

In front of Mr. Otis stood a huge mansion<sup>1</sup>. Its high stone walls were old and gray. In some places, dark plants grew right up to the windows. What a strange<sup>2</sup> and spooky place...

To him, however, Canterville was a beautiful English castle. And now it all belonged to him and his American family! His daughter Virginia and the twins, Stars and Stripes, were going to love it here!

"There's one last thing you must know about this place before you go inside, Mr. Otis," said Lord Canterville. "I'm afraid it's haunted<sup>3</sup>. It's haunted by the ghost of Sir Simon de Canterville!"

"Ha! Ha! Haunted!" laughed Mr. Otis. "I come from a modern<sup>4</sup> country, sir. We don't believe in ghosts!"

"If so, Mr. Otis," replied Lord Canterville, "thank you for buying this mansion and its ghost. Good luck!"



Mrs. Umney, the housekeeper, led Mr. Otis inside to the living room and brought him a cup of tea. Just then, the twins came running in. "This place is amazing!" they cried. "We are going to explore!"

"Whatever you do, don't go into the attic<sup>5</sup>!" warned Mrs. Umney. "It's haun..." But, before she could finish, Mr. Otis pointed to a large red stain<sup>6</sup> on the wall. "We must get rid of<sup>7</sup> that tea stain, Mrs. Umney," he said. "It's very ugly."

"That isn't tea, Mr. Otis," she replied, her face turning very white. "It's the blood of Lady Canterville! We told you this house is haunted! That mark can never be cleaned!"

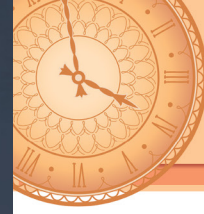
But this didn't stop Mr. Otis. He looked in his bag, took out a powerful American cleaning product<sup>8</sup>, and calmly started rubbing off the stain.

In no time, the blood was gone.  
Suddenly, bright lightning flashed outside and loud thunder<sup>9</sup> shook the whole house.

"Maybe, Father," said Stripes, "this old mansion really is haunted."

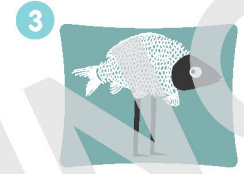
"Of course, it is! We warned<sup>10</sup> you!" cried Mrs. Umney. "No family has ever stayed longer than three nights in Canterville Castle!"

"Then the Otis Family," said Mr. Otis proudly, "will be the first to do so! Come on, kids, it's time for bed..."



## Vocabulary Check

First, write the spellings. Then, find the words for these pictures in the word puzzle below. The first one has been done for you.



s t a i n



w	t	h	u	n	d	e	r	i	n
s	p	a	i	a	m	o	x	i	l
t	x	t	g	a	a	i	a	s	m
r	v	t	h	t	n	t	z	r	q
a	e	i	t	m	s	u	w	e	a
n	t	c	o	l	i	e	l	s	r
g	c	q	p	r	o	d	u	c	t
e	u	o	v	e	n	f	c	s	p



## Comprehension Check

I. Put the following events from Chapter 1 in the correct order. The first one has been done for you.

- \_\_\_\_\_ The blood stain is removed with a powerful cleaning product.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The twins and their father, unafraid, go off to bed.
- 7 Mr. Otis sees Canterville Castle for the very first time.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Mrs. Umney tells the scary story behind the strange stain.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Mr. Otis says that he doesn't believe in ghosts.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Lightning flashes outside and loud thunder shakes the whole house.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Lord Canterville warns Mr. Otis that the mansion is haunted.

II. Answer the following questions in your own words.

1. Do you believe that Canterville Castle really is haunted? Why or why not?

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2. What do the twins think about the mansion?

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3. At the end of Chapter 1, what does Mr. Otis say he and his children will be able to do?

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## Chapter

## 2

# Spooks and Spells

