



# Mrs. Zant and the Ghost

*Wilkie Collins*

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## Mrs. Zant and the Ghost Wilkie Collins

Short novel. According to Wikipedia: "William Wilkie Collins (8 January 1824 - 23 September 1889) was an English novelist, playwright, and writer of short stories. He was hugely popular in his time, and wrote 27 novels, more than 50 short stories, at least 15 plays, and over 100 pieces of non-fiction work. His best-known works are The Woman in White, The Moonstone, Armadale and No Name."

## Mrs. Zant and the Ghost Details

Date : Published December 1st 2008 by B&R Samizdat Express (first published 1885)

ISBN :

Author : Wilkie Collins

Format : Nook 76 pages

Genre : Classics, Audiobook, Short Stories, Fiction

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## From Reader Review Mrs. Zant and the Ghost for online ebook

### Cheri says

Sometimes folks get what they deserve.

I thoroughly enjoyed this short story made even better by the fantastic narration performed by Gillian Anderson. That accent! Swoon!

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### Char says

Mrs. Zant and the Ghost was a sweet little ghost story.

Even though it wasn't scary, it was entertaining, and I thought that Gillian Anderson did a decent job of narrating the tale. A little bit more distinction between the voices would have been nice, but this book was short, so it was just a slight annoyance.

Recommended for fans of ghost stories, (though I would recommend the volumes of M.R. James before this one.)

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### Melanti says

A nice, simple ghost story.

Not quite up to the standards of *The Woman in White* or *The Moonstone*, but enjoyable.

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### Candace says

'Mrs. Zant and the Ghost' is a classic Victorian ghost story, recently offered as an Audible freebie. Since it was free, I figured I'd give it a go, even though it wasn't a story that really appealed to me. Unfortunately, my initial impression proved accurate.

Mrs. Zant is recently widowed. She has taken to walking in the gardens, where she and her husband first professed their love to one another. While in the gardens, she believes that she sees the ghost of the husband that she loved so dearly.

Her "encounter" with the ghost is witnessed by Mr. Rayburn, who also happens to be in the park that day. Needless to say, Mrs. Zant appears crazy to onlookers. However, the more he talks to her, the more that Mr. Rayburn begins to believe the widow.

While this story might hold some appeal for others, it didn't do much of anything for me. I never felt a connection to either of the main characters. Mostly, this story seemed frigid and boring to me. I couldn't manage to muster an ounce of concern or interest.

It was a short story and it was free, so there is that. If you're curious, it won't cost you anything to try it out. It just wasn't for me. I didn't feel even the slightest connection to this story.

Check out more of my reviews at [www.bookaddicthaven.com](http://www.bookaddicthaven.com)

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### **Cathy (cathepsut) says**

A classic Victorian ghost story, first published in 1885, which I got as an Audible freebie. Narrated by Gillian Anderson (X-Files).

I found it to be a pretty dull ghost story, with the stereotypical gender roles of the time.

Gillian Anderson's narration was a bit breathy for my taste and the different characters were not terribly distinct and pretty much in the same register, regardless of situation.

It was short, it was free, it was ok.

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### **Montzalee Wittmann says**

Mrs. Zant and the Ghost

By: Wilkie Collins

Narrated by: Gillian Anderson

This audible book has a lovely feel to it and hearing Gillian Anderson's voice adds to this richness, and lush appeal. It makes you feel you are back in 1930's, and overseas, where there is a prim and proper way to do everything.

Ms Anderson's voice leads us on a mournful tale of a wife who recently lost her husband of just a short time. A brother-in-law that is trying to take advantage of her, and a widower that is just looking out for the sad woman. But she has a protector...

A short story tells of boundless love, that is everlasting and immortal. The narrator makes you FEEL the story, she immerses the story into your bones. Excellent. I don't think I would have enjoyed the story half as much if I hadn't picked up the audible version with Anderson narrating.

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### **Dolors says**

A short tale of ghosts and love.

