

*A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens!*

*Every Man Has the Power to do Good*

*A Play in Two Acts*

*The small cast version 6M & 4W*

*Adapted for the Stage by James Hutchison*

**Also available from [www.jameshutchison.ca](http://www.jameshutchison.ca)**

**What the Dickens!** *Even Scrooge got a second chance.*

When Marty Fisher gets caught kissing his stage manager Samantha and the actor playing Scrooge shows up drunk Marty has to scramble to save the opening night production of a Christmas Carol and his engagement to his fiancée Tami.

**Two Act Comedy, 6M, 3W, Multiple Sets, 120 minutes**

**A Christmas Carol – Four versions available.** *Every man has the power to do good.*

When Scrooge's nephew Fred finds some letters Scrooge had written to his sister Fan a long time ago the past is unlocked, and Scrooge learns how his fear of poverty and pursuit of wealth have cost him a chance for love and genuine happiness.

**CAST OF 10+ - Two Act Drama, 6M, 4W, Multiple Sets, 120 minutes**

**CAST OF 10+ - Two Act Drama, 6M, 4W, Multiple Sets, 100 minutes**

**CAST OF 25+ - Two Act Drama, 15M, 10W, Multiple Sets, 120 minutes**

**CAST OF 25+ - Two Act Drama, 15M, 10W, Multiple Sets, 100 minutes**

**Under the Mistletoe** *Not every romantic evening goes as planned.*

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**Two Act Romantic Comedy 1M, 1W or 2M, 2W Single Set, 120 minutes**

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When Jessica Quinn uncovers the truth about her father's killer and the truth behind a woman claiming to be the long-lost daughter of her client Mary McConnell more than one person ends up dead.

**Two Act Mystery, 7M, 3W, Multiple Sets, 120 minutes**

**Stories from Langford** *Every town has its secrets.*

Six characters from Langford tell stories from their lives: stories about, jealousy, revenge, love and forgiveness.

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**Plus, other One Acts and 10 Minute Plays including The Blood of a Thousand Chickens, 500 bucks and a pack of smokes, and Elvis is Dead.**

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*Please Note: Due authorship credit must be given on all programs, printing and advertising for the play including radio, television and internet advertising.*

### **Acknowledgements**

A large cast version of *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens and adapted for the stage by James Hutchison was first performed by the Carriage House Theatre in Cardston, Alberta from December 11 to 16<sup>th</sup> 2017. Since then there have been performances in Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States. The small cast version was first performed at the Wokingham Theatre in Wokingham England from December 4-14, 2019.

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James Hutchison writes comedies, dramas, and mysteries. He also interviews other playwrights, actors, and directors about the business and creative aspects of theatre, film, and television. You can read his interviews on his blog and download his plays at [www.jameshutchison.ca](http://www.jameshutchison.ca).

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A Christmas Carol – Small Cast – Every man has the power to do good.  
A Play in Two Acts by James Hutchison

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## CAST of CHARACTERS

Ebenezer Scrooge	A bitter old miser
Mr. Bentley	A business associate
Bob Cratchit	Scrooge's Clerk
Fred	Scrooge's Nephew
Mr. Granger	A philanthropist
Mr. Harrington	A client of Scrooge's
Mr. Murdock	Mr. Bentley's accountant
Boy	A poor boy
Mrs. Dilber	Scrooge's cleaning lady
Ghost of Jacob Marley	Scrooge's business partner
First Spirit	Ghost of Christmas past
Cook	The Cook at Scrooge's school
Scrooge as a young boy	A nice quiet boy
Scrooge as a young man	Scrooge was a different man
Fan	Scrooge's sister
Mr. Fezziwig	Scrooge's old boss
Mrs. Fezziwig	Fezziwig's wife
Jacob Marley	Scrooge's business partner
Belle	Scrooge's Fiancée
Dick Wilkens	Belle's husband
George	Belle & Dick's youngest boy
Grace	Belle & Dick's youngest girl
Second Spirit	Ghost of Christmas present
Mrs. Cratchit	Bob Cratchit's wife
Peter Cratchit	Oldest Cratchit son
Abigail Cratchit	Youngest Cratchit daughter
Martha Cratchit	Oldest Cratchit daughter
Tiny Tim Cratchit	Youngest Cratchit son
Emma	Fred's wife
Topper	Friend of Fred and Emma's
Rose	Emma's sister
Ignorance	A scrawny boy
Greed	A scrawny girl
Third Spirit	Ghost of Christmas future
First Man	Businessman
Second Man	Businessman
Mr. Newbury	The undertaker
Old Joe	Receiver of stolen goods

Thomas	A young man
Caroline	Thomas's wife
Boy	Boy in the Street on Christmas morning
Girl	Girl in the Street on Christmas morning

## CAST BREAKDOWN

6 M 4W, Multiple Sets, 2 Acts,

SCROOGE – one actor plays Scrooge for the entire action of the play.

ACTOR #1: Fred, Young Scrooge, Peter, Mr. Murdock, Mr. Newbury

ACTOR #2: Mr. Granger, Mr. Harington, Fezziwig, Second Spirit, Old Joe

ACTOR #3: Mr. Bentley, Marley's Ghost, Jacob Marley, Man #1, Thomas

ACTOR #4: Bob Cratchit, Dick Wilkins, Topper, Man #2

ACTOR #5: Boy, Scrooge as a young boy, George, Tiny Tim, Ignorance, Boy

ACTRESS #1: Belle, Martha, Emma, Caroline

ACTRESS #2: Mrs. Dilber, Cook, Mrs. Fezziwig, Mrs. Cratchit

ACTRESS #3: The First Spirit, Rose, The Third Spirit

ACTRESS #4: Fan, Grace, Abby, Greed, Girl

**A note on Ages:** Scrooge is a man in his late forties to early fifties. His nephew, Fred, is in his early twenties. Scrooge has a great deal of life ahead of him and so the prospect of death is frightening. This means of course that when Belle and Dick meet Scrooge at the end of the play – they too are now in their fifties, but I would suggest casting younger actors who would play older rather than older actors who would play younger. I think that Actor #2, Actor #3, and Actress #2 would be middle aged. Actor #1, Actor #4, Actress #1, Actress #3 would be younger and as mentioned above Actor #5 and Actress #6 should be able to convincingly play a child.

How you achieve the different characters and ages can be suggested by simple changes in costume or hat or wig or voice and posture. For the most part the magic remains unhidden from the audience. The audience is aware of the actors leaving the scene to go to the upstage area and wait for their next entrance or simply grab a different jacket and return to the stage to play a new character in a different scene. There may be occasion where an actor for costume or make up reasons disappears into the wings for assistance, but the audience shouldn't notice these. Remember to be bold in costume so the audience has no difficulty distinguishing between the characters.

