

minute, on this day last month.

JERRY Oh, Brad. I'm sorry.

BRAD No, no. It's OK. I'm going to go back to New York next week, after our three weeks in England. And I'm going to be 'Brad Davis, of Davis TV'. Dad wanted that.



They stayed at the hotel in the village.

JERRY Yeah. Hey, come on! Let's go out in the sun. Let's see the village. Have a drink. Find some girls.

BRAD No, you go. I like it here. Here in the room.

JERRY OK. Let's stay in the room. Hey! There's a television. (*Jerry puts the television on but nothing happens.*) Hmm.

BRAD Not working? Oh, forget it.

JERRY No! You're Brad Davis of Davis Television, the biggest in America. You must have a television! Look, shall I go down and ask Mrs Finch? You stay here. You look tired.

BRAD Yeah, thanks, Jerry. I am tired.

Jerry goes out. Brad looks at the book about Britain.

BRAD (*Reading from the book*) 'In 1760 the hotel was a house. A family called Bannister lived in the house. One day, the nineteen-year-old daughter, Ellen—' *The ghost of Ellen Bannister comes in. She is wearing a dress from 1760.*

ELLEN I was never nineteen. I died at eighteen.

BRAD Yes, I remember you. Hello, Ellen.

ELLEN Hello, Matthew. Why does your friend call you Brad? Is that a name?

BRAD Yes. It's an American name.

ELLEN But you are Matthew and I'm going to call you Matthew. Always. Oh Matthew. I waited and

waited and waited for you. I love you so much.
Do you love me?

BRAD Yes. I think – Yes, I do.



'Hello, Ellen.'

ELLEN You think! Is that an answer? After all these years? Oh Matthew! Matthew, do you remember everything?

BRAD No, not everything. I remember our love. And you died, I remember that. I wanted to die too. And again last month, I wanted to die.

ELLEN Oh Matthew! Don't say that! Oh Matthew, I'm so happy to see you again.

BRAD Ellen. Can I see you? Can we talk?

ELLEN Oh yes. I want to talk to you about—

Jerry comes in with Mrs Finch. Ellen runs out.

MRS FINCH 'Are you OK, love? You look white.

JERRY This is not a happy time for Brad.

MRS FINCH I'm sorry, love. Do you want some dinner? I make the best dinner in the north of England.



'I make the best dinner in the north of England.'

BRAD *(Smiling)* No, thank you.

MRS FINCH Talk to me later, then. Right, the television.
(She hits the television.) It's OK now. Bye-bye,
Brad. Bye, Jerry. Have a nice time in our village.
She goes to the door.

BRAD Mrs Finch! Wait, please. Do you know about the
Bannister family?

MRS FINCH Did you see the ghost? Ellen Bannister?

BRAD Yes.

JERRY What? Brad, you saw a ghost? Oh, come on!

MRS FINCH Oh, Ellen's always here. She likes young men.
She's always looking for her boyfriend.
Matthew's his name, I think.

BRAD Mrs Finch, what happened? How did she die?
What happened to Matthew?

MRS FINCH You're interested, love, I can see that. There's
an old woman in the village. Her name is Maud
Anscombe. She knows about Ellen. You ask
Maud. *(She goes out.)*

JERRY Brad, this ghost – What did she say?

BRAD *(Not looking at Jerry)* She – she didn't speak,
Jerry. She said nothing at all.

SCENE 2

Brad and Jerry want to know about Ellen

*Maud is a very old woman. Her hair is white. Brad and
Jerry are sitting at a table with her in her house.*

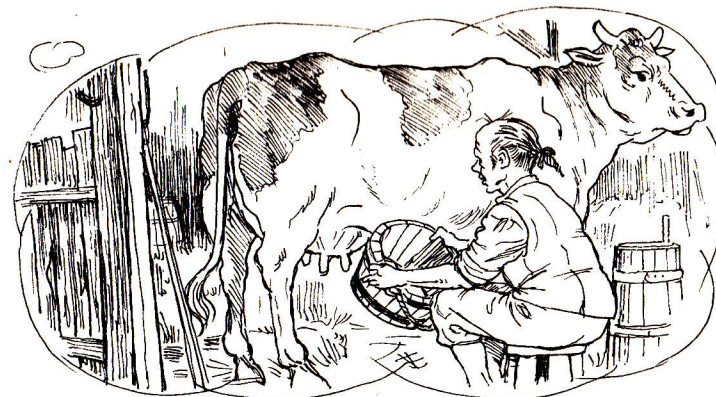
MAUD Ellen Bannister? A bad, bad girl. When she
looked at someone, the next day they were ill.

JERRY So she was a witch?

MAUD Yes. She looked at animals too. Then all the
cows in the village had no milk in them.

BRAD *(Angrily)* Do – do you know this? How do you
know? How can you know?

MAUD Oh, it's in all the books. Our village is famous
because of bad Ellen Bannister.



'Then all the cows in the village had no milk in them.'