutfield, who was always obliged to wear a black velvet band round her throat to hide the mark of five fingers burnt upon her white skin, and who drowned herself at last in the pond. And after all this some wretched modern Americans were to come and offer him the Rising Sun Lubricator, and throw pillows at his head! It was quite unbearable. Besides, no ghost in history had ever been treated in this manner. Accordingly, he determined to have vengeance, **and remained till daylight in an attitude of deep thought**.³¹

²⁹ **confined to her bed** – не вставала с постели

³⁰ **with the knave of diamonds half-way down his throat** – с бубновым валетом в горле

³¹ **and remained till daylight in an attitude of deep thought** – и погрузился в раздумья до самого рассвета

Exercises

1. Answer the questions:

1. What did the Otis family find when they came down to breakfast?
2. What subjects did the Otis family discuss?
3. When did the family retire?
4. Why was Mr. Otis awakened?
5. What noise did Mr. Otis hear?
6. What did the ghost look like?
7. What did Mr. Otis give to the ghost?
8. How did the ghost manage to escape?
9. Why did the ghost feel insulted?
10. What did the ghost decide to do?

2. True or false?

1. When the Otis family came down to breakfast they didn't find anything suspicious.
2. The family returned home at nine o'clock.
3. In the evening the family discussed such subjects as the sweetness of the New York accent as compared to the London drawl and the advantages of the baggage-check system in railway travelling.
4. Some time after Mr. Otis was awakened by a curious noise coming from upstairs.
5. When Mr. Otis opened the door he saw a young man of pleasant appearance in front of him.
6. Mr. Otis brought to the ghost a small bottle of perfume.
7. The ghost was very happy to get the present from Mr. Otis.
8. After the ghost vanished through wainscoting the house became quite quiet.
9. The ghost felt extremely insulted.
10. The ghost determined to have vengeance.

3. Find in the text the English equivalents to the following words and expressions:

ничего особенного, подозревать, обычная беседа, превосходство, протяжное произношение, сверхъестественное, странный шум, звон (цепей), отчетливо, старинного покроя, обеспечить чем-либо, мраморный, негодование, кружево, пресловутый, бубновый валет, бархатный, невыносимо.

4. Write questions to the following answers.

1. When they came down to breakfast they found the terrible stain of blood once again.
2. Mr. Otis began to suspect that he had been too dogmatic in his denial of the existence of ghosts.
3. The family retired at eleven o'clock.
4. Mr. Otis woke up because he heard a curious noise.
5. Right in front of him he saw an old man of terrible aspect.
6. Mr. Otis asked the ghost to oil his chains.
7. Mr. Otis gave the ghost a small bottle of the Tammany Rising Sun lubricator.
8. The twins threw pillows at the ghost's head.
9. The ghost vanished through a wainscoting.
10. The ghost felt insulted because no other ghost in history had ever been treated in this manner.

5. Fill in the gaps with the words from the box.

clank, rubbed out, phial, intention,
obliged, moonbeam, fiercely,
indignation,
whizzed, vengeance

1. The storm raged _____ all that night.
2. He _____ the stain a second time, but the second morning it appeared again.
3. Mrs. Otis expressed her _____ of joining the Psychical Society.
4. It sounded like the _____ of metal, and seemed to be coming nearer every moment.
5. He put on his slippers, took a small _____ out of his dressing-case, and opened the door.
6. For a moment the Canterville ghost stood quite motionless in natural _____.
7. On reaching a small secret chamber in the left wing, he leaned up against a _____ to recover his breath.
8. A large pillow _____ past his head.
9. Lady Stutfield was always _____ to wear a black velvet band round her throat to hide the mark of five fingers burnt upon her white skin.
10. He determined to have _____, and remained till daylight in an attitude of deep thought.

III

The next morning, when the Otis family met at breakfast, they discussed the ghost **at some length**.³² The United States Minister was naturally a little annoyed to find that his present had not been accepted. “I have no wish,” he said, “**to do the ghost any personal injury**,”³³ and I must say that, considering the length of time he has been in the house, I don’t think it is at all polite to throw pillows at him,” – a very just remark, at which, I am sorry to say, the twins **burst into shouts of laughter**.³⁴ “Upon the other hand,” he continued, “if he really declines to use the Rising Sun Lubricator, we shall have to take his chains from him. It would be quite impossible to sleep, with such a noise going on outside the bedrooms.”

For the rest of the week, however, they were undisturbed, the only thing that excited any attention being the **continual renewal**³⁵ of the blood-stain on the library floor. This certainly was very strange, as the door was always locked at night by Mr. Otis, and the windows kept closely barred. The **chameleon-like colour**³⁶ of the stain excited a good deal of comment. Some mornings it was a dull red, then it would be vermilion, then a rich purple, and once when they came down for family prayers, they found it a bright emerald-green. These kaleidoscopic changes naturally **amused the party**³⁷ very much, and bets on the subject were freely made every evening. The only person who did not like it was little Virginia, who, for some unexplained reason, was always a good deal distressed **at the sight**³⁸ of the blood-stain, and nearly cried the morning it was emerald-green.

