

MICHAEL DEAN

A Ghost in Love

and Other Plays



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CONTENTS

One Ghost for the Day, One Ghost for the Night	1
Sleep now, My Darling	15
A Ghost in Love	25
GLOSSARY	39
ACTIVITIES: Before Reading	42
ACTIVITIES: While Reading	43
ACTIVITIES: After Reading	46
ABOUT THE AUTHOR	50
ABOUT THE BOOKWORMS LIBRARY	51

INTRODUCTION

Richard Little is at home on a dark night in 1653. Two years ago, his sister Beth's husband, James, died. She found a new husband. But the man at the window in the dark night is James Heston. And he is angry with Richard . . .

CHARACTERS IN THE PLAY

Richard Little

Mary Little, Richard's wife

The ghost of James Heston, Richard's brother-in-law

David Keech, Beth's second husband

Judge Timms

Oliver Barker, who speaks for Richard in court

Philip Reynolds, who speaks against Richard in court

Six women and six men

PERFORMANCE NOTES

Scene 1: A room with a book, a table, chairs and a dress for Mary to have in her hand.

Scene 2: In court, with the judge's chair, chairs for six men and six women, something to eat, a bag, money.

Scene 3: The same room as Scene 1, with a knife, table and chairs.

Scene 4: In prison, with a bed, table, chair and book.

You will need black clothes for the men, long dresses for the women. The tables and chairs only move in Scenes 1 and 4 in the character's head; they do not move on the stage. In Scene 2 we hear Heston's ghost, but we cannot see him.

One Ghost for the Day, One Ghost for the Night

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?