

坎特维尔幽灵故事选

(简写本)

The Canterville Ghost

Chapter 1

When Mr Hiram B. Otis, the American Ambassador, bought Canterville Chase, everyone told him he was doing a very foolish thing. There was no doubt the place was haunted. Indeed, Lord Canterville himself had mentioned the fact to Mr Otis when they were discussing the sale.

"We haven't lived in the place ourselves," said Lord Canterville, "since my great-aunt was frightened by the ghost while she was dressing for dinner. The fright made her very ill, and she never really recovered. I am afraid I must also tell you, Mr Otis, that the ghost has been seen by several living members of my family, as well as by the local priest."

"My lord," answered the Ambassador, "I will take the furniture and the ghost for the price set by an independent valuer. I come from a modern country where everything has its value in money. If there is such a thing as a ghost in Europe, an American will buy it."

Lord Canterville smiled. "I am afraid there really is a ghost," he said. "It has been well known for three centuries, since 1584 in fact. It always appears before the death of any member of our family."

"Well, so does the family doctor, no doubt, Lord Canterville. But the doctor is real, unlike the ghost."

A few weeks after this, the sale was completed. The Ambassador and his family went to Canterville Chase.

坎特维尔的幽灵

第一章

当美国大使海勒姆·B·奥蒂斯先生买下坎特维尔猎园时，人人都说他干了一件十足的傻事。因为毫无疑问地那儿是在闹鬼。实际上，坎特维尔勋爵在与奥蒂斯先生谈这笔买卖时对这一事实也直言不讳。

“自从我的姑婆在晚餐前梳洗时受幽灵惊吓后，我们就再也没在那儿住过，”坎特维尔勋爵说。“她吓出重病，以后再也没有完全康复。恐怕我还得告诉你，奥蒂斯先生，不仅本地的牧师见到过幽灵，我的几位在世的家人也曾亲眼目睹。”

“我的大人，”大使答道，“我会按独立估价师开的价钱把幽灵连同家具一起买下来。我来自一个每样东西都可以以钱论价的现代国家。如果欧洲的确有幽灵这样东西的话，那么美国人就会买下它。”

坎特维尔勋爵笑了。“我恐怕得说幽灵确实存在，”他说，“此事众人皆知已有三个世纪了，实际上可追溯到1584年。它总是在我们家族中有人要归天前出现。”

“啊，无疑家庭医生也同样是如期而至的啰，坎特维尔勋爵所不同的是 家庭医生是真的 幽灵是假的。”

此番交谈后几星期，交易达成。大使全家迁入了坎特维尔猎园。奥蒂斯夫人原是卢克利霞·R·苔本小姐，住在西五

Mrs Otis had been – as Miss Lucretia R. Tappen of West 53rd Street – a well-known New York beauty. She was now a fine-looking middle-aged woman. Indeed, in many ways she looked like an English lady – an excellent example of the fact that there is very little difference between us and the Americans nowadays, except, of course, the language. Her eldest son, Washington, was a fair-haired, rather good-looking young man, well known, even in London, as an excellent dancer. He was extremely sensible, except about certain flowers and the noble families of Europe. Miss Virginia E. Otis was a little girl of fifteen, with the quickness and beauty of a young deer, and a fine freedom in her large blue eyes. She was a wonderful sportswoman. When the young Duke of Cheshire saw her taking her horse over the jumps, he was so delighted that he immediately asked her to marry him. He was at once sent back to school by his uncles. After Virginia came the twins. These two schoolboys, like the Ambassador, had very little respect for noblemen, or anybody else.

Canterville Chase is eleven kilometres from the nearest railway station, so Mr Otis had telegraphed an order for a large carriage to be at the station, and they started their drive very happily. It was a lovely July evening; birds sang in the trees, and rabbits played on the sunlit hills. But as they entered the park of Canterville Chase the sky became suddenly darkened by clouds, a curious stillness seemed to fill the air, and before they reached the house, some big drops of rain had fallen.