The second appearance of the ghost was on Sunday night. Shortly after they had gone to bed they were suddenly alarmed by a fearful crash in the hall. Rushing downstairs, they found that a large **suit of old armour**³⁹ had fallen on the stone floor, while seated in a chair was the Canterville ghost, rubbing his knees with an expression of agony on his face. The twins, having brought their pea-shooters with them, at once discharged two pellets on him, while the United States Minister **covered him with his revolver**,⁴⁰ and called upon him, in accordance with Californian etiquette, to hold up his hands! The ghost started up with a wild shriek of rage, and swept through them like a mist, extinguishing Washington Otis’s candle as he passed, and so leaving them all in total darkness. On reaching the top of the staircase he recovered himself, and determined to give his celebrated demoniac laughter. **It was said to have turned Lord Raker’s wig grey**⁴¹ in a single night, and had certainly made three of Lady Canterville’s French governesses **give warning before their month was up**.⁴² He accordingly laughed his most horrible laugh, but hardly had the fearful echo died away when a door opened, and Mrs. Otis came out in a light blue dressing-gown. “**I am afraid you are far from well**,”⁴³ she said, “and have brought you a bottle of Doctor Dobell’s tincture. If it is indigestion, you will find it a most excellent remedy.” The ghost glared at her in fury, and began at once to make preparations for turning himself into a large black dog. The sound of approaching

³² **at some length** – в течение достаточно продолжительного времени

³³ **to do the ghost any personal injury** – нанести привидению какое бы то ни было личное оскорбление

³⁴ **burst into shouts of laughter** – разразились смехом

³⁵ **continual renewal** – постоянное появление

³⁶ **chameleon-like colour** – переменчивый цвет

³⁷ **amused the party** – забавляли семью

³⁸ **at the sight** – при виде

³⁹ **suit of old armour** – старинные доспехи

⁴⁰ **covered him with his revolver** – выстрелил в него из револьвера

⁴¹ **It was said to have turned Lord Raker’s wig grey** – Поговаривали, что от этого поседел парик лорда Рэйкера

⁴² **give warning before their month was up** – предупредили об уходе, не проработав и месяца

⁴³ **I am afraid you are far from well** – Боюсь, вам совсем нехорошо

footsteps, however, made him hesitate in his fell purpose, so he contented himself with becoming faintly phosphorescent, and vanished with a deep groan, just as the twins had come up to him.

On reaching his room **he entirely broke down**.⁴⁴ The vulgarity of the twins, and the gross materialism of Mrs. Otis, were naturally extremely annoying, but what really distressed him most was that he had been unable to wear **the suit of mail**.⁴⁵ He had hoped that even modern Americans would be thrilled by the sight of a Spectre in armour, if for no more sensible reason, at least out of respect for their natural **poet Longfellow**,⁴⁶ over whose graceful and attractive poetry he himself had whiled away many a weary hour when the Cantervilles were up in town. Besides it was his own suit. He had worn it with great success at the Kenilworth tournament, and had been highly complimented on it by no less a person than the Queen herself. Yet when he had put it on, he had been completely overpowered by the weight of the huge breastplate and steel casque, and had fallen heavily on the stone pavement, barking both his knees severely, and bruising the knuckles of his right hand.

For some days after this he was extremely ill, and hardly stirred out of his room at all, except to keep the blood-stain **in proper repair**.⁴⁷

However, by taking great care of himself, he recovered, and resolved to make a third attempt to frighten the United States Minister and his family. He selected Friday, August 17th, for his appearance, and spent most of that day in looking over his wardrobe, ultimately deciding in favour of a large hat with a red feather, a winding-sheet frilled at the wrists and neck, and a rusty dagger. Towards evening a violent storm of rain came on, and the wind was so high that all the windows and doors in the old house shook and rattled. In fact, it was just such weather as he loved. His plan of action was this. He was to make his way quietly to Washington Otis's room, gibber at him from the foot of the bed, and stab himself three times in the throat to the sound of low music. **He bore Washington a special grudge**,⁴⁸ being quite aware that it was he who was in the habit of removing the famous Canterville blood-stain by means of Pinkerton's Paragon Detergent. Having reduced the reckless youth **to a condition of abject terror**,⁴⁹ he was then to proceed to the room occupied by the United States Minister and his wife, and there to place a clammy hand on Mrs. Otis's forehead, while he hissed into her trembling husband's ear the awful secrets of the charnel-house. With regard to little Virginia, he had not quite made up his mind. She had never insulted him in any way, and was pretty and gentle. A few hollow groans from the wardrobe, he thought, would be more than sufficient. As for the twins, he was quite determined to teach them a lesson. The first thing to be done was, of course, to sit upon their chests, so as to produce **the stifling sensation of nightmare**.⁵⁰ Then, as their beds were quite close to each other, to stand between them in the form of a green, icy-cold corpse, till they became paralyzed with fear, and finally, to throw off the winding-sheet, and crawl round the room, with white bones and **one rolling eyeball**,⁵¹ in the character of "**Dumb Daniel, or the Suicide's Skeleton**,"⁵² a role in which he had on more than one occasion produced a great effect."

