

'My boy gets my money at twenty-one and not before.'

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!

HESTON At this minute, Keech is building a new home in a village near here with my son's money. Stop him!

RICHARD I'm sorry, James. I can't. (*He gets a book and throws it across the room.*) I didn't want – that was my hand but – James, can you get in my head? Can you tell my hand—
He looks at his hand and at the book.

HESTON (*Laughing*) Yes, Richard. And your answer is going to be 'Yes'. Or you are going to do this again and again and again and—
Richard gets a book and throws it across the

room again. Then he runs across the room. Then he moves the table, the chairs and his chair.

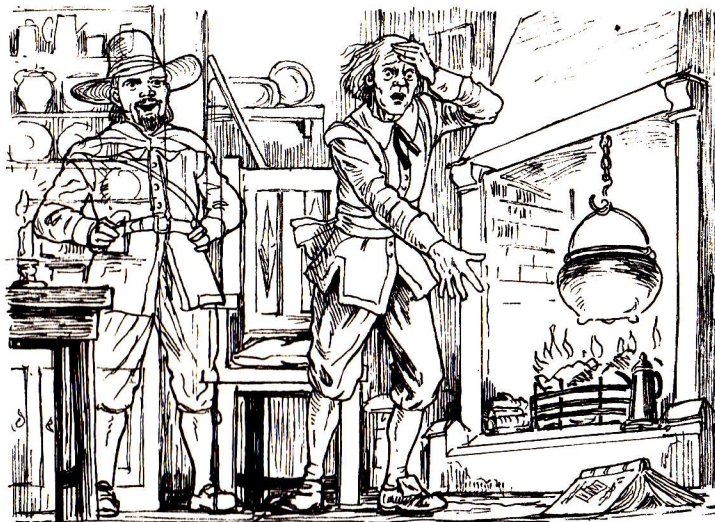
Heston laughs. Richard stops.

RICHARD I'm going mad! Why does my hand throw a book, when I don't want to? Can all dead people do this? Can they get in a man's head, so he moves a chair or throws a book?

HESTON Oh yes. Now, I can do it to you again or you can say 'Yes' and get my son's money. Which?

RICHARD But how? How can I get the money from Keech?

HESTON Sit down. I'm going to tell you.



'I'm going mad!'

SCENE 2

David Keech in court

In the court we can see Judge Timms, Keech, Barker, Reynolds, Richard and Mary. There are six women and six men behind Keech. They are from the village and they are watching the trial. Judge Timms is in a big chair in front of the court.

BARKER *(Standing)* My name is Oliver Barker. And I speak for Richard Little here today.

He sits. Reynolds stands up.

REYNOLDS Judge Timms. I speak for David Keech here today. My name is Philip Reynolds. *(He sits.)*

WOMAN 1 That Keech took the boy's money. You can see it in his face.

WOMAN 2 Oh Lil, we must listen to Oliver Barker and Philip Reynolds first.

MAN 1 Keech is the boy Tom's father now.

MAN 2 A good father doesn't take his son's money and build a new house with it.

TIMMS Be quiet in my court!

WOMAN 1 Sorry!

TIMMS Oliver Barker. You can begin.

BARKER *(Standing)* Judge Timms. Before James Heston died, he said this to Richard Little. He said, 'My

boy gets my money at twenty-one and not before.'

TIMMS (*Writing*) 'At twenty-one and not before ...'



The trial of David Keech.

BARKER Yes, judge. But Keech has this money now. The boy's money. He is building a big house with it. We all know that.

MAN 1 (*Starting to eat something*) Put Keech in prison, I say.

MAN 6 (*Eating*) Five years.

WOMAN 6 (*Eating*) No, ten.

TIMMS You! Don't eat in my court! Philip Reynolds. Speak.

REYNOLDS (*Standing*) Judge Timms. Yes, there is a house in a village near here. And, yes, it is Keech's house. But the money for it is not young Tom's money.

TIMMS (*Writing*) Not Tom's money.

REYNOLDS No, Judge Timms. It is David Keech's money. *Reynolds sits.*

BARKER (*Standing*) So one day Keech is not rich and the next day he is rich? He has money for a house? *Men and women laugh. Barker sits.*

REYNOLDS (*Standing*) Call David Keech. *Keech stands in front of Judge Timms.*

REYNOLDS David Keech. Where is the boy Tom's money? Do you have it at home?

KEECH No.

WOMAN 3 Keech took the money! It was Keech!

WOMAN 6 I said, 'Keech took the money!' I said that yesterday!