## **A CHRISTMAS CAROL – ACT I**

- Scene i: A London Street
- Scene ii: Scrooge & Marley's
- Scene iii: Scrooge's Street and Front Door
- Scene iv: Scrooge's Bed Chamber
- Scene v: Scrooge's School & Classroom
- Scene vi: Fezziwig's Warehouse
- Scene vii: Scrooge & Marley's
- Scene viii: Belle's home

## **A CHRISTMAS CAROL – ACT II**

- Scene i: A London Street
- Scene ii: Bob Cratchit's Home
- Scene iii: Fred's Home
- Scene iv: Mr. Bentley's Place of Business
- Scene v: London Business District
- Scene vi: Old Joe's
- Scene vii: The Undertakers
- Scene viii: Thomas and Caroline's Home
- Scene ix: Bob Cratchit's Home
- Scene x: Church Yard
- Scene xi: Scrooge's Bed Chamber
- Scene xii: A London Street
- Scene xiii: Fred's Home
- Scene xiv: Scrooge & Marley's

### **TIME**

Christmas Eve Long Ago in Victorian England

### **STORY of the PLAY**

In this fresh, fun and lively adaptation of A Christmas Carol you'll meet Mr. Bentley, learn about the letters Scrooge wrote to his sister Fan, and find out who Mr. Newbury is. You'll still find all the ghosts of Christmas Past, Present, and Future along with Tiny Tim, Bob Cratchit, the Ghost of Jacob Marley, Old Fezziwig, Scrooge's nephew Fred, and the love of Scrooge's life, Belle. There are some new scary bits, a few good laughs, a tender moment or two, and some surprises! It's a fresh take on an old tale sure to thrill young and old alike.

**NOTE:**

This is a small cast version of A Christmas Carol. The play can be performed with a cast of ten. One actor plays Ebenezer Scrooge and the rest of the cast play multiple roles.

The staging is similar regardless of stage – thrust or proscenium. Along the back of the stage are costumes on hangers, set pieces, and simple furniture used throughout the play. Nestled in amongst all the costumes and set pieces are risers or chairs and places for the actors to sit at various times throughout the performance when they are not in a scene. The performing space is downstage, and all the magic happens in front of the audience. An actor who plays multiple roles simply changes costume or wig before moving down to play a scene. Actors move set pieces in and out. They perform special effects or make additional sounds to enhance a scene. If there are musicians amongst the troupe then they could add music if desired to particular moments of the play. Much of that invention will be determined by the performing space and talents and abilities of the performers and so it makes for great theatrical possibilities.

As the acting space is open to view the scene transitions should be fluid and simple. A great deal can be done with lighting and sound or projections. Whatever solution you come up with the action of the play should not stop but should instead glide easily from one location to the next.

In the appendix you will find some additional production notes and a scene by scene breakdown of which actor is playing what character in which scene.

**LARGE CAST VERSION OF A CHRISTMAS CAROL:** This version of the play is for a cast of 10+. A larger cast version is also available where the difference in cast size is based on a difference in production concept. The large cast version is designed for a cast size of 25+ depending on doubling.

**SHORTER VERSIONS OF A CHRISTMAS CAROL**

In addition, if you'd prefer a shorter run time you can download a 100-minute version of the Large Cast or the Short Cast versions of the play from my website.



For Ann Louise

# A CHRISTMAS CAROL

## ACT I

### SCENE i: A LONDON STREET

*Setting:* Across the back of the stage are costumes and set pieces. These will be worn and brought to the front of the stage as needed for each scene. Among the costumes and set are chairs or risers which are used in the production but also give the actors a place to sit when not performing. Not that all the actors will sit. Some may stand and at times some or all the actors in the background will lend their voice to the scene or create visual effects such as flying spirits. If some of the performers are musicians, then the music for the carols may be done live and on stage. In fact, having a couple of musicians to add music here and there along with the recorded sound design would be wonderful.

*At Rise:* The curtain should not be drawn. And the stage should be somewhat set for the first scene. We are already looking upon this magical world. Ideally having the cast in the lobby fifteen minutes prior to the show singing Christmas Carols and greeting patrons would be a lovely way to begin surrounding the audience with the experience of the play. As the audience moves in to take their seats the actors also move into the theatre and as the house lights fade the cast will be standing throughout the theatre and they will begin to sing and as they do they will move towards the stage. It might be nice to have one actor begin singing – a single voice in the theatre – soon joined by another and another and another until the whole cast is singing as they reach the stage and finish their carol.

### CAROLLERS

O Come All Ye Faithful  
Joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.  
Come and behold Him,  
Born the King of Angels;  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord.

O Sing, choirs of angels,  
Sing in exultation,  
Sing all that hear in heaven God's holy word.  
Give to our Father glory in the Highest;  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord.

All Hail! Lord, we greet Thee,  
Born this happy morning,  
O Jesus! for evermore be Thy name adored.  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord.

*FRED breaks away from the crowd and addresses the audience.*

FRED (Actor 1)

My word, I love Christmas – there's a spirit in the air.

MR. GRANGER (Actor 2)

It is a time of joy and celebration.

BELLE (Actress 1)

It is a time when people are more kind and more considerate.

THOMAS (Actor 3)

Well, most people, that is.

*The group laughs.*

FRED (Actor 1)

Quite right. There are those who see Christmas as a waste of time and energy and my Uncle Scrooge was not only a member of that tribe but in all likelihood their loudest cheerleader and most ardent supporter.

MRS. DILBER (Actress 2)

He hated Christmas.

BOB CRATCHIT (Actor 4)

He hated anything that did not make him richer and so he hated Christmas most of all.

*FRED stands outside SCROOGE's Counting House and an old sign very much in need of repair with the names Scrooge & Marley hangs out front.*

FRED (Actor 1)

And on this particular Christmas when I dropped in to see him, he was in a particularly foul mood.

ROSE (Actress 3)

It might have been because seven years ago this very night his business partner, and only friend in the world, Jacob Marley had died.

MR. GRANGER (Actor 2)

Marley was long dead and buried. This you must remember or nothing wonderful can come of the tale you are about to see.

FRED (Actor 1)

And so, on a crisp and chilly – Christmas Eve my Uncle Scrooge,

MRS. DILBER (Actress 2)

that tight fisted,

THOMAS (Actor 3)

grasping, scraping, clutching, covetous, old sinner was –

FRED (Actor 1)

can you believe it – conducting business in his counting house!

*End Scene*

## SCENE ii: SCROOGE & MARLEY's

*The scene transforms to SCROOGE and MARLEY's. SCROOGE and MR. BENTLY are concluding some business while MR. GRANGER and BOB CRATCHIT wait.*

SCROOGE

One hundred pounds a-piece. My word, a fair profit, I dare say, wouldn't you Mr. Bentley.

MR. BENTLEY (Actor #3)

A nice tidy sum to add to a record year, Mr. Scrooge.

MR. SCROOGE

Yes, yes, yes indeed. And to add to our success I have some other business deals I would like to propose.

MR. BENTLEY (Actor #3)

I've no doubt they will prove as profitable as our last enterprise.

MR. SCROOGE

Without a doubt, sir. Without a doubt!

MR. BENTLEY (Actor #3)

Excellent.

MR. SCROOGE

Shall we discuss them at length?

MR. BENTLEY (Actor #3)

Nothing would please me more, Mr. Scrooge, unfortunately, I have some urgent business across town, but I am available tomorrow.

SCROOGE

On Christmas Day?

MR. BENTLEY (Actor #3)

Most certainly on Christmas Day. It is a day like any other as far as I'm concerned, why should it be absent of work.

SCROOGE

My feelings precisely Mr. Bentley. Ha, ha! I sense we are kindred spirits when it comes to business. Until tomorrow then. Good day. Cheerio!

MR. BENTLY (Actor #3)

Good day, Mr. Scrooge.

*MR. BENTLY exits.*

BOB (Actor #4)

Um, Mr. Scrooge, there's a Mr. Granger here to see you sir.

SCROOGE

Well show him in. We mustn't keep clients waiting.

BOB (Actor #4)

This way sir.

MR. GRANGER (Actor #2)

Good afternoon Mr. Scrooge, and Merry Christmas.

SCROOGE

How do you do Mr. Granger. I understand you have some business to propose.

MR. GRANGER (Actor #2)

The business of charity sir.

SCROOGE

Ah, charity, I see. Did you know about this Mr. Cratchit?