An old woman was on the steps to greet them. She wore the black dress of a housekeeper. It was Mrs Umney. Lady Canterville had asked Mrs Otis to continue her employment as housekeeper.

“Welcome to Canterville Chase,” she said, and led

十三街，是纽约出了名的美人。她现在已是位中年美妇人。说实在的，在不少方面她看上去倒像是位英国贵妇，这也是如今我们和美国人几无差异的一个绝好例证。当然，彼此所用的语言除外。她的长子华盛顿，是个长了一头金发的十分英俊的小伙子。他是个出色的舞蹈家，声名甚至远及伦敦。除了对某些花和欧洲的贵族家庭外，为人极有见地。弗吉尼亚·E·奥蒂斯小姐是个十五岁的少女，其敏捷和美貌如同雏鹿，大大的蓝眼睛中流露出一种优雅的不羁。她是个运动好手。当年轻的柴郡公爵看到她驱马跳跃障碍物时，一下子着了迷，竟马上向她求婚，而跟着便被他叔叔遣回了学校。弗吉尼亚下面是一对双胞胎。这对小男生和大使一样，对贵族或任何其他人士甚不尊重。

坎特维尔猎园距离最近的火车站有十一公里，因此奥蒂斯先生电报预订了一辆大马车到火车站迎候，他们兴高采烈地驾车上了路。这是一个可爱的七月的傍晚；鸟儿在树林里欢唱，兔子在夕阳映照的山岗上嬉戏。但当他们进入坎特维尔猎园的园林时，天空忽然间乌云密布，空气中似乎充满了一种异样的寂静，在他们进屋以前，大滴大滴的雨已经落了下来。

一名老妇人在台阶上迎接他们。她穿着管家的黑衣裳。她是温尼太太。坎特维尔勋爵夫人要求奥蒂斯太太继续雇她做管家。

“欢迎你们到坎特维尔猎园来，”她说，然后领着他们穿

them through the hall into the library. Tea was ready for them here, and they sat down and began to look round the room while Mrs Umney poured tea for them.

Suddenly Mrs Otis noticed a dark red stain on the floor near to the fireplace. She said to Mrs Umney, "Something has made a stain there."

"Yes, madam," replied the housekeeper in a low voice. "It is a bloodstain."

"How nasty!" cried Mrs Otis. "I don't like bloodstains in a sitting room. It must be cleaned up at once."

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 the exact spot by her own husband, Sir Simon de Canterville, in 1575. Sir Simon lived for nine years after that, and then disappeared suddenly, and very mysteriously. His body has never been discovered, but his guilty spirit still haunts the Chase. The bloodstain has been greatly admired by tourists, and it can't be cleaned up."

"That's nonsense," cried Washington Otis. "Pinkerton's Wonder Stain Cleaner will deal with it in a second." And before the frightened housekeeper could stop him, he had gone down on his knees and was rubbing the floor with a small stick of some black stuff. In a few moments the bloodstain had disappeared.

"I knew Pinkerton would do it," he exclaimed, as he looked round at his admiring family. But as soon as he said it, a terrible flash of lightning lit up the room, a fearful roll of thunder made them all jump up, and Mrs Umney fainted.

"What shocking weather!" said the American Ambassador calmly, as he lit a long cigar. "I suppose the old country is so full of people that they don't have enough

过大厅进了书房。这儿茶已经为他们准备好，他们坐了下来，趁温尼夫人为他们沏茶时，开始四处打量起房间来。

突然奥蒂斯夫人注意到了壁炉边的地板上有一块深红色的污痕。她对温尼夫人说：“有什么东西在那儿留下了污迹。”

“是的，夫人，”管家用低沉的嗓音答道，“这是块血迹。”

“真恶心！”奥蒂斯夫人叫道，“我不喜欢客厅里有血迹。必须马上把它擦掉。”

