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书虫·牛津英汉双语读物

- Oscar Wilde (英) 著
- John Escott (英) 改写

The Canterville Ghost

坎特维尔幽灵



外语教学与研究出版社
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内容简介

大多数古老的宅子里都会有些幽灵。有时会是个安静、善良的幽灵；有时候则是个闹哄哄的家伙，总是不停地摔门，咯唧咯唧地晃着锁链。

坎特维尔古堡的幽灵就属于闹哄哄的那种，吵得一家大小全都睡不好觉。于是坎特维尔勋爵把房子卖给了奥蒂斯先生。这位可是美国人，一点儿也不怕什么幽灵。实际上，奥蒂斯夫妇和他们的孩子们——华盛顿、漂亮的弗吉尼亚、加上那对淘气的双胞胎兄弟——非常乐意住在一所有幽灵的宅子里。

但是幽灵可不乐意。他的职责就是吓唬人，而奥蒂斯一家对他那些拿手的把戏一点儿也不害怕。他们的头发没有被吓白，他们没有吓得逃跑，他们也没有被吓晕——甚至连叫也不叫一声。还有，奥蒂斯家的那对双胞胎知道的把戏，竟比可怜的幽灵还多……

THE CANTERVILLE GHOST

Most grand old houses have a family ghost of some kind. Sometimes it is a quiet and kindly ghost, and sometimes it is a noisy one, always banging doors and crashing about in chains.

The ghost at Canterville Chase is one of the noisy kind, and the family can't get any sleep at night. So Lord Canterville sells the house to Mr Hiram B. Otis, who is an American and not at all worried about ghosts. In fact, Mr and Mrs Otis and their children Washington, pretty Virginia, and the twins, two noisy little boys are very happy to live in a house with a ghost.

But the ghost is not happy. His job is to frighten people, and the Otis family aren't frightened by any of his best tricks. Their hair doesn't turn white, they don't run away in terror, they don't faint — they don't even scream! And the Otis twins know more tricks than the poor ghost will ever know . . .

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1**THE OTIS FAMILY COMES
TO CANTERVILLE**

When Hiram B. Otis, the American businessman, bought the house called Canterville Chase, people told him that he was doing a very dangerous thing. Everybody knew that there was a ghost in the house. Lord Canterville himself told Mr Otis all about it.

‘We don’t like to live in the house ourselves,’ he said. ‘Too many of my family have seen the ghost. My wife’s grandmother, the Duchess of Bolton, is one of them. One night, while she was dressing for dinner, two skeleton hands were put on her shoulders. She has been ill for years because of that. And my wife never got any sleep there, because of all the noises at night.’

‘Lord Canterville,’ answered Mr Otis, ‘I will buy both the house *and* the ghost. I come from a modern country, and we can buy nearly everything in America — but not ghosts. So, if there really is a ghost in the house, we can send it home to America, and people will pay to go and see it.’

‘I’m afraid that the house really does have a ghost,’ said Lord Canterville, smiling. ‘Perhaps there are no ghosts in *your* country, but our ghost has been in the house for three hundred years, and it always appears before the



1. 奥蒂斯一家来古堡

当美国商人海勒姆·B. 奥蒂斯买下那座叫坎特维尔古堡的宅邸时，人们对他说，他正在做一件非常危险的事情。每个人都知道，那座宅子里有一个幽灵。坎特维尔勋爵还亲自对奥蒂斯先生讲了有关它的一切。

“我们自己都不愿意在那房子住，”他说，“我家有很多人见过这个幽灵。我妻子的祖母，博尔顿公爵夫人，就是其中一位。有天晚上，当她正在穿衣服准备去赴宴，有两只骷髅手放在了她的肩膀上。她因此一病不起，有好多年了。我妻子从没在那儿睡着过觉，因为晚上总有各种稀奇古怪的声音。”