BOB (Actor #4)

I'm sorry sir, he said he had some business to discuss.

MR. GRANGER (Actor #2)

Yes, Mr. Scrooge. Charity is everyone's business, and so at this festive time of the year a few of us are raising a fund to help the poor and destitute – who suffer greatly at the present time. Many thousands are in want of common comforts, sir.

SCROOGE

Are they indeed, oh my, are there no prisons?

MR. GRANGER (Actor #2)

Plenty of prisons.

SCROOGE

And the Union workhouses are they still in operation?

MR. GRANGER (Actor #2)

They are – although, I wish I could say they were not.

SCROOGE

And the Treadmill and the Poor Law are still in full vigour, then?

MR. GRANGER (Actor #2)

Both very busy, sir.

SCROOGE

Oh! Thank God, I am very glad and relieved to hear it. I was afraid, from what you had said, that something had happened to stop them in their useful work. Good day, sir.

MR. GRANGER (Actor #2)

Um, but Mr. Scrooge, those institutions scarcely furnish Christian cheer of mind or body to the multitude. And so, a few of us are collecting money to buy the poor some meat and drink and means of warmth. We choose this time of year, because it is a time, above all others, when want is most keenly felt, and abundance rejoiced! What may I put you down for?

SCROOGE

You may put me down for nothing.

MR. GRANGER (Actor #2)

Nothing?

SCROOGE

I don't make merry myself at Christmas, and I certainly can't afford to make idle people merry. I help support the establishments I have mentioned – they cost far more than enough, and those who are in need must go there.

GRANGER (Actor #2)

But many can't go there, and many would rather die.

SCROOGE

Well then let them die and thereby decrease the surplus population.

GRANGER (Actor #2)

Mr. Scrooge!

SCROOGE

Mr. Granger! It is not my business what happens to these people. Why should I care about them? I dare say, they care little for me. It is enough for a man to understand his own business and not to interfere in other people's. Mine occupies me constantly. Good afternoon, sir, good day!

GRANGER (Actor #2)

But Mr. Scrooge.

SCROOGE

Good day.

*BOB shows MR. GRANGER to the door and returns to his desk.*

*FRED enters and cheerfully greets his UNCLE SCROOGE.*

FRED (Actor #1)

A Merry Christmas, Uncle! God save you!

SCROOGE

Bah! Humbug!

FRED (Actor #1)

Christmas a humbug, uncle! You don't mean that, I am sure.

SCROOGE

I most certainly do. Merry Christmas! What right have you to be so merry? You're poor enough.

FRED (Actor #1)

Come now, what right have you to be so miserable? You're rich enough.



SCROOGE

What else can I be when I live in a world of fools such as this. Merry Christmas! If I had my way every idiot who goes about with Merry Christmas on his lips would be boiled in his own pudding and buried with a stake of holly through his heart!

FRED (Actor #1)

Uncle!

SCROOGE

Nephew! Keep Christmas in your own way and let me keep in in mine.

FRED (Actor #1)

But you don't keep it.

SCROOGE

Let me leave it alone, then. Much good may it do you! Much good it has ever done you!

FRED (Actor #1)

But Uncle I have always thought of Christmas time as a kind, forgiving, charitable time. It is the one time of the year, when men and women open their hearts and think of all people as fellow passengers to the grave, and not as another race of creatures bound on different journeys. And therefore, though it has never put a scrap of gold or silver in my pocket, I believe that it has done me good, and will do me good; and I say, God bless it!

*BOB applauds.*

BOB (Actor #4)

Well said, I must say.

SCROOGE

Oh, you agree with my nephew, do you Mr. Cratchit?

BOB (Actor #4)

I do, sir. I think Christmas is a joyous time.

SCROOGE

Do you? Well you let me hear another word from you Mr. Bob Cratchit and you'll spend your Christmas looking for another job. Is that understood?

BOB (Actor #4)

Yes, Mr. Scrooge.

SCROOGE

You're quite a powerful speaker, sir. I am most impressed. It's a wonder you don't go into politics. Run for office. Become a Member of Parliament.

FRED (Actor #1)

What a good idea. I just might do that, can I count on your vote, Uncle?

SCROOGE

Bah!

FRED (Actor #1)

Oh, Uncle, don't be angry. Come, dine with us tomorrow.

SCROOGE

No, thank you.

FRED (Actor #1)

But why not?

SCROOGE

A man's first priority is to secure his financial future. You should have never gotten married. Why did you?

FRED (Actor #1)

Why did...I...get...well...because, I fell in love.

SCROOGE

Because you fell in love! What nonsense. Bah, good afternoon.

*Pause*

FRED (Actor #1)

Have you never been in love Uncle?

SCROOGE

No, I have not.

FRED (Actor #1)

No?

SCROOGE

No. Have you come here for the sole purpose of keeping me from my work?

FRED (Actor #1)

Not at all. I have come here, because I have something that belongs to you.

SCROOGE

Do you?

*FRED removes a bundle of letters from his pocket.*

SCROOGE

And what are those?

FRED (Actor #1)

Letters.

SCROOGE

Letters?

FRED (Actor #1)

Yes, Uncle. Letters. I was going through an old trunk of my mother's and I came across some letters you wrote to her when you were a much younger man, and those letters are from a very different Uncle Scrooge than the person who sits before me now.

SCROOGE

You read them?

FRED (Actor #1)

I might have read one or two...maybe three. Can you blame me?

SCROOGE

How dare you! Those were private letters between your mother and I. You had no right to read them. Now hand them over.

FRED (Actor #1)

I'm sorry if I've upset you Uncle, that was not my intention. I thought you'd be pleased to get them back. Here, let me make it up to you. Come have dinner with us tomorrow.

SCROOGE

No thank you. Now give me those letters.

FRED (Actor #1)

Not until you agree to come to dinner.

SCROOGE

Bah, you were always an obstinate child.

FRED (Actor #1)

Stubborn like my Uncle Scrooge, my dad used to say. Well, if you won't have dinner with us, Uncle, how about you Bob? How about you and your fine family join us for Christmas?

BOB (Actor #4)

Oh! Ha, ha that's very kind of you sir, and most unexpected but I'm afraid I'm scheduled to work.

FRED (Actor #1)

Good Lord, on Christmas! That is a humbug. What mean spirited old moneygrubber would make you work on Christmas day, I wonder?

SCROOGE

If I was to stop him half-a-crown for it, you'd think him ill-used. And yet you don't think me ill-used, when I pay a day's wages for no work.

BOB (Actor #4)

But Mr. Scrooge, it's only once a year.

SCROOGE & FRED (Actor #1)

That's a poor excuse for picking a man's pocket every twenty-fifth of December!

SCROOGE

Bah! I am surrounded by fools! Very well, if you must have it, have it!

BOB (Actor #4)

Oh, thank you sir. Thank you very much.

FRED (Actor #1)

Excellent! Well then, I take it that means you're free to come dine with us Uncle?

SCROOGE

No, no, no. Mr. Cratchit may have his day to do with as he intends. I will use my day for more profitable enterprises.

FRED (Actor #1)

I am sorry, with all my heart, to find you so resolute. But I have made the trial in homage to Christmas, and I'll keep my Christmas cheer to the last. So, a Merry Christmas, uncle!

*FRED puts the letters on SCROOGE's desk.*

SCROOGE

Good afternoon!

FRED (Actor #1)

And a Happy New Year!

SCROOGE

Good afternoon!

*FRED turns to leave.*

FRED (Actor #1)

And a Merry Christmas Bob, to you and your family.