老妇人笑着依然用那种低沉、神秘兮兮的嗓音答道：“这是坎特维尔的埃莉诺夫人的血迹，一五七五年她就是在那块地方被她的丈夫、坎特维尔的西蒙爵士杀死的。事发以后西蒙爵士在这儿住了九年，然后突然极为神秘地失踪了。他的尸体一直未被发现，但他罪恶的鬼魂依旧出没于猎园。旅游者冲着这块血迹慕名而来，而且这块血迹擦不掉。”

“胡说八道，”华盛顿·奥蒂斯嚷道。“平克顿去污灵能在几秒钟内消灭它。”未及受惊的管家阻止，他已经跪下双膝，用一管黑色的东西擦起地板来。不一会儿，血迹消失了。

“我知道用平克顿准能行，”他看着周围赞赏不已的家人嚷道。可是话音刚落，一道可怕的闪电照亮了屋子，一连串令人心惊的雷声吓得他们都不由得跳了起来，温尼夫人昏了过去。

“多骇人的天气！”大使点燃了一支长长的雪茄，静静地说道。“想必这个古老的国家人满为患，没有足够的好天气让人分享。”

good weather for everybody."

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

"Take it from her wages, like breakages," answered the Ambassador. "She won't faint after that." And in a few minutes Mrs Umney certainly recovered. But she was most upset, and she solemnly warned Mr Otis of some trouble coming to the house.

"I have seen things with my own eyes, sir," she said, "that would make your hair stand on end. And for very many nights I have been unable to sleep because of the terrible things that happen here."

But Mr Otis and his wife told the honest woman not to worry, because they were not afraid of ghosts. So, after calling down God's blessing on her new master and mistress, and making arrangements for an increase of wages, the old housekeeper went unsteadily to her own room.

Chapter 2

The next morning, when the Otis family came down to breakfast, they found the bloodstain on the floor again.

"I don't think it can be the fault of Pinkerton's Wonder Stain Cleaner," said Washington. "I have used it for everything. It must be the ghost." He rubbed out the stain a second time, but the second morning it was there again. The third morning it was there, although the library had been locked up at night by Mr Otis himself, who had carried the key upstairs. The whole family were now quite interested. That night, all doubts about the reality of ghosts left them.

They had not been talking about ghosts when they went to bed at eleven o'clock. At one o'clock Mr Otis was woken by a curious noise in the passage outside his room.

“我亲爱的海勒姆，”奥蒂斯夫人说道，“我们该拿一个昏倒的女人怎么办呢？”

“就当打碎东西扣她的工资，”大使答道，“下次她就不会昏倒了。”不消几分钟温尼夫人实实在在地醒过来了。但是她极度不安，郑重地警告奥蒂斯先生这幢房子将有麻烦事临头。

“先生我曾亲眼看见过不少事情，”她说，“那都是些令人毛骨悚然的事。有很多夜晚我都因为发生在这儿的可怕的事情无法入睡。”

不过奥蒂斯夫妇告诉这个诚实的妇人不用担心，因为他们不怕幽灵。于是，老管家祈祷完上帝保佑她的新主人和夫人，安排好加工资，便步履蹒跚地回到了自己的房间。

第二章

翌日清晨，当奥蒂斯全家下楼用早餐时，他们又发现了地板上的血迹。

“我想这不可能是平克顿去污灵的过错，”华盛顿说。“我用它擦过所有东西。这一定是幽灵干的。”他再次擦去污迹，但次日早上血迹又出现了。第二天早上又是如此，尽管奥蒂斯先生在前一天晚上亲自锁掉了书房的门，并把钥匙带上了楼。这下勾起了全家人的浓烈兴趣。那晚，他们对是否存在着幽灵不再抱丁点儿的怀疑。

十一点钟他们上床睡觉时，并没有谈论幽灵。一点钟时奥蒂斯先生被他卧室外走廊里一阵奇怪的响声惊醒了。这声

It sounded like the clank of metal, and it seemed to be coming nearer. He got up, took a small bottle out of his dressing case, and opened the door.