At half-past ten he heard the family going to bed. He chuckled to himself, and turned the corner; but no sooner had he done so, than, with a wail of terror, he fell back, and hid his face

⁴⁴ **he entirely broke down** – он полностью потерял самообладание

⁴⁵ **the suit of mail** – кольчуга

⁴⁶ **poet Longfellow** – поэт Лонгфелло – автор баллады "Skeleton in Armour" (Скелет в доспехах)

⁴⁷ **in proper repair** – в надлежащем виде

⁴⁸ **He bore Washington a special grudge** – Он был особенно зол на Вашингтона

⁴⁹ **to a condition of abject terror** – до состояния благоговейного ужаса

⁵⁰ **the stifling sensation of nightmare** – удушающий кошмар

⁵¹ **one rolling eyeball** – одним вращающимся глазом

⁵² "**Dumb Daniel, or the Suicide's Skeleton**," – «Онемевший Даниэль, или скелет-самоубийца»

in his long, bony hands. Right in front of him was standing a horrible spectre, motionless **as a carven image**,⁵³ and monstrous as a madman's dream! Its head was bald and burnished; its face round, and fat, and white; and hideous laughter seemed to have writhed its features into an eternal grin. From the eyes streamed rays of scarlet light and a hideous garment, like to his own, swathed with its silent snows the Titan form. On its breast was a placard with strange writing in **antique characters**,⁵⁴ some scroll of shame it seemed, some record of wild sins, some awful calendar of crime, and, with its right hand, it bore a falchion of gleaming steel.

Never having seen a ghost before, he naturally was terribly frightened, and, after a second hasty glance at the awful phantom, he fled back to his room, **tripping up**⁵⁵ in his long winding-sheet, and finally dropping the rusty dagger into the Minister's jack-boots, where it was found in the morning by the butler. Once in the privacy of his own apartment, **he flung himself down on a small pallet-bed**,⁵⁶ and hid his face under the clothes. After a time, however, the brave old Canterville spirit asserted itself, and he determined to go and speak to the other ghost as soon as it was daylight. Accordingly, just as the dawn was touching the hills with silver, he returned towards the spot where he had first seen the phantom, feeling that, after all, two ghosts were better than one, and that, by the aid of his new friend, he might safely grapple with the twins. On reaching the spot, however, a terrible sight met his gaze. Something had evidently happened to the spectre, for the light had entirely faded from its hollow eyes, the falchion had fallen from its hand, and **it was leaning up against the wall in a strained and uncomfortable attitude**.⁵⁷ He rushed forward and seized it in his arms, when, to his horror, the head slipped off and rolled on the floor, the body **assumed a recumbent posture**,⁵⁸ and he found himself clasping a white dimity bed-curtain, with a sweeping-brush, a kitchen knife, and a hollow turnip lying at his feet! Unable to understand this curious transformation, he clutched the placard with haste, and there, in the grey morning light, he read these fearful words:

**YE OTIS GHOSTE
Ye Onlie True and Originale Spook,
Beware of Ye Imitationes.
All others are counterfeite.**⁵⁹

The whole thing flashed across him. He had been tricked, foiled, and outwitted! The old Canterville look came into his eyes; he ground his toothless gums together; and, raising his hands high above his head, swore according to the picturesque phraseology of the antique school, that, **when Chanticleer had sounded twice his merry horn**,⁶⁰ deeds of blood would happen, and murder walk abroad with silent feet.

Hardly had he finished this awful oath when, from the red-tiled roof of a distant homestead, a cock crew. He laughed a long, low, bitter laugh, and waited. Hour after hour he waited, but the cock, for some strange reason, did not crow again. Finally, at half-past seven, the arrival of the housemaids made him give up his fearful vigil, and he returned back to his room, thinking of his

⁵³ **as a carven image** – словно резное изваяние

⁵⁴ **antique characters** – древние символы

⁵⁵ **tripping up** – путаясь, спотыкаясь

⁵⁶ **he flung himself down on a small pallet-bed** – рухнул на маленький соломенный тюфяк

⁵⁷ **it was leaning up against the wall in a strained and uncomfortable attitude** – он опирался о стену странным и неестественным образом

⁵⁸ **assumed a recumbent posture** – приняло лежачее положение

⁵⁹ ПРИВЕДЕНИЕ ОТИС. Настоящий и оригинальный призрак. Опасайтесь падделок. Любые другие – ненастоящие (текст с ошибками, написанный близнецами)

⁶⁰ **when Chanticleer had sounded twice his merry horn** – не успеет Шантеклер (певец зари) дважды протрубить в свой рог

vain oath and ruined hopes. There he consulted several books of ancient chivalry, of which he was fond, and found that, on every occasion on which this oath had been used, **Chanticleer**⁶¹ had always crowed a second time. “**Perdition seize the naughty fowl**,⁶²” he muttered. And he then retired to a comfortable lead coffin, and stayed there till evening.

⁶¹ **Chanticleer** – зд. петух

⁶² **Perdition seize the naughty fowl** – Да постигнет погибель гадкую птицу

Exercises

1. Answer the questions:

1. Why was the United States Minister a little annoyed?
 2. When did the ghost appear for the second time?
 3. What did the twins do to the ghost?
 4. What did Mrs. Otis bring to the ghost?
 5. Did the ghost make a third attempt to frighten the United States Minister and his family?
 6. What was his plan of action?
 7. What did the ghost see when he turned the corner?
 8. What did the terrible spectre look like?
 9. Why was the ghost frightened?
 10. Who constructed the terrible spectre?
- When did the ghost return to his room?