“坎特维尔勋爵，”奥蒂斯先生答道，“我要把房子，还有幽灵都买下来。我来自现代化的国家，在美国我们几乎能买到一切——可买不到幽灵。所以，如果宅子里真有幽灵，我们就把它送回美国去，人们会花钱来参观的。”

“恐怕房子里真有幽灵，”坎特维尔勋爵笑道，“或许在你们的国家没有幽灵，但我们家的幽灵住在房子里有 300 年了，而

lord *n.* a man of noble rank, esp. in Britain (尤指英国的) 贵族 (此处指勋爵) **duchess** *n.* the wife of a duke 公爵夫人 **skeleton** *n.* the structure consisting of all the bones in a human or animal body 骨骼; 骸骨 **shoulder** *n.* the part of the body at which the arm is attached 肩膀 **appear** *v.* to become able to be seen 出现

death of one of the family. '

'Well, so does the family doctor, Lord Canterville. But there are no ghosts, sir, in *any* country — not even in famous old British families. '

'Very well,' said Lord Canterville. 'If you're happy to have a ghost in the house, that's all right. But please remember that I did tell you about it. '

* * *

And so Mr Hiram B. Otis bought the house, and a few weeks later he and his family went down to Canterville Chase on the train.

Mrs Otis was a very beautiful woman, and looked just as English as an Englishwoman. American people are really no different from English people — but they do, of course, speak a different language. Her eldest son, Washington, was a good-looking young man with a wonderful smile, who was famous at all the London parties for his fine dancing. Miss Virginia E. Otis was a sweet little girl of fifteen with big blue eyes. She loved to ride horses and could ride faster than a lot of men. One day the young Duke of Cheshire saw her on horseback, and immediately asked her to marry him — but his family sent him back to school the next day. After Virginia came the twins — two happy, noisy little boys, who were always laughing and playing tricks.

It was a lovely July evening when the family got off the

且，在家里有人去世之前，它总会现身。”

“是啊，家庭医生那会儿也会现身的，坎特维尔勋爵。但幽灵是不存在的，先生，不管是哪个国家——哪怕在鼎鼎大名的传统英国家庭。”

“那好吧，”坎特维尔勋爵说，“如果你乐意家里有个幽灵的话，那没问题。但请记住我是警告过你的。”

* * *

于是，海勒姆·B. 奥蒂斯先生买下了那栋宅子，几周之后，他们一家人便乘火车来到了坎特维尔古堡。

奥蒂斯太太是位非常漂亮的女人，看上去就跟英国女人一样。其实美国人和英国人没什么两样——但他们讲的话确实不同。奥蒂斯太太的大儿子叫华盛顿，是个英俊的年轻人，笑起来非常好看，他的优美舞姿在伦敦各大舞会上都颇有名气。弗吉尼亚·E. 奥蒂斯小姐是位可爱的小姑娘，15岁了，有一双蓝色的大眼睛。她喜欢骑马，而且比许多男人骑得还要快。一天，年轻的柴郡公爵看见她骑马的样子，便立即向她求婚——可惜第二天公爵的家人就把他送回了学校。在弗吉尼亚之后还有一对双胞胎——两个快活、吵闹的小男孩。他们总是笑个不停，爱搞恶作剧。

7月一个醉人的傍晚，这一家人下了火

remember *v.* keep in the memory; not forget 牢记;
记住 **wonderful** *adj.* unusually good 极好的 **duke** *n.* a nobleman of the highest rank outside the royal family 公爵
immediately *adv.* without delay; at once 马上; 立即
trick *n.* a troublesome but playful act 恶作剧

train. The fields and trees looked beautiful in the golden sunshine. The birds were singing sweetly, and the sky was a bright blue. But when they arrived at Canterville Chase, storm clouds suddenly appeared in the sky. Then ten or twelve large black birds flew down over their heads, and big drops of rain began to fall.

An old woman in a black dress was standing in the doorway of the house, waiting to meet them. This was Mrs Umney, the housekeeper.

