

Colonel Fazackerley

Colonel Fazackerley Butterworth-Toast
Bought an old castle complete with a ghost,
But someone or other forgot to declare
To Colonel Fazack that the spectre was there.

On the very first evening, while waiting to dine,
The Colonel was taking a fine sherry wine,
When the ghost, with a furious flash and a flare,
Shot out of the chimney and shivered, 'Beware!'

Colonel Fazackerley put down his glass
And said, 'My dear fellow, that's really first class!
I just can't conceive how you do it at all,
I imagine you're going to a Fancy Dress Ball!'



At this, the dread ghost gave a withering cry,
Said the Colonel (his monocle firm in his eye),
'Now just how you do it I wish I could think,
Do sit down and tell me, and please have a drink.'

The ghost in his phosphorous cloak gave a roar
And floated about between ceiling and floor.
He walked through a wall and returned through a pane
And backed up the chimney and came down again.

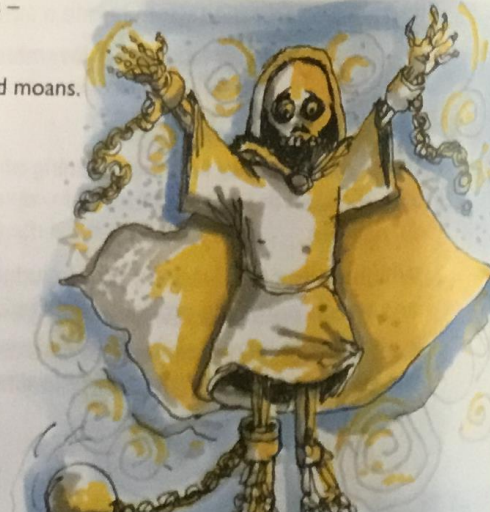
Said the Colonel, 'With laughter I'm feeling quite weak!
(As tears of merriment ran down his cheek).
'My house-warming party I hope you won't spurn,
You must say you'll come and you'll give us a turn!'

At this, the poor spectre – quite out of his wits –
Proceeded to shake himself almost to bits.
He rattled his chains and he clattered his bones
And he filled the whole castle with mumbles and moans.

But Colonel Fazackerley, just as before,
Was simply delighted and called out, 'Encore!
At which the ghost vanished, his efforts in vain,
And was never seen at the castle again.

'Oh dear, what a pity!' said Colonel Fazack.
'I don't know his name, so I can't call him back.'
And then with a smile that was hard to define,
Colonel Fazackerley went in to dine.

Charles Causley



Do you remember?

Write a sentence to answer each question.

1. What was the Colonel's full name?
2. What did he buy?
3. What did he unexpectedly get with his purchase?
4. When and from where did the ghost first appear?
5. What was the Colonel doing when he saw the ghost?

More to think about

1. These six sentences about Colonel Fazackerley and the ghost have been muddled up. Write them in the correct order.

The Colonel thought this was really funny.

Colonel Fazackerley bought the castle.

The ghost left, and has not been seen since.

The Colonel joked with the ghost, saying he thought it was going to a Fancy Dress Ball.

A ghost appeared from the chimney.

The ghost became increasingly furious.

2. Was Colonel Fazackerley frightened of the ghost? What makes you think this?
3. Was the ghost pleased Colonel Fazackerley had bought the castle? What did he do to show his feelings?
4. Did the Colonel really want the ghost to stay in the castle? Give the reasons for your answer.



Now try these

1. What would you have done if you had met the ghost?
2. What sort of person do you think Colonel Fazackerley was? Use phrases from the poem to help you answer this question.
3. What does the poet mean when he says at the end of the poem: 'And then with a smile that was hard to define, Colonel Fazackerley went in to dine'?