2. True or false?

1. The United States Minister was naturally a little annoyed to find that his present had not been accepted.
2. The twins were very sorry for the things they had done to the ghost.
3. The second appearance of the ghost was on Saturday night.
4. Mrs. Otis brought the ghost some pills.
5. The ghost felt distressed because he had been unable to wear the suit of mail.
6. The ghost resolved to make a third attempt to frighten the United States Minister and his family.
7. The ghost bore Virginia a special grudge, being quite aware that it was she who was in the habit of removing the famous Canterville blood-stain by means of Pinkerton's Paragon Detergent.
8. When the ghost turned the corner he saw a beautiful lady right in front of him.
9. The twins managed to outwit the ghost.
10. At half-past seven the ghost returned back to his room, thinking of his vain oath and ruined hopes.

3. Find in the text the English equivalents to the following words and expressions:

справедливое замечание, по некоторой необъяснимой причине, в соответствии с, в полной темноте, несварение желудка, в бешенстве, турнир, в надлежащем состоянии, ржавый, безрассудный юнец, преподать урок, табличка, живописный, кровавые деяния, свинцовый гроб.

4. Write questions to the following answers.

1. The United States Minister was a little annoyed because his present had not been accepted.
2. The chameleon-like colour of the stain excited a good deal of comment.
3. The second appearance of the ghost was on Sunday night.
4. They discharged two pellets on the ghost.
5. Mrs. Otis gave the ghost a bottle of Doctor Dobell's tincture.
6. Longfello is a famous poet.
7. He fell back because he saw an awful phantom.
8. Its head was bald and burnished; its face round, and fat, and white.
9. There was a placard with strange writing on its breast.
10. He retired to a comfortable lead coffin.

5. Fill in the gaps with the words from the box.

expression, falchion, chuckled, declines,
appearance, carven, violent, continual renewal,
with regard to, for some strange reason

1. If he really _____ to use the Rising Sun Lubricator, we shall have to take his chains from him.
2. The only thing that excited any attention being the _____ of the blood-stain on the library floor.
3. The second _____ of the ghost was on Sunday night.
4. The ghost was rubbing his knees with an _____ of agony on his face.
5. Towards evening a _____ storm of rain came on, and the wind was so high that all the windows and doors in the old house shook and rattled.
6. _____ little Virginia, he had not quite made up his mind.
7. He _____ to himself, and turned the corner.
8. Right in front of him was standing a horrible spectre, motionless as a _____ image, and monstrous as a madman's dream!
9. It bore a _____ of gleaming steel.
10. But the cock, _____, did not crow again.

IV

The next day the ghost was very weak and tired. The terrible excitement of the last four weeks was beginning to have its effect. His nerves were completely shattered, and he started at the slightest noise. For five days **he kept his room**,⁶³ and at last made up his mind to give up the point of the blood-stain on the library floor. If the Otis family did not want it, they clearly did not deserve it. They were evidently people on a low, material plan of existence, and quite incapable of appreciating the symbolic value of sensuous phenomena. The question of phantasmic apparitions, and the development of astral bodies, was of course quite a different matter, and really not under his control. It was his duty to appear in the corridor once a week, and to gibber from the large oriel window on the first and third Wednesdays in every month, and he did not see how he could honourably escape from his obligations. It is quite true that his life had been very evil, but, upon the other hand, he was most conscientious in all things connected with the supernatural.

For the next three Saturdays, accordingly, he traversed the corridor as usual between midnight and three o'clock, taking every possible precaution against being either heard or seen. He removed his boots, trod as lightly as possible on the old worm-eaten boards, wore a large black velvet cloak, and was careful to use the Rising Sun Lubricator for oiling his chains. I am bound to acknowledge that it was with a good deal of difficulty that he brought himself to adopt this last mode of protection. However, one night, while the family were at dinner, he slipped into Mr. Otis's bedroom and carried off the bottle. He felt a little humiliated at first, but afterwards was sensible enough to see that there was a great deal to be said for the invention, and, to a certain degree, it served his purpose. Still in spite of everything **he was not left unmolested**.⁶⁴ Strings were continually being stretched across the corridor, over which he tripped in the dark, and on one occasion, while dressed for the part of "Black Isaac," he met with a severe fall, **through treading on a butter-slide**,⁶⁵ which the twins had constructed from the entrance of the Tapestry Chamber to the top of the oak staircase. This last insult so enraged him, that he resolved to make one final effort **to assert his dignity**⁶⁶ and social position, and determined to visit the twins the next night in his celebrated character of "Reckless Rupert."

He had not appeared in this disguise for more than seventy years; in fact, not since he had so frightened pretty Lady Barbara Modish by means of it, that she suddenly broke off her engagement with the present Lord Canterville's grandfather, and ran away to Gretna Green with handsome Jack Castletown, declaring that nothing in the world would induce her to marry into a family that allowed such a horrible phantom to walk up and down the terrace at twilight. Poor Jack was afterwards shot in a duel by Lord Canterville, and Lady Barbara died of a broken heart at Tunbridge Wells before the year was out, so, in every way, it had been a great success. It was, however an extremely difficult "make-up," and it took him fully three hours to make his preparations. At last everything was ready, and he was very pleased with his appearance. The big leather boots that **went with the dress**⁶⁷ were just a little too large for him, and he could only find one of the two horse-pistols, but, on the whole, he was quite satisfied, and at a quarter-past one he glided out of the wainscoting and crept down the corridor. On reaching the room occupied by the twins, which was called the Blue Bed Chamber, he found the door just ajar. Wishing to make an effective entrance, **he flung**

