

KEECH I have the money here. In this court.

MEN AND WOMEN 1-3 (*All talking*) No! Never! Keech didn't take the money then! The money's here! Here in this court!

KEECH The money is under my chair. You! Woman! Bring me the money!

WOMAN 1 Me?

KEECH Yes, you! (*There is a bag under Keech's chair. Woman 1 takes it and gives it to Keech.*)

WOMAN 1 Here you are. (*She sits down again.*)

KEECH (*Opening the bag and taking out money*) Here! Judge Timms! Here! Richard Little! Here! Look, everybody! Here is the money! So I didn't take it from the boy! You hear me, Richard Little?

RICHARD (*Afraid*) Yes.

TIMMS One minute! Richard Little.

RICHARD (*Standing, looking afraid*) Yes, Judge Timms?

TIMMS You said, 'Keech took the boy's money'. You said that. Why? Why, man, why? Why say that?

RICHARD Because – because. Because James Heston came to my home. James Heston said it to me.

MEN AND WOMEN 4-6 (*All talking*) James Heston? Did he say 'Heston'? Heston's dead. A ghost came?

TIMMS Richard Little, James Heston is dead. He died in 1651.

MEN AND WOMEN (*All laughing and talking*) He talked to a

dead man! James Heston! Oh, that's a laugh!

MARY (*Standing*) Judge Timms. My husband is ill. In our house he talks to people and there is nobody there. Can I take him home now, please?
The men and women are all laughing.

RICHARD I am not ill! Stop laughing! Be quiet, all of you! Sit down, Mary.

Men and women stop laughing. Mary sits down.

RICHARD Thank you! (*It is quiet in the court now.*) Yes, James Heston is dead. And yes, James Heston spoke to me. I want James Heston here. Now. He can tell you.



'Can I take him home now, please?'

MAN 4 He is ill!

MAN 5 He's mad!

WOMAN 4 Let's listen to him.

WOMAN 5 Yes, we can listen to him.

TIMMS Be quiet! Call James Heston! I say, call James Heston to this court!

KEECH Heston is dead, man! And Richard Little is mad!

TIMMS Call James Heston!

For a minute, we can hear nothing. Then we hear James Heston's voice, but we cannot see him.

HESTON'S GHOST I am James Heston.

MEN AND WOMEN Aaaaaagh! Oh! Oh, but he's dead!

KEECH No! No! Oh please no!

MEN AND WOMEN *(All talking)* It's Heston! Is Heston dead, then? Aaaaagh! Oh I'm afraid! Oh please!

TIMMS James Heston? Is it you? Did you speak to Richard Little?

HESTON'S GHOST Yes.

TIMMS What did you say?

HESTON'S GHOST I told him, Keech took my boy's money. And then Keech killed a man in the next village. He was a rich man. Keech took his money. You see the money now. Here. In this court.

KEECH Aaagh! I can't kill Heston. Heston is dead. But you! You, Richard Little! You brought me to this court. I'm going to kill you next!

Keech runs out of the court.

TIMMS Stop him! Stop him!

MEN AND WOMEN *(All talking)* It was Keech! Keech took the money! I said that! I said, 'Keech took the money!'

TIMMS This court says, 'Keech took the money. And Keech killed a man.' Now find David Keech and bring him to me!

SCENE 3

Keech finds Richard Little

Richard is sitting in his chair, at home.

RICHARD What's that? Can I hear something? Mary, is that you? Oh no, it's not James again! James, is that you? *(He looks at the door, very afraid.)* Aaaaagh! Oh no!

David Keech comes in. He has a knife.

RICHARD Oh no! Keech, please! No!

Keech kills Richard, then runs away. Mary comes in and sees Richard.

MARY Oh no! Not Richard. Not my darling, darling Richard. Keech killed him. You're going to go to prison for this, Keech.

SCENE 4

A visit for Keech in prison

Keech is in prison. He is sitting on his bed. He has a table, a chair and a book there, too.

KEECH Hello? What's that? Is there someone there?
Aaagh! My table! My table is moving. (*He stands.*) Aaagh! Now the bed's moving. Am I ill?
Oh my head! (*He puts his head in his hands.*)
Oh! Now the chair is moving. What's happening? (*He takes the book and throws it across the room.*) Why did I do that? Am I mad?
It was my hand but—
The ghost of Richard comes in.

KEECH Aaaaghh! You're dead! I killed you!

RICHARD Yes. I'm dead. And you killed me. But I'm not going away. I'm staying here, in prison with you.
Keech wants to hit Richard's ghost, but he cannot. Richard laughs.

RICHARD You can't hit me now. You can't hit a ghost.
And you can't kill me again. But we can talk. We have time for that. We have all day.
Keech throws a book across the room.

RICHARD And you can do that all day too.

KEECH All day? All the time?

RICHARD Yes. (*He lies on the bed.*) Now throw the book across the room again. (*Keech does it.*) And again and again and again.

KEECH (*Throwing the book again and again*) Oh no! Please! Are all my days going to be like this?

RICHARD Your days, yes. And for your nights – I have a friend here.

(James Heston's ghost comes in.)

HESTON Hello, Richard. Hello, David.

KEECH You! You here too!

HESTON (*Smiling*) Yes. David, throw the book across the room, please. (*Keech does it.*) Thank you.
I'm going to be here at night, David. And you have Richard here every day. All right?

KEECH Oh no! No!

HESTON One ghost for the day, one ghost for the night. Now throw the book across the room again.

Keech does it. Richard and Heston laugh.