Facing him in the pale moonlight, he saw a terrible old man. His eyes were like burning coal; long grey hair fell in disorder over his shoulders; his clothes of an earlier century were dirty and ragged; and from his arms and legs hung heavy and rusty chains.

"My dear sir," said Mr Otis, "you really must oil those chains. For that purpose I am giving you a small bottle of Smith's Rising Sun Oil. According to the makers, one application is all that is necessary, and there are letters from well-known Americans printed on the wrapper to prove the truth of that claim. I'll leave the bottle on this table for you." With these words the Ambassador put the bottle down and went back to bed.

For a moment, the Canterville Ghost stood quite still in a state of shock and anger. Then he knocked the bottle on to the polished floor and hurried down the passage, making deep groans and giving out a fearful green light. However, just as he reached the top of the great stairs, a door opened, two little figures in white appeared, and a large pillow flew past his head! He did the only thing that seemed safe, disappeared into the wall.

When he reached a secret room in the west wing of the house, the ghost sat down to recover his breath. In three hundred years of splendid and famous haunting he had never been so insulted. With the pride of the true artist, he remembered all his finest performances. And then some terrible modern Americans come and offer him Rising Sun Oil, and throw pillows at his head! No ghost in history had ever been treated in such a way. He was determined to have revenge.

音像是金属的铿锵声，而且听起来越来越近。他起身从他的梳妆箱里拿了一小瓶东西，打开了门。

他看到一个可怕的老头在惨淡的月光下正面对着他。他的眼睛像正在燃烧的煤炭；长长的白发凌乱地披散在肩上；他穿的上个世纪的衣服又脏又乱，褴褛不堪；手臂和腿上挂着的铁链沉重而又锈迹斑斑。

“我亲爱的先生，”奥蒂斯先生说，“你的确得给这些链子上点油了。为此，我要给你一小瓶史密斯日升油。据制造商宣称，只需用一次就见效，包装纸上还印了很多美国名人的信，证实此言不假。我就把这瓶油留在这张桌子上给你。”说完，大使放下瓶子就回房去睡觉了。

坎特维尔幽灵呆呆地怔立良久，惊怒交加。然后他把瓶子摔向抛光的地板，沿着走道奔去，一边低吼着，发出恐怖的绿光。不过，正当他要到达大楼梯的顶部时，一扇门打开了，两个穿白衣的小家伙出现了，他的头顶上飞过一只大大的枕头！他做了唯一显得安全的事，那就是躲进墙里。

幽灵到了房子西翼的一间密室里，坐下来缓口气。三百年来，他的鬼魂作祟既显赫又闻名，他还从未受到过如此的羞辱。带着一个真正的艺术家般的骄傲，他回味着他所有的最为精彩的表演。然后……竟来了几个讨厌的摩登美国人，先是给他日升油，再是拿枕头砸他的头！这样对待幽灵实属史无前例。他决心要以牙还牙。

Chapter 3

At breakfast the next morning, the Otis family discussed the ghost.

"I must say," the Ambassador stated, "that it is not at all polite to throw pillows at him" – a very fair remark at which, I am sorry to say, the twins burst into shouts of laughter. "But," he continued, "if he really refuses to use the Rising Sun Oil, we'll 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 they noticed was that the bloodstain on the library floor was back every morning. This was strange because Mr Otis locked the door every night, and there were bars on the windows. The changes of colour of the stain were also remarkable. Some mornings it was a dull red, then it would be bright red, then a rich purple, and once they found it a bright green. These changes naturally amused the family, and they tried to guess what it would be next. The only person who didn't find it funny was little Virginia. For some reason she was distressed at the sight of the bloodstain, and she very nearly cried when it was bright green.