⁶³ **he kept his room** – не выходил из комнаты

⁶⁴ **He was not left unmolested** – Его не оставляли в покое

⁶⁵ **through treading on a butter-slide** – поскользнувшись на натертом маслом полу

⁶⁶ **to assert his dignity** – защитить свое достоинство

⁶⁷ **went with the dress** – подходили к одеянию

it wide open,⁶⁸ when a heavy jug of water fell right down on him, wetting him to the skin. At the same moment he heard **stifled shrieks of laughter**⁶⁹ proceeding from the bed. The shock to his nervous system was so great that he fled back to his room as hard as he could go, and the next day he **was laid up with a severe cold**.⁷⁰ The only thing that at all consoled him in the whole affair was the fact that he had not brought his head with him, for, had he done so, the consequences might have been very serious.

He now gave up all hope of ever frightening this rude American family, and contented himself, as a rule, with creeping about the passages in slippers, with a thick red muffler round his throat for fear of draughts, and a small **arquebuse**,⁷¹ in case he should be attacked by the twins. The final blow he received occurred on the 19th of September. He had gone downstairs to the great entrance-hall, feeling sure that there, at any rate, **he would be quite unmolested**,⁷² and was amusing himself by making satirical remarks on the large Saroni photographs of the United States Minister and his wife which had now taken the place of the Canterville family pictures. He was simply but neatly dressed in a long shroud, spotted with churchyard mould, had tied up his jaw with a strip of yellow linen, and carried a small lantern and a sexton's spade. In fact, he was dressed for the character of "Jonas the Graveless," one of his most remarkable impersonations, and one which the Cantervilles had every reason to remember, as it was the real origin of their quarrel with their neighbour, Lord Rufford. It was about a quarter-past two o'clock in the morning, and, as far as he could ascertain, no one was stirring. As he was strolling towards the library, however, to see if there were any traces left of the blood-stain, suddenly there leaped out on him from a dark corner two figures, who waved their arms wildly above their heads, and shrieked out "BOO!" in his ear.

⁶⁸ **he flung it wide open** – он широко ее распахнул

⁶⁹ **stifled shrieks of laughter** – сдавливаемый смех

⁷⁰ **was laid up with a severe cold** – слег с тяжелой простудой

⁷¹ **arquebuse** – разновидность гладкоствольного ружья

⁷² **he would be quite unmolested** – его скорее всего никто не побеспокоит



Seized with a panic, which, under the circumstances, was only natural, he rushed for the staircase, but found Washington Otis waiting for him there with the big garden-syringe, and being thus hemmed in by his enemies on every side, **and driven almost to bay**,⁷³ he vanished into the great iron stove and had to make his way home through the flues and chimneys, arriving at his own room in a terrible state of dirt, disorder, and despair.

After this he was not seen again on any **nocturnal expedition**.⁷⁴ The twins lay in wait for him on several occasions, and strewed the passages with nutshells every night to the great annoyance of their parents and the servants, but it was **of no avail**.⁷⁵ It was quite evident that his feelings were so wounded that he would not appear. Mr. Otis consequently resumed his great work on the history of the Democratic Party, on which he had been engaged for some years; Mrs. Otis organized a wonderful clam-bake, which amazed the whole county; the boys **took to euchre, poker, and other American national games**,⁷⁶ and Virginia rode about the lanes on her pony, accompanied by the

⁷³ **and driven almost to bay** – и оказавшийся в практически безвыходном положении

⁷⁴ **nocturnal expedition** – ночная вылазка

⁷⁵ **of no avail** – бесполезно

⁷⁶ **took to euchre, poker, and other American national games** – пристрастились к юксеру, покеру и другим американским национальным играм

young Duke of Cheshire, who had come to spend the last week of his holidays at Canterville Chase. It was generally assumed that the ghost had gone away, and, in fact, Mr. Otis wrote a letter **to that effect**⁷⁷ to Lord Canterville, who, in reply, expressed his great pleasure at the news, and sent his best congratulations to the Minister's worthy wife.

The Otises, however, were deceived, for the ghost was still in the house, and though now almost an invalid, was by no means ready **to let matters rest**,⁷⁸ particularly as he heard that among the guests was the young Duke of Cheshire, whose grand-uncle, Lord Francis Stilton, had once bet a hundred guineas with Colonel Carbury that he **would play dice**⁷⁹ with the Canterville ghost, and was found the next morning lying on the floor of the card-room in such a helpless paralytic state that, **though he lived on to a great age**,⁸⁰ he was never able to say anything again but "Double Sixes." The story was well known at the time, though, of course, **out of respect to**⁸¹ the feelings of the two noble families, every attempt was made to hush it up, and a full account of all the circumstances connected with it will be found in the third volume of Lord Tattle's Recollections of the Prince Regent and his Friends. The ghost, then, was naturally very anxious to show that he had not lost his influence over the Stiltons, with whom, indeed, he **was distantly connected**,⁸² his own first cousin having been married, **en secondes nocces**,⁸³ to the Sieur de Bulkeley, from whom, as every one knows, the Dukes of Cheshire are descended. Accordingly, he **made arrangements**⁸⁴ for appearing to Virginia's little lover in his celebrated impersonation of "The Vampire Monk, or the Bloodless Benedictine," a performance so horrible that when old Lady Startup saw it, which she did on one fatal New Year's Eve, in the year 1764, **she went off into the most piercing shrieks**,⁸⁵ which culminated in violent apoplexy, and died in three days, after disinheriting the Cantervilles, who were her nearest relations, and leaving all her money to her London apothecary. At the last moment, however, **his terror of the twins prevented his leaving his room**,⁸⁶ and the little Duke slept in peace under the great feathered canopy in the Royal Bedchamber, and dreamed of Virginia.

