

Chapter 9: Virginia Meets the Ghost

One day, Virginia _____ her horse in the meadow. On the way home, she tore her skirt on a bush. "Oh dear! Mother _____ very angry with me. I'll enter house through the back door," _____ Virginia, "mother mustn't see my skirt."

Virginia passed a room at the back of the house. The door _____ open and somebody was inside. "Is it Mrs Umney?" she thought. "Maybe she can repair the hole in my skirt."

Virginia entered the room. To her surprise, she _____ the Canterville Ghost. He looked very sad. At first, Virginia wanted to escape. But then she _____ sorry for the ghost, and she decided to talk to him. "Why are you sad?" she asked him.

"I'm very lonely," said the ghost. "I hate my life."

"But you _____ something very cruel," said Virginia. "You _____ your wife! Why? It's wrong to kill somebody."

"My wife didn't love me and she didn't take care of me," said the ghost. "She was a terrible cook! But I'm sorry I killed her. Later, her brothers locked me in a room without food or water. I suffered a lot. Now, I try to _____ everybody and nobody is afraid. Your brothers torture me with their tricks."

"I _____ very sorry for you," said Virginia. "But my brothers _____ to school tomorrow and then nobody will disturb you. You _____ peace."

"Peace?" said the ghost. "I never have any peace. I _____ and I don't eat."

"Oh, Mr Ghost..., I mean, Sir Simon," said Virginia, "are you hungry? Can I bring you a sandwich?"

"No, thank you," answered the ghost. "I don't eat anything now. But you're very kind. You're much nicer than the rest of your horrible, rude family."

Virginia was angry now. "Don't say that! You're horrible and rude. You _____ my paints to paint that bloodstain," said Virginia. "I was very angry with you but I never revealed your secret."

"Well, I had no choice. It's very difficult to get real blood these days."

"I don't want to talk to you," said Virginia. "You mustn't insult my family. I'm going to my room now." The ghost looked at Virginia with sad eyes. "Please, don't go," he said.