Mrs Zant has recently lost her beloved husband and while walking in the Kensington Gardens, the spot where she and her deceased husband declared their love for each other, she feels his presence trying to warn her of some coming danger.

Mr. Rayburn witnesses it all and he'll have to fight his own incredulity regarding the supernatural and his gut feeling that the disturbed young woman is telling the truth.

Collins at his best, much better than "The turn of the screw" by James, the story tells much more and with a sublime grace that James' prose lacks in most of his novels.

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## **Latasha says**

Gillian Anderson was fantastic.

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## **John Frankham says**

A 76-page novella. Supernatural short story written especially for the young Anne (Nannie) Wynne. It was originally published as 'The Ghost's Touch' in *The Irish Fireside*, 30 September - 14 October 1885; *Harper's Weekly*, 23 October 1885; and in *The Ghost's Touch and Other Stories* (with 'My Lady's Money' and 'Percy and the Prophet', *Harper's Handy Series*, no 30, 1885).

Mr Rayburn, a widower, and his young daughter, Lucy, meet the widowed Mrs Zant in Kensington Gardens while she seems to be experiencing a vision. Rayburn is intrigued and bewitched, and investigates Mrs Zant's history, and her strange relationship with her brother-in-law, and follows Mrs Zant when she stays with him on the south coast.

Is the widow in danger, and, if so, can Rayburn, or even the dead husband, save her?

A very satisfactory tale. As it unfolds, one desperately wants a happy ending, but does Wilkie Collins want to give us one?

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## **Bandit says**

OK. So this is the way to enjoy Wilkie Collins for those like me for whom Victorian scary tales generally don't scare or even entertain all that much. Get Gillian Anderson to narrate them. And not Scully Anderson, we're talking DS Gibson, proper British accent and all. And still Mrs. Zant and The Ghost leave something to be desired, but at least it's nice to listen to. The writing is perfectly elegant, but like so many other fights of antiquity (yes, this is a nod to M.R. James, the man whose tales lead to so much nodding off it only seems fair to mention) it just doesn't have the same effect on modern audience as it must have once had on the far more delicate one of the bygone era. In the end even Ms. Anderson can only do so much with it, but her accent is much more exciting than the story itself, which is tepid at best. Of course, the story's age must be taken into account and it is a perfect product of its era, but preserved through time like literature tends to be, it doesn't offer much to the reader aside from a glimpse into the past's standards for ghost fiction. But then again it's only 95 minutes or so of a listen.

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## **Chris says**

Not Collins' best, but an enjoyable ghost story, especially with Andersen's reading.

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### **Kelly says**

I listened to this via the audiobook with Gillian Anderson's narration. It brought so much to the book and I immensely enjoyed it.

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### **Carole (Carole's Random Life in Books) says**

This was okay. I started it a couple of months ago and stopped after 8 minutes because the narration was driving me crazy. I liked Gillian Anderson's performance much better today and was able to finish the story. It wasn't particularly exciting but it was a decent story in the end.

### **December 2015**

Free Audible pre-order! Narrated by Gillian Anderson!! <http://www.audible.com/pd/Fiction/Mrs...>

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### **Mary says**

Wilkie Collins needs no introduction. I have always wanted to read this short tale. Thankfully I chose the audio version. Excellent choice! Gillian Anderson's performance as Mrs. Zant is solid. The narrative tone she breathes into the eerie content is, in my opinion, hypnotic perfection. Each character is distinguishable; one can feel Mrs. Zant's emotional distress. This is a great, old fashioned ghost story mixed with one part mystery - which Collins did so very well. Influenced by Dickens, Wilkie Collins pioneered detective fiction.

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### **Bettie? says**

<https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/1630>

Opening: **THE course of this narrative describes the return of a disembodied spirit to earth, and leads the reader on new and strange ground.**

**Not in the obscurity of midnight, but in the searching light of day, did the supernatural influence assert itself. Neither revealed by a vision, nor announced by a voice, it reached mortal knowledge through the sense which is least easily self-deceived: the sense that feels.**

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