

One Ghost for the Day, One Ghost for the Night

a play by Michael Dean

SCENE 1

A ghost comes to Richard Little

The year is 1653. It is a cold, dark winter night and Richard Little, a man of forty, is sitting in his chair. He is reading a book. He hears something. He goes to the window, looks out and then goes back to the chair. His wife, Mary, comes in. She is making a dress. She has the dress in her hand.

RICHARD Mary, I can hear something outside.

MARY There's nothing there. Read your book, Richard.

RICHARD Come and sit with me.

MARY No. I'm making a dress. I'm going upstairs.

RICHARD Mary, please. There's something out there.

MARY Oh, Richard!

Mary goes out and James Heston's ghost comes in.

HESTON Hello, Richard.

RICHARD Aaaagh! You! James! James Heston! But you – you're dead!

HESTON Yes. I am dead. But I can't find peace because of you.

RICHARD Because of me? Why – why because of me?

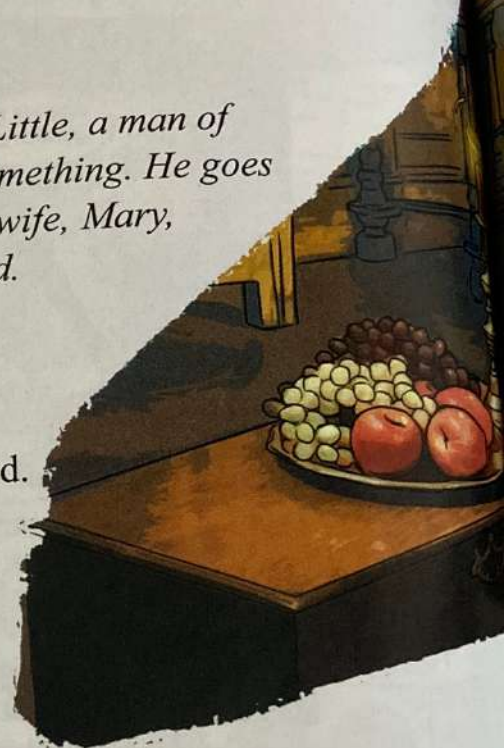
HESTON Beth had a new husband after me. That animal, Keech.

RICHARD Yes. Beth was a good woman. And a good sister to me. I said to her 'Don't go with Keech. Think of James. He's dead now.'

HESTON She was Keech's wife for only three months.

Then she died. And now Keech has my son. And he has my son's money.

RICHARD Ah. I understand now.





HESTON

Oh, you remember now? Before I died, I said to you, 'My boy gets my money at twenty-one and not before'. He is eight now. Eight. And Keech has his money.

RICHARD

I'm sorry about that, but what can I do?

HESTON

You must get my boy's money. Get it from Keech.

RICHARD

No! Keech can kill me with one hand. He's big – he always has a knife in his pocket. Last year he killed a man with that knife. I'm afraid of him, James.

HESTON

Are you afraid of me?

RICHARD

No! Oh! Yes, a little. You're a ghost!

HESTON

Only a little, eh? Look at the table.

RICHARD

(Looking at the table) Oh no! The table is moving! *(He stands up and walks to the table.)* Oh no! Oh, the chair is moving now! And now my chair is moving! James! Don't do this to me!