BOB (Actor #4)

Thank you, sir. Same to yours.

FRED (Actor #1)

And my invitation to Christmas dinner stands. You are welcome to join us.

BOB (Actor #4)

Oh, that's most kind of you sir – and it is very much appreciated – but we like to celebrate at home and have the whole family together on Christmas day.

FRED (Actor #1)

There's nothing more important than family, is there Bob?

BOB (Actor #4)

No sir, nothing.

FRED (Actor #1)

Merry Christmas.

BOB (Actor #4)

Merry Christmas, sir.

FRED (Actor #1)

Merry Christmas, Uncle!

*SCROOGE growls and then goes back to working at his desk. The day grows darker and colder. The letters sit where FRED put them.*

*SCROOGE stops his work and picks up the letters. They are bound by a ribbon. As SCROOGE unties the bundle, he hears a whisper and other soft ghostly sounds from beyond.*

MARLEY's GHOST (Actor #3) & OTHER VOICES (Off)  
*Ghostly whispers and sounds*

Scrooge.

*SCROOGE stops and looks up. He looks about warily and then dismissing the sound returns to the letters.*

MARLEY's GHOST (Actor #3) & OTHER VOICES (Off)  
*Ghostly whispers and sounds*

Scrooge. Scrooge.

*SCROOGE looks up. Looking rather pale and concerned.*

SCROOGE

Uh, Mr. Cratchit did you call?

BOB (Actor #4)

Call, Mr. Scrooge?

SCROOGE

Yes, call just now! My name?

BOB (Actor #4)

No, Mr. Scrooge. Is there something you want?

*SCROOGE hesitates – listens – then relaxes a little.*

SCROOGE

Uh, no, no...no...nothing.

**SFX: A DISTANT CHURCH CLOCK BEGINS TO CHIME SEVEN**

*BOB begins to pack up his desk as the hour of closing is reached.*

SCROOGE

Well, Mr. Cratchit, you have tomorrow to do with as you like, but I expect you here at your desk all the earlier the following morning. Is that clear?

BOB (Actor #4)

Quite clear sir. Thank you, Mr. Scrooge.

SCROOGE

Mark my word Mr. Cratchit, this is a harsh and cruel world where your only shield against the cold hand of poverty is acquisition, profit, and gain. What's Christmas time to you but a time for finding yourself a year older, and not an hour richer? Bah.

BOB (Actor #4)

Yes, sir. Good night, Mr. Scrooge.

SCROOGE

Good day.

*BOB exits the counting house and once outside whistles a happy tune and laughs as he rushes off to be with his family.*

*SCROOGE opens one of the letters and begins to read.*

MARLEY's GHOST and OTHER VOICES (Off)  
*Ghostly whisper*

Scrooge.

SCROOGE

What's that? Hello? Is someone there?

**SFX: CHAINS BEING DRAGGED**

MARLEY's GHOST (Actor #3) and OTHER VOICES (Off)  
*Ghostly whisper*

Scrooge.

SCROOGE

Whoever's there I'm warning you – I am armed. Yes, yes, I am armed. So, you had better show yourself. Come on – out from the shadows whoever you are.

**SFX KNOCK AT THE DOOR**

*The ghostly sounds fade away.*

**SFX KNOCK AT THE DOOR**

*SCROOGE crosses to the door and opens it.*

MR. HARRINGTON (Actor #2)

Ah, Mr. Scrooge, I am so sorry to disturb you on Christmas Eve, but I know how long are the hours you work, and took the chance that I might find you here still – at your office – at this late hour.

SCROOGE

What trick are you up to?

MR. HARRINGTON (Actor #2)

Trick, Mr. Scrooge?

SCROOGE

Yes, what game are you playing at?



MR. HARRINGTON (Actor #2)

Um, I'm playing no game, I assure you sir. Is something wrong?

*Pause*

SCROOGE (Actor #2)

Wrong? Uhhh, no. No, nothing's wrong.

*SCROOGE tosses the letters into the trash.*

SCROOGE

Well then Mr. Harrington, I assume you are here to make a payment.

MR. HARRINGTON (Actor #2)

Ah, yes well, I've run into a bit of a problem – you see – and I need to make some sort of arrangement for an extension Mr. Scrooge.

SCROOGE

The terms of the loan were quite clear when you signed them.

MR. HARRINGTON (Actor #2)

Yes, of course, sir, but it's not easy finding work at the moment you see, and if I could just have a little more time...I'm good for it...I'm a hard worker...

SCROOGE

None of this is my concern, Mr. Harrington. If you are unable to pay off your loan you must pay the penalty, and do so in a timely fashion, or forfeit the collateral you have offered, or find yourself in debtor's prison. There is no court in the land that will not rule in my favour.

MR. HARRINGTON (Actor #2)

Maybe so sir, but that doesn't make it right.

SCROOGE

I have a right to be paid the money owed me.

MR. HARRINGTON (Actor #2)

But Mr. Scrooge, I'm sure you've seen tough times yourself and have needed a helping hand from time to time.

SCROOGE

God helps those who help themselves. Good night Mr. Harrington. A full payment is due by the end of the year.

MR. HARRINGTON (Actor #2)

Were you always so cold and unfeeling a man, Mr. Scrooge?

SCROOGE

You may find me cold and unfeeling sir, but I would venture to say I am a man of my word; a man whose word carries weight; a man whose word allows him the ability to strike a deal and back it up with his signature. My signature is worth something. Yours it would appear – if you continue to treat your financial obligations and business dealings in this manner – will soon be worthless. Now if you'll excuse me, I'm off to the King's Head Pub for a well-earned and well-deserved supper. Good day, sir!

*HARRINGTON exits*

*SCROOGE puts on his coat and hat; looks about the office and leaves.*

*The letters that were thrown in the dustbin rise out of the bin and stack themselves neatly on SCROOGE's desk.*

*End Scene*

### SCENE iii: SCROOGE'S STREET AND THE FRONT DOOR

*It is late and cold. Fog circles the street. A YOUNG BOY stands near the door to Scrooge's apartments singing. SCROOGE enters from the other end of the street and approaches the boy.*

BOY (Actor #5)

*The closer SCROOGE gets the more the BOY falters until the song fades away to nothing.*

GOD REST YE MERRY GENTLEMEN  
LET NOTHING YOU DISMAY  
REMEMBER, CHRIST, OUR SAVIOR  
WAS BORN ON CHRISTMAS DAY.  
TO SAVE US ALL FROM SATAN'S POWER  
WHEN WE WERE ALL GONE ASTRAY  
O TIDINGS OF COMFORT AND JOY  
COMFORT AND JOY  
O TIDINGS OF COMFORT AND JOY

SCROOGE

What are you doing on my doorstep, boy?

BOY (Actor #5)

Singing, sir.

SCROOGE

Singing?

BOY (Actor #5)

Yes, sir. You wouldn't happen to have any change, would you sir, for a poor boy just trying to make a few bob?

SCROOGE

Singing, is not something I wish to pay for. Now get out of here before I call a constable. Go on. Hurry up. Go sing somewhere else – not here. Not at my door. You want money, then you should earn it. Go work in the coal mines and find yourself some other porch to haunt.

*SCROOGE watches the boy run off and then digs in his pocket for a key. There is a sudden chill in the air as SCROOGE puts the key in the lock and the horrifying distorted face of SCROOGE's long dead partner JACOB MARLEY appears in the centre of the door*

MARLEY's GHOST (Actor #3) & OTHER VOICES

Scrooge. Scrooge!

SCROOGE

Ohhaahhh!