‘Welcome to Canterville Chase,’ she said.

They followed her into the library — a long, dark room with a high window at one end. Here, tea was ready for them, so they took off their coats and sat down.

Suddenly Mrs Otis saw a dark red stain on the floor, near the fireplace.

‘Is that a stain on the floor there?’ she asked.

‘Yes, Mrs Otis,’ said Mrs Umney quietly. ‘It’s a bloodstain.’

‘Oh, that’s terrible!’ cried Mrs Otis. ‘I can’t have bloodstains on my floors. It must go.’

The old woman smiled, and again answered in a quiet voice. ‘It is the blood of Lady Eleanore de Canterville,’ she said. ‘Her husband, Sir Simon de Canterville, murdered her in 1575, while she was standing just *there*, in that place. He lived for another nine years after her death, but then he disappeared, very strangely and suddenly.’

车。在金色的夕阳下，田野和树木看上去美极了，鸟儿欢快地唱着歌，天空一片蔚蓝。可就在他们到达坎特维尔古堡的时候，天空中出现了乌云，十来只巨大的黑鸟盘旋在他们的头顶上，接着豆大的雨点便开始落下来。

一位穿黑裙子的老妇人正站在门口等候他们，她是乌玛尼夫人，宅子的管家。

“欢迎来坎特维尔古堡。”她说。

一家人跟着她来到书房——一间又长又暗的屋子，屋子的一头是高高的窗户。茶水已经为他们准备好了，于是他们脱下外衣，坐了下来。

突然，奥蒂斯太太看到地板上有一块暗红色的污迹，就在壁炉旁边。

“地板那儿是有块污迹吧？”她问。

“是的，奥蒂斯太太，”乌玛尼夫人平静地说，“那是血迹。”

“啊，太恶心啦！”奥蒂斯太太叫道，“我家的地板上可不能有血迹，一定要弄干净。”

那老妇人微笑着，依然用平静的声音回答，“那是埃莉诺·德·坎特维尔夫人的血迹，”她说，“她的丈夫，西蒙·德·坎特维尔爵士，于1575年将她谋害，当时她就站在那儿，就那个地方。她死之后，西蒙老爷又活了9年，可那以后他就突然失踪了，很是离奇。没有人找到过他的尸首，



fireplace *n.* the opening for a coal fire in the wall of a room 壁炉 **stain** *n.* a mark left accidentally on surfaces 污迹 **murder** *v.* kill (a human being) unlawfully, esp. wickedly or inhumanly 谋杀; 凶杀 **disappear** *v.* to go out of sight 消失; 不见

Nobody ever found his body, but his ghost is still in the house, and will not rest. The bloodstain is famous — visitors come here specially to see it. People have tried to clean it, but it will not go away.'

'Of course it will!' cried Washington Otis. 'Pinkerton's Famous Stain Cleaner will clean it up in a second.'

And before the housekeeper could stop him, he was cleaning the floor with a small black stick.

A minute later, the bloodstain was gone!

'There you are!' he said, smiling at the others. 'Pinkerton can clean anything!'

But at these words the storm outside suddenly began. A terrible flash of lightning lit up the room, and a second later came a great crash of thunder. Everyone jumped up at the sound of the thunder ... and Mrs Umney fainted.

'What terrible weather this country has!' said Mr Otis. He sat down again and lit a cigarette.

Mrs Umney lay on the floor, with her eyes closed. Mrs Otis looked at her. 'My dear Hiram,' she cried. 'What can we do with a woman who faints?'

'Tell her she has to pay some money,' said Mr Otis. 'If she breaks a cup or something, she has to pay for it. So tell her to pay if she faints. She won't faint after that.'