The second appearance of the ghost was on Sunday night. Not long 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 armour had fallen from its usual place on to the stone floor. Sitting in a sixteenth-century chair was the Canterville Ghost, rubbing his knees, with an expression of great pain on his face. The twins had brought their peashooters with them, and they at once shot two dried peas at him, while the Ambassador aimed his pistol at him and told him – in

第三章

第二天早上用早餐时，奥蒂斯全家对幽灵议论开了。

“我不得不说拿枕头砸他是很不礼貌的，”大使声明，——这是一句很公正的评论，但遗憾的是，这对孪生兄弟听罢却放声大笑起来。“但是，”他继续说道，“如果他真的拒绝使用日升油，我们将不得不拿走他的链条。卧室外有这样大的噪声，实在难以入睡。”

那周剩下的几天里他们倒是没受到骚扰。唯一引起他们注意的事就是书房地板上的血迹每天早上总会去而复返。这确实奇怪，因为奥蒂斯先生每晚都锁门，窗口上也有铁条。血迹颜色的变化也不同寻常。有几个早上它是暗红色的，接下来是鲜红色的，然后是浓紫色的。有一次他们发现它是鲜绿色的。这些变化自然使得全家兴味盎然，他们试着猜测下次会是什么颜色。唯一不觉得这事好玩的是小弗吉尼亚。出于某些原因，看到血迹令她忧心忡忡，当血迹呈鲜绿色时，她险些哭了。

幽灵第二次的出现是在星期天晚上。他们刚入睡，便被从客厅里传来的一记可怕的碰撞声惊醒。他们冲下楼，发现一套大盔甲从原来挂着的地方掉到了石头地板上。坎特维尔幽灵正坐在一张十六世纪的座椅上，他揉着膝盖，脸上露出巨大的痛苦。双胞胎带着他们的豌豆枪，立刻朝他发了两粒干豆弹，而大使则把手枪指着他命令他——根据加利福尼亚习

accordance with Californian custom – to hold up his hands. The ghost jumped up with a wild cry of rage, and was through them like a mist, putting out Washington's candle as he passed, so that they were left in total darkness. When he reached the top of the stairs, he decided to give his famous "Devil's Laugh". This had been most useful on more than one occasion, turning Lord Raker's hair white, and causing three nursemaids to run away in terror. He therefore laughed his most terrible laugh, but the only effect was that a door opened, and Mrs Otis came out.

"I am afraid you are not at all well," she said, "so I have brought you a bottle of Dr Dobell's Mixture. If you have stomach trouble, you will find that it is an excellent cure."

The ghost stared at her in rage, and began at once to make preparations to change himself into a large black dog. This was a change for which he was quite famous. But the sound of youthful footsteps coming up the stairs made him change his mind. He turned himself into a faintly glowing figure, and disappeared with a deep groan, just as the twins came near.

When he reached his room, the ghost was really distressed. The twins' lack of manners and Mrs Otis's lack of soul were annoying, of course, but what distressed him most was that he had been unable to wear the suit of armour. It was his own suit. He had worn it with great success at Kenilworth in 1575, where Queen Elizabeth herself had expressed pleasure at his appearance. But when he had put it on for the Americans, the weight of the whole suit and headpiece had been too great for him. He had fallen, hurting both his knees badly.

For some days after this, he was very ill, and hardly

惯——举起手来。幽灵狂呼怒吼着跳了起来，像一片薄雾般地穿过他们，经过时带灭了华盛顿手中的蜡烛，把他们留在一片漆黑中。当他到达楼梯顶部时决定使出他赫赫有名的“魔鬼之笑”。这笑曾不止一次奏出奇效，让瑞克勋爵吓白了头发，还把三名护士吓得仓惶逃窜。于是他发出他那最令人恐怖的笑声，可惜唯一的效果是一扇房门打开了，奥蒂斯夫人走了出来。

“我担心你病得不轻，”她说，“所以我给你带了一瓶多布尔博士混合剂来。如果你有胃病的话，你会发现它药到病除。”