*SCROOGE backs away startled. The door returns to normal and slowly creaks open. Fog from inside the dwelling mingles with the fog on the street.*

SCROOGE

Hello? Is there someone there? Hello?

*MRS. DILBER enters from inside and steps out onto the street. SCROOGE is relieved but troubled.*

MRS. DILBER (Actress #2)

Oh, Mr. Scrooge. I was just leaving. You are running rather late tonight – even for you sir. And I do have me own family to think of – and what with tomorrow be'n Christmas and all there's a lot of work needs doing. Now I know Christmas means little to you sir, but we mothers and wives, find ourselves occupied with much preparation for the day.

SCROOGE

Yes, yes, yes. We all busy ourselves with what we think is important, Mrs. Dilber.

MRS. DILBER (Actress #2)

Now, I've left your gruel by the fire, Mr. Scrooge, and put a cover on it to keep it warm, and I've put the bed warmer in the bed. It's a cold night. Cold to the bones. The only people who don't feel this cold are the dead I reckon. Ha, ha, ha.

SCROOGE

Yes...uh...Mrs. Dilber?

MRS. DILBER (Actress #2)

Yes, Mr. Scrooge?

SCROOGE

Have you noticed anything peculiar?

MRS. DILBER (Actress #2)

Peculiar? In what way?

SCROOGE

No strange noises, perhaps?

MRS. DILBER (Actress #2)

No stranger than usual. This old place creaks and groans like an old man.

SCROOGE

Everything is quite normal, then?

MRS. DILBER (Actress #2)

Everything is as it should be, Mr. Scrooge. Why, is there something wrong?

SCROOGE

No, no...it's just I thought for a moment...that...ah...oh, I have been surrounded by such fools this entire day that their silly nonsense and talk of Christmas has me hearing and seeing things. Good night Mrs. Dilber.

MRS. DILBER (Actress #2)

Good night Mr. Scrooge. Will you be taking breakfast at your usual time tomorrow?

SCROOGE

I see no reason why I should adjust my schedule.

MRS. DILBER (Actress #2)

Ah, very well Mr. Scrooge, I will see you first thing in the morning.

*SCROOGE enters his house.*

*MRS. DILBER starts to exit. She looks about her. The GHOSTLY shadow of JACOB MARLEY moves across the exterior of the house. MRS. DILBER looks about and then hurries off.*

*End Scene*

## SCENE iv: SCROOGE’S BED CHAMBER

*Scrooge’s bed rolls into place and there is a small fire in the fireplace and beside the fire is a high back chair. A floor length mirror stands near the bed. SCROOGE enters wearing his slippers, nightshirt and cap. He crosses to the chair, sits down, and holds the bowl of gruel in his hands.*

SCROOGE

Such, nonsense. Christmas – a kind, hospitable, charitable time. Humbug, I say. It’s all humbug.

*SCROOGE goes to take a spoonful of gruel and blows on it. He is about to eat the gruel when he hears MARLEY’s GHOST.*

MARLEY’S GHOST (Actor #3) AND OTHER VOICES (Off)

Scrooge.

*SCROOGE drops his spoon into the bowl.*

**SFX HEAVY FOOTSTEPS AND THE SOUND OF CHAINS BEING DRAGGED OUTSIDE THE BEDROOM DOOR WITH LAMENTED AND MOANING CRIES.**

SCROOGE

What’s this? No. This is a humbug I say! A humbug!

*SCROOGE shaking with fear rushes to the door bolts all the locks.*

**SFX: SOUND OF CHAINS BEING DRAGGED ACROSS THE FLOOR**

SCROOGE

Ha, there! Not even Hannibal and his Elephants could break down this door! You hear me? Hey! I advise you to leave this place at once – whoever you are.

MARLEY’S GHOST (Actor #3) & OTHER VOICES (Off)

Scrooge.

SCROOGE

Leave now before I shout for the law and have you arrested! You hear me? You'll spend your Christmas in a jail cell if I have anything to say about it!

*As SCROOGE stands at the door, the Ghost of JACOB MARLEY ghostly white and bound by a long chain made of cash boxes, keys, padlocks, ledgers, deeds, and heavy purses wrought in steel, emerges from the mirror behind SCROOGE and steps into the room. SCROOGE turns and sees the PHANTOM.*

MARLEY's GHOST (Actor #3)

OhhhAhhhOhhhAhhh!

SCROOGE

Oh, dear God! Merciful heaven what is this?

MARLEY's GHOST (Actor #3)

Whooooaaahhhh.

SCROOGE

Answer me dreadful phantom, who and what are you?

MARLEY's GHOST (Actor #3)

In life, I was your partner, Jacob Marley.

SCROOGE

Jacob? No. No, it cannot be. You are dead and long buried. Long buried.

MARLEY's GHOST (Actor #3)

Do you not believe in me?

SCROOGE

No, I do not.

MARLEY's GHOST (Actor #3)

You doubt your own eyes and ears?

SCROOGE

I do. Yes I do. In this matter they are not to be trusted. You may be nothing more than an undigested bit of beef...yes...a glob of mustard, a chunk of cheese, a fragment of an

SCROOGE (Cont'd)

underdone potato. I say you are nothing more than an upset stomach making me hear and see things that do not exist. Mark my word, you unholy vision, there's more of gravy than of grave about you, ha, ha, whatever you are!

*MARLEY's GHOST lets out a horrible cry. His chains move forward and wrap themselves around SCROOGE and draw SCROOGE towards him.*

SCROOGE

No. No. No. Mercy, dreadful phantom! Please release me.

MARLEY's GHOST (Actor #3)

Man of worldly mind! Do you believe in me or not?

SCROOGE

I do. I don't know. I do. I do – yes I do – I suppose – I must – believe in you. Please have mercy Jacob. Why do you walk the earth, and haunt me?

MARLEY's GHOST (Actor #3)

It is required of every man that the spirit within him should walk among his fellow men, and if that spirit does not do so in life – it is doomed to do so after death.

SCROOGE

After death?

MARLEY's GHOST (Actor #3)

Yes, and to wander the world without rest and witness what it cannot share, but might have shared in life, and turned to happiness!

SCROOGE

But why are you shackled? Who has done this to horrible thing to you?

MARLEY's GHOST (Actor #3)

I have done it to myself. I wear the chain I forged in life. I made it link by link, and yard by yard. The weight and length of the chain you bear yourself was as heavy and as long as this, seven Christmas Eves ago. You have laboured on it, since. Your's is a monstrous chain!

*MARLEY's chain releases SCROOGE*



SCROOGE

Oh no...no...Jacob...say it is not so...you have done no wrong...you were always a good man of business.

MARLEY's GHOST (Actor #3)

Business! Mankind was my business. The common welfare was my business. Charity, mercy, forbearance, and benevolence were all my business.

*MARLEY's GHOST shakes his chains. SCROOGE cowers.*

SCROOGE

Have mercy, Jacob, please.

MARLEY's GHOST (Actor #3)

I have none to give – but you may yet – have a chance and hope of escaping my fate. A chance and hope of my procuring, Ebenezer.

SCROOGE

Thank you. You were always a good friend to me, Jacob.

MARLEY's GHOST (Actor #3)

You are to be haunted by three spirits.

SCROOGE

Oh. Haunted by three spirits? Is that the chance and hope you mentioned?

MARLEY's GHOST (Actor #3)

It is.

SCROOGE

Ah, well...to be haunted...I...I...mean...I think...I think I'd rather not be haunted if it's all the same to you Jacob...I'm not so sure how much more of this I can take.

MARLEY's GHOST (Actor #3)

Without their visits you will be doomed and cannot hope to shun the path I tread.