At this Mrs Umney immediately sat up, but she looked very unhappy. 'Be careful! Trouble is coming to this



但他的鬼魂一直徘徊在宅子里，永不安宁。这块血迹非常有名——观光者都特地来参观。人们试过要把它擦干净，可就是去不掉。”

“肯定去得掉！”华盛顿·奥蒂斯大声说道，“平克顿牌的著名去污剂一下子就能把它去掉。”

管家还没来得及阻止他，他就已经在用一根黑色的小棒棒清洁地板了。

一分钟之后，血迹不见了！

“看吧！”他对其他人笑着说，“用平克顿什么都能去掉！”

话一出口，外面忽然下起了暴风雨，可怕的闪电照亮了整个房间。片刻之后，传来一声巨雷，吓得大家跳了起来……而乌玛尼夫人晕了过去。

“这个国家的天气糟糕透了！”奥蒂斯先生说道。他重新坐好，点了一支烟。

乌玛尼夫人倒在地上，双目紧闭。奥蒂斯太太看着她。“亲爱的海勒姆，”她喊道，“有女士昏过去了，我们该怎么办？”

“跟她说她得赔钱。”奥蒂斯先生说，“要是她打碎了杯子啥的，她就得赔。所以告诉她要是晕倒了就得赔钱，那样她就晕不了啦。”

听到这儿乌玛尼夫人立马就坐了起来，可她看上去不大高兴。“小心吧！这房子里

specially *adv.* for a particular purpose 专门地；特地 **crash** *n.* a sudden loud noise made 突然发出的巨响 **faint** *v.* lose consciousness unexpectedly 昏厥；晕倒

house!' she said, her voice shaking. 'I have seen things here which are too terrible to describe. For night after night, I have not closed my eyes in sleep.'

Mr Otis gave her a warm smile. 'My wife and I are not afraid of ghosts, Mrs Umney.'

The old housekeeper got shakily to her feet. 'You Americans are so strong!' she said. 'And so kind! You know, I have worked here for many, many years at the same pay, and ...'

'OK, Mrs Umney. We'll pay you more money,' said Mr Otis, still smiling.

'Oh, thank you, dear Mr Otis. And dear Mrs Otis. Thank you very much.'

的麻烦开始啦!”她说,声音颤抖不已。
“我见过这儿发生的事情,可怕得都难以形容。我一宿一宿地睡觉都不敢合眼。”

奥蒂斯先生热情地对她笑笑。“我太太和我都不怕鬼,乌玛尼夫人。”

老管家颤颤巍巍地站了起来。“你们美国人可真是天不怕地不怕啊!”她说,“人也真好!知道吧,我在这儿干了好多年啦,薪水都没涨,还有……”

“好啦,乌玛尼夫人。我们会付你更多的钱的。”奥蒂斯先生仍然笑着说。

“啊,谢谢您,亲爱的奥蒂斯先生,还有亲爱的奥蒂斯太太。非常感谢你们。”

shake *v.* to move up and down or from side to side with quick short movements 发抖; 颤抖 **describe** *v.* to say what something is like; to give a picture of in words 形容; 描述

2

SIR SIMON MEETS THE OTIS FAMILY

The storm went on all night, and the next morning, when the family came down to breakfast, the bloodstain was on the library floor again.

‘That’s strange,’ said Washington. ‘Pinkerton’s Famous Stain Cleaner usually cleans anything. It must be the ghost.’

He cleaned the floor again with the little black stick, but the next morning the stain appeared once more. That night, Mr Otis closed the windows and locked the library door. But in the morning the bloodstain was there again.

The family found this most interesting.

‘Is there a ghost, or isn’t there?’ they said to themselves. They could not decide.

But that night, they had the answer to their question.

After the family was in bed and asleep, a strange noise woke Mr Otis. It sounded like something metal moving slowly along the passage, and it was coming nearer to his bedroom door. He got out of bed and listened carefully. The strange noise went on, and he also heard the sound of footsteps. Then he put on his shoes, took a small bottle from his cupboard, and opened the door of his room.

There, in the moonlight, was an old man with eyes as red as fire. His grey hair was long and dirty, his clothes