幽灵怒视着她，随即准备变成一条大黑狗。这变形也是他出名的绝招。但听到年轻人上楼的脚步声，他改变了主意。正当那对孪生兄弟走近时，他把自己变成了一个微微发光的人影，低沉地呻吟了一声消失了。

幽灵回到自己屋里时真是说不出地苦恼。双胞胎缺乏礼貌，奥蒂斯夫人缺乏热情，这的确恼人，但最可气的还是他没能穿上他的盔甲。这是他自己的衣服。一五七五年他穿着这套衣服出现在凯尼尔渥兹时，效果极佳，连伊丽莎白女王本人也对他的外表表示满意。可当他想穿着它出现在美国人面前时，居然受不住整套盔甲和头盔的重量，摔倒在地上，把两个膝盖都摔坏了。

这以后他大病了几天，除了去保持血迹无损外几乎足不

At half past ten, he heard the family going to bed. For some time he was disturbed by the shouts of laughter from the twins. Clearly, he thought, they were amusing themselves with the light-hearted cheerfulness of school-boys. But at a quarter past eleven everything was quiet, and on the stroke of midnight he set out. There were the usual ghostly midnight sounds, and the wind wandered sorrowfully round the house, but the Otis family slept, unconscious of their fate. High above the rain and the storm he could hear the heavy breathing of the Ambassador.

The Canterville Ghost stepped out of the woodwork covering the wall, with an evil smile on his cruel mouth, and the moon hid her face in a cloud as he passed the great hall window. On and on he moved in silence, like an evil shadow. The darkness itself seemed to hate him as he pushed it aside.

At last he reached the corner of the passage that led to the unfortunate Washington's room. He laughed cruelly, and turned the corner. Terror struck him! There, facing him, a terrible, ghostly figure stood. It was huge, with a shining, hairless head. Silent, ugly laughter held open its great mouth. From that mouth, and from the eyes, an evil red light threatened him. The body was covered, like his own, in a burial sheet. There was a notice on it – some list no doubt, of sins and evil deeds in the past.

He had never seen a ghost before! It frightened him terribly. He gave it another quick look, and then hurried back to his room. There he lay down and hid his face under the blanket. After a time, however, the old Canterville courage came back to him, and he decided to go and speak to the other ghost as soon as it was daylight. After all, two ghosts would be better than one, and the two of

十点半时，他听到全家人都入寝歇息了。好一阵子他被李生兄弟的大笑声搅得心神不安。他想那准是他俩像学童般无忧无虑地嬉乐。十一点一刻时，万籁俱静，午夜钟声一敲响，他出动了。四周像往常一样充斥着午夜鬼魅似的声音，风在房子周围悲鸣，然而奥蒂斯全家沉睡着，对他们的命运一无所知。透过一片暴风雨声，他能听到大使沉沉的呼吸声。

坎特维尔幽灵从护墙板中走了出来，冷酷的嘴角露出一丝邪恶的笑容，当他走过大厅窗口时，月亮把脸藏在云里。他像一个邪恶的影子无声无息地往前走着。当他把黑暗推向两旁时，黑暗似乎也在怨恨他。

终于他到了走道拐弯处，这条走道通向倒霉的华盛顿的房间。他冷酷地一笑，转过弯道。恐惧向他袭来！有一个可怕的幽灵般的身影站在那儿，正面对着他。它很高大，脑袋闪闪发光，一根头发也没有咧着大嘴露出无声、丑陋的笑。它的嘴里、眼里发出一种邪恶的红光威胁着他。它的身体也跟他一样披着裹尸布，身上还贴有一张告示——无疑是它过去罪状的清单。

他从没见过幽灵！这着实吓坏了他。他匆匆又看了它一眼，溜烟逃回自己的房间。他瘫倒在床，把脸藏在毯子下。不过过了一阵，旧日坎特维尔的勇气又回到了他身上，他决定天一亮就去会那个幽灵，跟他谈谈。毕竟两个幽灵合力要比一个幽灵单枪匹马好，他们两个对付双胞胎就会有把握多了。