SCROOGE

Doomed?

MARLEY's GHOST (Actor #3)

Expect the first, when the bell tolls one.

SCROOGE

What sort of spirits are they, Jacob?

MARLEY's GHOST (Actor #3)

Expect the second when the bell tolls two.

SCROOGE

How will I know them?

MARLEY's GHOST (Actor #3)

And the third when the bell tolls three.

SCROOGE

What sort of things will they do to me?

MARLEY's GHOST (Actor #3)

I can say no more. I can stay no longer. Remember Ebenezer, for your own sake, what has passed between us.

*MARLEY's GHOST steps back towards the large window of the bed chamber. The window blows open and the sky is filled with other ghosts shackled and chained and lamenting their damnation.*

*MARLEY's GHOST flies back through the window and joins the other spirits. The window slams shut and there is silence.*

SCROOGE

No, no, no, no no. No, no, no, no. This is all nonsense – nonsense – a nightmare – nothing more than a bad dream. Yes, of course. That explains it. I'm having a dream. Ha, ha, ha a nightmare. There are no such things as ghosts and spirits. It is all in your mind; do you hear me Ebenezer? All in your mind. You will not be haunted. Humbug!

**SFX: A DISTANT CHURCH CLOCK BEGINS THE WESTMINSTER CHIME**

*In the darkness a few candle flames begin to burn – then more – then hundreds – then thousands – they converge in a blinding flash and out of the light emerges the FIRST SPIRIT: THE GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PAST. SCROOGE uncovers his eyes as the brightness dims. The FIRST SPIRIT is dressed in a white robe.*

SCROOGE

Are you the spirit, whose coming was foretold to me?

FIRST SPIRIT (Actress #3)

I am.

SCROOGE

Oh, thank God, you are not as terrifying as I feared. *(He laughs)* Who and what are you?

FIRST SPIRIT (Actress #3)

I am the Ghost of Christmas Past.

SCROOGE

Oh? Are you indeed? Long past?

FIRST SPIRIT (Actress #3)

No, your past.

SCROOGE

My past? Why my past?

FIRST SPIRIT (Actress #3)

For your welfare. Come, Ebenezer, take my hand. I have much to show you.

*End Scene*

## SCENE v: SCHOOL ROOM

*The stage transforms to a Christmas many years ago with SCROOGE as a young boy standing in a school room with the COOK. The COOK is reading a letter.*

SCROOGE

Good heavens. This is where I grew up. I was a boy here!

FIRST SPIRIT (Actress #3)

These are shadows of things that have been. They cannot see us, nor can we change or influence them.

*The COOK finishes reading the letter and then sizes up a much younger SCROOGE.*

COOK (Actress #2)

Well, Master Scrooge, it would appear that according to the headmaster, you and I are to spend Christmas together.

SCROOGE AS A BOY (Actor #5)

I'm not to go home.

COOK (Actress #2)

No. Apparently your father would prefer that you stay here. I must say that's a bit irregular, but I suppose we must make the best of it, eh?

SCROOGE AS A BOY (Actor #5)

Yes, ma'am.

COOK (Actress #2)

I like to spend the holidays reading. It's the only time of the year where I don't have to spend all my time in the kitchen cooking for you lot and I can enjoy some quiet solitude. I do hope you will follow my example and pass the time in such a manner as this. I'll have the headmaster select a few books that might be of interest to a boy your age, Robinson Crusoe and the like. You may take your meals in the kitchen with me instead of the dining hall, if that is agreeable.

SCROOGE AS A BOY (Actor #5)

Yes, ma'am.

COOK (Actress #2)

Oh, come now Master Scrooge, you may not be home for Christmas, but you at least have a roof over your head and food. There are many in this world with far less than that. If you want more than this, then I suggest you put your nose to the grindstone, boy. God rewards those who work hard, and he punishes those who don't.

SCROOGE AS A BOY (Actor #5)

Yes, ma'am.

*YOUNG SCROOGE and the COOK exit.*

*SCROOGE looks upon his younger self and wipes away a tear.*

FIRST SPIRIT (Actress #3)

What is the matter?

SCROOGE

It's nothing.

FIRST SPIRIT (Actress #3)

Nothing?

SCROOGE

Well...there was a boy at my door last night.

FIRST SPIRIT (Actress #3)

You are reminded of him?

SCROOGE

He was singing a Christmas Carol.

FIRST SPIRIT (Actress #3)

Yes.

SCROOGE

I should have given him something, I suppose. But if I was to give every poor child or man or woman, that fell upon hard times my money – what would be left for me?

FIRST SPIRIT (Actress #3)

We can give more than just money, Ebenezer. We can give our time and our labour to help those in need.

SCROOGE

But it's not my business.

FIRST SPIRIT (Actress #3)

If not yours – then whose? Come, Ebenezer, let us see another Christmas.

*SCROOGE is now a young man. He is in the school room writing a letter when FAN enters and interrupts him. He is overwhelmed.*

FAN (Actress #4)

Oh, dear brother.

YOUNG SCROOGE (Actor #1)

Fan?

FAN (Actress #4)

Yes, dear brother.

SCROOGE

Oh, my word it is Fan...oh dear Fan, how good it is to see you. I have missed you so.

*FAN runs over to YOUNG SCROOGE and gives him a big hug.*

YOUNG SCROOGE (Actor #1)

Why Fan, what a surprise. I am so very happy to see you. Pray, what has brought you here?

FAN (Actress #4)

I have come to bring you home, dear brother!

YOUNG SCROOGE (Actor #1)

Home, little Fan?

FAN (Actress #5)

Yes! Home, for good and all. Home, for ever and ever.

YOUNG SCROOGE (Actor #1)

But how?

FAN (Actress #4)

Father has changed.

YOUNG SCROOGE (Actor #1)

Has he indeed? Well, I'll believe that when I see it.

FAN (Actress #4)

But he has. He has become so much kinder than he used to be, that home's like Heaven.

YOUNG SCROOGE (Actor #1)

Is it? Well that is a blessing.

FAN (Actress #4)

Last night, Father spoke so kindly and gently to me when I was going to bed, that I was not afraid to ask him once more if you might come home and he said, "Yes, you should. You must." And he sent me in a coach to bring you. Can you believe it?

YOUNG SCROOGE (Actor #1)

Hardly, but I am very happy none-the-less.

FAN (Actress #4)

Isn't it wonderful?

YOUNG SCROOGE (Actor #1)

Yes! How extraordinary.

FAN (Actress #4)

And you're to be a man and are never to come back here, but first we're to be together all the Christmas long, and have the merriest time in all the world.

YOUNG SCROOGE (Actor #1)

Ha, ha, you are quite a woman, little Fan!

*YOUNG SCROOGE and FAN happily hug, and YOUNG SCROOGE gathers up his things and they exit.*

FIRST SPIRIT (Actress #3)

She was always a delicate creature, whom a breath might have withered.

SCROOGE

Yes, but she had a large heart. She was very generous and kind. She didn't have an enemy in the world. Oh fan, how I have missed you.

FIRST SPIRIT (Actress #3)

She died a woman.

SCROOGE

Yes, and far too young. What kind of a God allows that; I ask you? She should have lived.

FIRST SPIRIT (Actress #3)

She had children.

SCROOGE

One child.

FIRST SPIRIT (Actress #3)

Your nephew Fred.

SCROOGE

Yes.

FIRST SPIRIT (Actress #3)

He is not so unlike his mother in appearance or disposition is he.

*SCROOGE pauses and reflects.*

SCROOGE

Uh, no...that is true...he is not...but men need to be tough in order to get ahead in this world. My nephew is too soft hearted.