⁷⁷ **to that effect** – соответствующего содержания

⁷⁸ **to let matters rest** – зд. отказываться от задуманного

⁷⁹ **would play dice** – сыграет в кости

⁸⁰ **though he lived on to a great age** – хоть он и дожил до преклонных лет

⁸¹ **out of respect to** – из уважения к

⁸² **was distantly connected** – имел некоторую связь

⁸³ **en secondes nocces** – *фр.* вторым браком

⁸⁴ **made arrangements** – подготовился

⁸⁵ **she went off into the most piercing shrieks** – она издала ужасные, пронзительные вопли

⁸⁶ **his terror of the twins prevented his leaving his room** – ужас перед близнецами помешал ему покинуть свою комнату

Exercises

1. Answer the questions:

1. Why did the ghost decide to give up the point of the blood-stain on the library floor?
2. What was the ghost's duty?
3. What did the ghost do one night while the family were at dinner?
4. What happened on the 19th of September?
5. What is a clam-bake?
6. Why did Lady Barbara Modish break off her engagement with the present Lord Canterville's grandfather?
7. What did the ghost find on reaching the room occupied by the twins?
8. What did the ghost look like when he was creeping about the passages?
9. Who accompanied Virginia while she was riding about the lanes on her pony?
10. What did Mr. Otis write in his letter to Mr. Canterville?

2. True or false?

1. The ghost kept his room for ten days.
2. The ghost got extremely nervous.
3. The ghost didn't use the Rising Sun Lubricator for oiling his chains and continued to make terrible noise at night.
4. One day the ghost determined to visit the twins in his celebrated character of "Reckless Rupert."
5. Lady Barbara Modish married Jack Castletown and they lived happily ever after.
6. When the ghost flung the door open a heavy jug of water fell right down on him.
7. Next day the ghost fell ill.
8. The ghost gave up all hope of ever frightening this rude American family.
9. The final blow he received occurred on the 16th of September.
10. Mr. Otis resumed his great work on the history of the Republican Party, on which he had been engaged for some years.

3. Find in the text the English equivalents to the following words and expressions:

не выходил из комнаты, существование, неспособный, бархатная накидка, прошмыгнул, в некоторой степени, побуждать, сумерки, во всех отношениях, производить подготовку, приоткрытый, последствия, удостовериться, объятый паникой, восхитительный пикник у моря, воплощение, ближайшие родственники.

4. Write questions to the following answers.

1. He kept his room for five days.
2. He slipped into Mr. Otis's bedroom and carried off the bottle.
3. The ghost determined to visit the twins in his celebrated character of "Reckless Rupert."
4. A heavy jug of water fell right down on him, wetting him to the skin.
5. The next day he was laid up with a severe cold.
6. The final blow he received occurred on the 19th of September.
7. He was dressed in a long shroud, spotted with churchyard mould.
8. The young Duke of Cheshire spent the last week of his holidays at Canterville Chase.
9. Lord Canterville expressed his great pleasure at the news.
10. Lady Startup left all her money to her London apothecary.

5. Fill in the gaps with the words from the box.

stifled shrieks, arrangements, feathered,
conscientious, disguise, resumed, excitement,
wounded, engagement, stretched

1. The terrible _____ of the last four weeks was beginning to have its effect.
2. He was most _____ in all things connected with the supernatural.
3. Strings were continually being _____ across the corridor.
4. He had not appeared in this _____ for more than seventy years.
5. She suddenly broke off her _____ with the present Lord Canterville's grandfather.
6. At the same moment he heard _____ of laughter proceeding from the bed.
7. It was quite evident that his feelings were so _____ that he would not appear.
8. Mr. Otis consequently _____ his great work on the history of the Democratic Party.
9. He made _____ for appearing to Virginia's little lover in his celebrated impersonation of "The Vampire Monk, or the Bloodless Benedictine."
10. The little Duke slept in peace under the great _____ canopy in the Royal Bedchamber.

V

A few days after this, Virginia and her curly-haired cavalier went out riding on Brockley meadows, where she **tore her habit**⁸⁷ so badly in getting through a hedge that, on their return home, she made up her mind to go up by the back staircase so as not to be seen. As she was running past the Tapestry Chamber, the door of which happened to be open, she fancied she saw some one inside, and thinking it was her mother's maid, who sometimes used to bring her work there, looked in to ask her to mend her habit. To her immense surprise, however, it was the Canterville Ghost himself! He was sitting by the window, **watching the ruined gold of the yellowing trees fly through the air**,⁸⁸ and the red leaves dancing madly down the long avenue. His head was leaning on his hand, and his whole attitude was one of extreme depression. Indeed, so lonely, **and so much out of repair did he look**,⁸⁹ that little Virginia, whose first idea had been to run away and lock herself in her room, was filled with pity, and determined to try and comfort him. So light was her footfall, and so deep his melancholy, that he was not aware of her presence till she spoke to him.

