



The Scenario of The Canterville Ghost

Act 1

Sir Simon Canterville has haunted his ancestral home since 1584, cursed to be stuck there forever unless he can convince 'a golden girl' to pray for him. He would then be set free to go to heaven. But the ghost is too scary to make friends, and so he gives up and instead enjoys frightening generations of the Canterville family. He scares off the last member of the Canterville family to live in the house, Lady Canterville. The American Otis family buy the house and move in. The naughty twins enjoy teasing the household staff, the son - Washington - flirts with the maids, and the eldest daughter - Virginia - charms the house. As it turns out, the American family are completely not scared by the ghost, in fact, the twins find out they love to tease and torment him as much as anyone else!

The family throw a big housewarming party where they show off their energetic American dance moves. Cecil, the young Duke of Cheshire, comes to the party and spots Virginia, immediately falling in love with her.

Act 2

Virginia paints Cecil's portrait and it is clear to the whole family that they have fallen in love with one another. The ghost is left sad because he is unable to scare the family and is instead made to look like a fool by the twins. Virginia finds the ghost upset in the library and he explains the curse to her. He begs her to help him fulfil the prophecy so that he can be freed. She agrees and gets past ghosts and goblins who try to stop her following the ghost into the other world.

Meanwhile, the Otis family have invited their neighbours to swim and play tennis. They realise that Virginia is missing and Cecil and Mr Otis lead a search party to find her. As the clock chimes 1am, Virginia appears at the top of the stairs, pale as a ghost. She won't explain to the family but asks them to follow her. She leads them to the hidden basement room where they see the skeleton of Sir Simon Canterville. She shows them a scroll that explains the curse.

In the final scene of the ballet, Cecil and Virginia have just been married. They run out of church from their wedding to join their guests in celebration. Cecil leads Virginia away from the crowd to ask her about the night that she went missing. Virginia keeps the secret of that night and, in the background, the Ghost fades away, free at last.



The Canterville Ghost Characters

- **Sir Simon Canterville (or 'the Canterville Ghost')** – The ghost of the Sir Simon Canterville who has been cursed to haunt the house until he can befriend someone and be set free.
- **Mr and Mrs Otis** – the mother and father of the Otis family, who have moved to England from America. They are not scared of the ghost.
- **Washington Otis** – the son of the Otis family.
- **Virginia Otis** – the eldest daughter of the Otis family.
- **The twins** – the youngest members of the Otis family. They are particularly not scared by the ghost and love finding ways to trick and tease him.
- **Cecil** – the Duke of Cheshire. He falls in love with Virginia and leads the search party to find her when she goes missing.
- **Mrs Umney** – the housekeeper at Canterville Chase.
- **The Butler** – a member of the house staff. He is in love with Mrs Umney.