FIRST SPIRIT (Actress #3)

Is he?



SCROOGE

Yes. I have tried so many times to make him understand the importance of hard work and industry, but my advice seems to have little effect upon him. It goes in one ear and out the other. I am sorry to say this, but he is a fool, and will always be so.

FIRST SPIRIT (Actress #3)

And yet he seems happy. Come, Ebenezer, there is more to see.

*End Scene*

## SCENE vi: FEZZIWIG'S WAREHOUSE

*YOUNG SCROOGE is working at his desk. He is happy having found work and love and is whistling a happy tune.*

SCROOGE

Good Lord!

FIRST SPIRIT (Actress #3)

You know this place?

SCROOGE

Know it? Why yes, I know it. I was apprenticed here! Ha, ha, ha!

*FEZZIWIG enters followed by JACOB MARLEY*

SCROOGE

And, look it's old Fezziwig! Bless his heart – it's Fezziwig alive again!

FEZZIWIG (Actor #2)

Ebenezer, I'd like you to meet a business associate of mine, Jacob Marley.

YOUNG SCROOGE (Actor #1)

Very pleased to meet you, Mr. Marley.

*YOUNG SCROOGE crosses and shakes MARLEY's hand.*

JACOB (Actor #3)

So, you're the young man I've been hearing so much about.

FEZZIWIG (Actor #2)

Ebenezer has a keen mind when it comes to business Jacob. Why, year over year, we've more than doubled our profits – can you believe it?

DICK (Actor #4)

Mr. Fezziwig, sorry to interrupt, but Harvey Grayson is here to see you.

FEZZIWIG (Actor #2)

Oh dear, what does he want now?

SCROOGE

Look at that. It's Dick Wilkens, to be sure! Bless me, yes. There he is. We were very good friends, once.

FEZZIWIG (Actor #2)

Perhaps you could ask him to call back later...let him know that I'm busy.

DICK (Actor #4)

I tried sir, but he says the matter is urgent and insists upon speaking with you at once.

FEZZIWIG (Actor #2)

Oh dear. Well, I should see him then. If you'll excuse me Jacob, I won't be long.

JACOB (Actor #3)

Oh, that's quite alright; you go ahead and attend to Mr. Grayson. I'd like a word with your young prodigy here, Mr. Scrooge.

*FEZZIWIG and DICK exit.*

JACOB (Actor #3)

So, tell me Mr. Scrooge, in your professional opinion, is old Fezziwig conducting his business, in such a manner, as to maximize his profits?

YOUNG SCROOGE (Actor #1)

Well Mr. Marley, I don't think it's right for me to comment on my master's business affairs.

JACOB (Actor #3)

Oh, come now, I am asking your opinion, not as a friend of Fezziwig's, but as a man of business. Is old Fezziwig – to put it plainly – making as much money as he could?

YOUNG SCROOGE (Actor #1)

Mr. Fezziwig, while a good man – but not always of business unfortunately, has other priorities.

JACOB (Actor #3)

Ha ha! I thought so. I was going to buy him out Mr. Scrooge. I'd even made him an offer. And then you come on the scene and suddenly old Fezziwig is drowning in money, and I ask myself how did he manage that? Well he didn't manage it, did he? You did. Ha ha!

JACOB (Actor #3) (Cont'd)

You're the one, and a very shrewd man of business you are Mr. Scrooge! I am most impressed.

YOUNG SCROOGE (Actor #1)

Well, thank you Mr. Marley. That's very kind of you to say.

JACOB (Actor #3)

Nonsense, I speak the truth. If you let your heart rule your business, like Old Fezziwig does, I would call you a fool and say you deserve any punishment your foolishness gets you, but you are no fool are you Mr. Scrooge?

YOUNG SCROOGE (Actor #1)

I don't think of myself as a fool, but...I do think...there's more to life than business.

JACOB (Actor #3)

Ah, that's Fezziwig talking. Life is business, and the business of life is profit. And you and I must talk business. I am fully prepared to offer you a position in my firm.

YOUNG SCROOGE (Actor #1)

Are you indeed, sir?

JACOB (Actor #3)

Yes, I have been seeking a keen young man that I can groom to be my partner, and I dare say from my inquiries, that you appear to be that man. If you hadn't come along Old Fezziwig would have ended up in the poor house this winter instead of celebrating Christmas. Why not come work for me where you can reap all the profits of your labour? A junior partner to begin with, but I promise you, an equal partnership if you prove yourself worthy.

YOUNG SCROOGE (Actor #1)

My word Mr. Marley, that's very kind of you and I am very tempted and overwhelmed by your generous offer, but...

JACOB (Actor #3)

But?

YOUNG SCROOGE (Actor #1)

But Mr. Fezziwig has been more than fair with me, and I feel I owe him a debt of gratitude.

JACOB (Actor #3)

You are loyal, I will say that. Well, you needn't decide right now, Mr. Scrooge, but you must make a point of coming to see me in the New Year so we can discuss matters further. You have a great future ahead of you Ebenezer – if you're willing to take it.

*FEZZIWIG and DICK come back.*

FEZZIWIG (Actor #2)

That Mr. Grayson will be the ruin of me.

JACOB (Actor #3)

Why do business with him then?

FEZZIWIG (Actor #2)

He has been a client of mine for many years and stuck with me when times were hard, so I feel it only fair that I stick with him during his hard times. Ebenezer make note that Mr. Grayson's payment for the lumber we shipped to him last month will be moved to the beginning of March.

YOUNG SCROOGE (Actor #1)

Yes, Mr. Fezziwig.

FEZZIWIG (Actor #2)

Poor fellow. Now Jacob, you must stay and have a glass of punch, and join us in celebrating the holiday.

JACOB (Actor #3)

Thank you no, Mr. Fezziwig. I'm afraid, I have some other business to attend to.

FEZZIWIG (Actor #2)

On Christmas Eve?

JACOB (Actor #3)

A small matter, but a matter that demands my attention non-the-less. Good day, sir.

FEZZIWIG (Actor #2)

Merry Christmas, Mr. Marley.

JACOB (Actor #3)

Yes, Merry Christmas. Merry Christmas, Mr. Scrooge.

YOUNG SCROOGE (Actor #1)

Merry Christmas, sir.

*JACOB exits*

FEZZIWIG (Actor #2)

Here it is Christmas Eve, and here we are still sitting at our desks! That will never do. Come Ebenezer, come Dick, it's time to forget all about work and have some fun. Alright, everyone, clear the floor – bring on the fiddler and the food and the punch – come now where is my wife and daughters – let us celebrate!

*If one of the cast members can play a fiddle, they may do so otherwise recorded music is fine. MRS. FEZZIWIG and other guests enter such as men of the business and friends and neighbours. There are tables filled with food and the fiddler begins to fiddle as the couples line up and do a traditional ballroom dance or fancy polka of the time. BELLE lines up opposite SCROOGE.*

SCROOGE

Oh, my word it is Belle. Look at how young she is. How beautiful.

FIRST SPIRIT (Actress #3)

You know this woman?

SCROOGE

Know her? Oh yes, indeed, I do. (To Belle) Oh Belle. Belle how wonderful to see you.

FIRST SPIRIT (Actress #3)

She cannot hear you.

SCROOGE

Is there no way for me to speak to her?

FIRST SPIRIT (Actress #3)

She is but a memory.