"I am so sorry for you," she said, "but my brothers are going back to Eton to-morrow, and then, **if you behave yourself**,⁹⁰ no one will annoy you."

"It is absurd asking me to behave myself," he answered, looking round in astonishment at the pretty little girl who had ventured to address him, "quite absurd. I must rattle my chains, and groan through keyholes, and walk about at night, if that is what you mean. It is my only reason for existing."

"It is no reason at all for existing, and you know you have been very wicked. Mrs. Umney told us, the first day we arrived here, that you had killed your wife."

"Well, I quite admit it," said the Ghost "but it was a purely family matter, and concerned no one else."

"It is very wrong to kill anyone," said Virginia.

"Oh, I hate the cheap severity of abstract ethics! My wife was very plain and knew nothing about cookery. Why, there was a buck I had shot in Hogley Woods, and do you know how she had it sent to table? However, it is no matter now, for it is all over, and I don't think it was very nice of her brothers **to starve me to death**,⁹¹ though I did kill her."

"Starve you to death? Oh, Mr. Ghost – I mean Sir Simon, are you hungry? I have a sandwich in my bag. Would you like it?"

"No, thank you, I never eat anything now; but it is very kind of you, all the same, and you are much nicer than the rest of your horrid, rude, vulgar, dishonest family."

"Stop!" cried Virginia, stamping her foot, "it is you who are rude, and horrid, and vulgar, and as for dishonesty, you know you stole the paints out of my box to try and furbish up that ridiculous blood-stain in the library. First you took all my reds, including the vermilion, and I couldn't do any more sunsets, then you took the emerald-green and the chrome-yellow, and finally I had nothing left but indigo and Chinese white, and could only do moonlight scenes, which are always depressing to look at, and not at all easy to paint. I never told on you, though I was very much annoyed, and it was most ridiculous, the whole thing; for who ever heard of emerald-green blood?"

⁸⁷ **tore her habit** – разорвала свое одеяние

⁸⁸ **watching the ruined gold of the yellowing trees fly through the air** – наблюдая за тем, как кружится золотистая листва, опадая с деревьев

⁸⁹ **and so much out of repair did he look** – и таким подавленным он выглядел

⁹⁰ **if you behave yourself** – если вы будете вести себя прилично

⁹¹ **to starve me to death** – заморить меня голодом



“Well, really,” said the Ghost, rather meekly, “**what was I to do?**⁹² It is a very difficult thing to get real blood nowadays, and, as your brother began it all with his Paragon Detergent, I certainly saw no reason why I should not have your paints. As for colour, that is always a matter of taste: the Cantervilles have blue blood, for instance, the very bluest in England; but I know you Americans don’t care for things of this kind.”

“You know nothing about it, and the best thing you can do is to emigrate and **improve your mind.**⁹³ My father will be only too happy **to give you a free passage.**⁹⁴ Once in New York, you are sure to be a great success. I know lots of people there who would give a hundred thousand dollars to have a grandfather, and much more than that to have a family ghost.”

“I don’t think I should like America.”

“I suppose **because we have no ruins and no curiosities,**⁹⁵” said Virginia, satirically.

“No ruins! no curiosities!” answered the Ghost; “you have your navy and your manners.”

“Good evening; I will go and ask papa to get the twins an extra week’s holiday.”

⁹² **what was I to do?** – что я мог поделать?

⁹³ **improve your mind** – расширить кругозор

⁹⁴ **to give you a free passage** – обеспечить вам бесплатный проезд

⁹⁵ **because we have no ruins and no curiosities** – потому что у нас нет развалин или иных достопримечательностей

“Please don’t go, Miss Virginia,” he cried; “I am so lonely and so unhappy, and I really don’t know what to do. I want to go to sleep and I cannot.”

“That’s quite absurd! You have merely to go to bed and blow out the candle. It is very difficult sometimes to keep awake, especially at church, but there is no difficulty at all about sleeping. Why, even babies know how to do that, and they are not very clever.”

“I have not slept for three hundred years,” he said sadly, and Virginia’s beautiful blue eyes opened in wonder; “for three hundred years I have not slept, and I am so tired.”

Virginia grew quite grave, and her little lips trembled like rose-leaves. She came towards him, and **kneeling down at his side**,⁹⁶ looked up into his old withered face.

“Poor, poor Ghost,” she murmured; “have you no place where you can sleep?”

“Far away beyond the pine-woods,” he answered, in a low, dreamy voice, “there is a little garden. There the grass grows long and deep, there are the great white stars of the hemlock flower, there the nightingale sings all night long. All night long he sings, and the cold crystal moon looks down, and the yew-tree **spreads out its giant arms**”⁹⁷ over the sleepers.”

Virginia’s eyes **grew dim with tears**,⁹⁸ and she hid her face in her hands.

“You mean the Garden of Death,” she whispered.

“Yes, death. Death must be so beautiful. To lie in the soft brown earth, with the grasses waving above one’s head, and listen to silence. To have no yesterday, and no to-morrow. To forget time, to forget life, to be at peace. You can help me. You can open for me the portals of death’s house, for love is always with you, and love is stronger than death is.”

Virginia trembled, a cold shudder ran through her, and for a few moments there was silence. She felt as if she was in a terrible dream. Then the ghost spoke again, and his voice sounded like the sighing of the wind.

