

## 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.