“Have you ever read the old prophecy on the library window?”

“Oh, often,” cried the little girl, looking up; “I know it quite well.

It is painted in curious black letters, and is difficult to read. There are only six lines:

“‘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.’

“But I don’t know what they mean.”

“They mean,” he said, sadly, “that you must **weep with me for my sins**,⁹⁹ because I have no tears, and pray with me for my soul, because I have no faith, and then, if you have always been sweet, and good, and gentle, **the angel of death will have mercy on me**.¹⁰⁰ You will see fearful shapes in darkness, and wicked voices will whisper in your ear, but they will not harm you, for against the purity of a little child the powers of Hell cannot prevail.”

Virginia made no answer, and the ghost **wrung his hands in wild despair**¹⁰¹ as he looked down at her bowed golden head. Suddenly she stood up, very pale, and with a strange light in her eyes. “I am not afraid,” she said firmly, “and I will ask the angel to have mercy on you.”

⁹⁶ **kneeling down at his side** – встала перед ним на колени

⁹⁷ **spreads out its giant arms** – простирает свои огромные руки

⁹⁸ **grew dim with tears** – заволоклись слезами

⁹⁹ **weep with me for my sins** – оплакивать мои грехи

¹⁰⁰ **the angel of death will have mercy on me** – ангел смерти проявит ко мне милосердие

¹⁰¹ **wrung his hands in wild despair** – в отчаянии заломил руки

He rose from his seat with a faint cry of joy, and taking her hand **bent over it with old-fashioned grace**¹⁰² and kissed it. His fingers were as cold as ice, and his lips burned like fire, but Virginia did not falter, as he led her across the dusky room. On the faded green tapestry were brodered little huntsmen. They **blew their horns**¹⁰³ and with their tiny hands waved to her to go back. “Go back! little Virginia,” they cried, “go back!” but the ghost clutched her hand more tightly, and she shut her eyes against them. Horrible animals with lizard tails and goggle eyes blinked at her from the carved chimneypiece, and murmured, “**Beware!**”¹⁰⁴ little Virginia, beware! we may never see you again,” but the Ghost glided on more swiftly, and Virginia did not listen. When they reached the end of the room he stopped, and muttered some words she could not understand. She opened her eyes, and saw the wall slowly fading away like a mist, and a great black cavern in front of her. **A bitter cold wind swept round them,**¹⁰⁵ and she felt something pulling at her dress. “Quick, quick,” cried the Ghost, “or it will be too late,” and in a moment the wainscoting had closed behind them, and the Tapestry Chamber was empty.



¹⁰² **bent over it with old-fashioned grace** – склонился со старомодной грацией

¹⁰³ **blew their horns** – трубили в горны

¹⁰⁴ **Beware!** – Берегись!

¹⁰⁵ **A bitter cold wind swept round them** – Подул резкий холодный ветер

Exercises

1. Answer the questions:

1. What happened to Virginia when she was riding on Brockley meadows?
2. Who was sitting by the window in the Tapestry Chamber?
3. What was the ghost doing?
4. Why was Virginia filled with pity?
5. How did Sir Simon die?
6. Why did the ghost steal Virginia's paints?
7. What did the ghost tell Virginia about the garden of death?
8. How did the ghost explain the prophecy on the library window?
9. Did Virginia agree to help the ghost?
10. What did little huntsmen on the tapestry say to Virginia?

2. True or false?

1. As Virginia was running past the Tapestry Chamber, the door of which happened to be open, she saw her father sitting by the window.
2. Little Virginia determined to comfort the ghost because he looked lonely and depressed.
3. The ghost told Virginia that he was very lonely and unhappy.
4. Virginia asked the ghost to tell her everything about his wife.
5. The ghost explained Virginia why he had taken her paints.
6. Sir Simon's wife was a beautiful lady and knew everything about cookery.
7. The ghost didn't want to tell Virginia anything about death.
8. The ghost explained Virginia the meaning of the prophecy on the library window.
9. On the faded green tapestry were brodered little fairies.
10. When they reached the end of the room the ghost stopped, and muttered some words she could not understand.

3. Find in the text the English equivalents to the following words and expressions:

кудрявый кавалер, гобелен, к ее великому изумлению, утешить, в изумлении, стряпня, смиренно, достопримечательности, затушить, морщинистый, в отчаянии, смилостивиться, темный, выцветший, вышитый, впадина.

4. Write questions to the following answers.

1. Virginia tore her habit while she was riding with her cavalier.
2. As she was running past the Tapestry Chamber, the door of which happened to be open, she saw the Canterville ghost.
3. Virginia's first idea was to run away and lock herself in her room.
4. The ghost looked lonely and depressed.
5. She told she was sorry for him.
6. Sir Simon's wife was plain and knew nothing about cookery.
7. They starved him to death.
8. On the faded green tapestry were brodered little huntsmen.
9. They blew their horns and with their tiny hands waved to her to go back.
10. When they reached the end of the room he stopped, and muttered some words she could not understand.

5. Fill in the gaps with the words from the box.

improve, dim, footfall, horns, rattle, surprise,
plain, muttered, prophecy, to keep awake

1. To her immense _____, however, it was the Canterville Ghost himself!

Конец ознакомительного фрагмента.

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