*YOUNG SCROOGE dances with BELLE and the two are having a grand time. SCROOGE watches from the side and finds himself enjoying the music and dancing along with the couples clapping his hands and shadowing himself and BELLE as they dance around the warehouse. This is a happy memory for him, and we see that joy is not entirely dead in the old man.*

*The song ends and the couples applaud. FEZZIWIG and MRS. FEZZIWIG are beside YOUNG SCROOGE and BELLE.*

MRS. FEZZIWIG (Actress #2)

Why husband, you never told me that our dear Mr. Scrooge was such an accomplished dancer.

FEZZIWIG (Actor #2)

Yes, my dear, it would appear that young Ebenezer has feet for dancing as well as a head for business. Ha, ha, ha. Good lad!

MRS. FEZZIWIG (Actress #2)

What more could you ask for in a husband, I wonder Belle?

MR. FEZZIWIG (Actor #2)

Now, now my dear we're making the young couple blush. Come let us attend to our other guests.

*MR. FEZZIWIG & MRS. FEZZIWIG mingle with the other guests as they talk and drink and enjoy the party.*

*BELLE and YOUNG SCROOGE move to a more private area where they can talk alone.*

BELLE (Actress #1)

Don't be embarrassed Ebenezer, they're only teasing.

YOUNG SCROOGE (Actor #1)

I know, but it takes a great deal more than being able to dance to provide for a family and a wife in this harsh world. It takes time to build wealth and position. Time that you, my dear and beautiful Belle, may not wish to wait. If only there was some small sign by which I could know your heart.

*BELLE softly kisses YOUNG SCROOGE. There is tenderness and love between them.*

BELLE (Actress #1)

I love you Ebenezer and have told you often that I will wait until our fortunes are better.

YOUNG SCROOGE (Actor #1)

Well then, speaking of fortunes, Mr. Marley seems willing to make me an offer to be a junior partner in his firm – can you believe it!

BELLE (Actress #1)

Are you not happy here?

YOUNG SCROOGE (Actor #1)

Very, but if given the opportunity to improve one's position in life, I see no reason not to take it. Why? Does it trouble you?

BELLE (Actress #1)

From what I know of Mr. Marley, I'm not so certain he's the kind of man you should be working for.

YOUNG SCROOGE (Actor #1)

Nonsense. He's successful and rich, and if he takes an interest in my future then I should at least consider his offer.

*DICK interrupts YOUNG SCROOGE and BELLE*

DICK (Actor #4)

And what are you two up to?

YOUNG SCROOGE (Actor #1)

We're not up to anything.

DICK (Actor #4)

Oh, well then, perhaps I could convince Belle to join me for a dance.

BELLE (Actress #1)

I'm sorry Dick, but my dance card is already filled.



DICK (Actor #4)

Is it? Come now, what's going on here? You can tell your friend Dick Wilkens.

YOUNG SCROOGE (Actor #1)

Well, if you must know (*Belle and Young Scrooge exchange glances*) Belle and I plan to marry.

DICK (Actor #4)

Do you. Ha. I thought there was something going on between you two. Well, congratulations Ebenezer. Congratulations Belle. I wish the two of you a long and happy life.

YOUNG SCROOGE (Actor #1)

Thank you, Dick.

BELLE (Actress #1)

And I'm sure that one day you'll meet a fine young woman and marry her and have a very happy and fine family of your own.

DICK (Actor #4)

If I'm ever fortunate enough to meet someone as beautiful and sweet as you are Belle, then I hope I'm smart enough to let her know how I feel and snatch her up, before someone else does. Again congratulations.

YOUNG SCROOGE (Actor #1)

What a grand night.

DICK (Actor #4) & SCROOGE

Grand, indeed!

BELLE (Actress #1)

Yes, and all thanks to old Fezziwig.

YOUNG SCROOGE (Actor #1)

What a fine and generous man he is.

SCROOGE

Hear, hear!

DICK (Actor #4)

To our dear Mr. Fezziwig, may he have a long life, and may good fortune follow him all his days.

YOUNG SCROOGE (Actor #1) & SCROOGE

Well said.

BELLE (Actress #1)

Agreed.

SCROOGE

I had forgotten that Old Fezziwig had such a generous spirit.

FIRST SPIRIT (Actress #3)

Generous? How can you say that? He has spent but a few pounds of your mortal money – three or four at the most. Why does he deserve such praise?

SCROOGE

It's not the amount he spent, Spirit. It's in his power to make us happy or unhappy to make our work a pleasure or a toil. His power lies in words and looks; in things so slight and insignificant that it is impossible to add and count them up. Why the happiness he gives to his employees is as generous and great as if it had cost a fortune.

FIRST SPIRIT (Actress #3)

So, you no longer believe that fools such as old Fezziwig here should be boiled in their own pudding and buried with a stake of Holly through their heart?

SCROOGE

Ah, well...I...didn't mean old Fezziwig. No. No. No. He was a good master. A very good master. I liked working for him. He treated me well.

SPIRIT (Actress #3)

Something troubles you; I think.

SCROOGE

Ah...I...I was just thinking about my own Clerk Bob Cratchit, and I would have liked to have said something to him just now. That's all.

*The FIDDLER begins another tune and the couples line up ready to dance.*

DICK (Actor #4)

Now I'm sorry, Belle, but if Scrooge gets to spend a lifetime with you, then I think, I should at least get one dance. Is that too much to ask?

BELLE (Actress #1)

Ebenezer?

YOUNG SCROOGE (Actor #1)

Oh, go on, put the poor man out of his misery. But only one dance, mind you, then she's all mine Dick.

*DICK and BELLE join the other dancers. YOUNG SCROOGE gets grabbed by one of the female guests and joins in the dancing.*

FIRST SPIRIT (Actress #3)

Come, Ebenezer.

SCROOGE

Oh, must we go? Can we not stay a little while longer?

FIRST SPIRIT (Actress #3)

We cannot.

SCROOGE

But why not?

FIRST SPIRIT (Actress #3)

There is still much to see, and my time grows short. Come, hurry.

*SCROOGE reluctantly leaves with the FIRST SPIRIT.*

*End Scene*

## SCENE vii: SCROOGE & MARLEY's

*JACOB MARLEY sits at the desk. YOUNG SCROOGE stands to one side. FEZZIWIG is reading the document before him. After some time, FEZZIWIG puts down the document. He is quite defeated.*

JACOB (Actor #3)

Are you quite satisfied, Mr. Fezziwig?

FEZZIWIG (Actor #2)

You offered me a great deal more than this amount five years ago Mr. Marley.

JACOB (Actor #3)

That was five years ago, and your fortunes have changed. Two shillings on the pound is more than fair. You won't get a better offer than that.

YOUNG SCROOGE (Actor #1)

And if you wait much longer, Mr. Fezziwig, your holdings may end up being entirely worthless.

JACOB (Actor #3)

I offer you this amount only because of our long association and the business we have done in the past. The hard truth is you have little choice in the matter.

FEZZIWIG (Actor #2)

So, it would appear.

*FEZZIWIG signs the paper.*

JACOB (Actor #3)

You've made the right decision. You have until the end of the week to vacate the premises.

YOUNG SCROOGE (Actor #1)

You are free to take whatever personal items you like, but...remember, anything in the company name now belongs to us.

JACOB (Actor #3)

Cheer up old man. You're not completely without means.

*FEZZIWIG exits.*

JACOB (Actor #3)

Ah ha Ebenezer, what a bargain, eh! I would gladly have paid twice – three times – the amount. You never accept the first offer. It is always far below what the buyer is willing to pay. Poor fool. With business sense like that, is it any wonder he drove his company into the ground.

*YOUNG SCROOGE is silent.*

JACOB (Actor #3)

Come on, what's the matter? Feeling sorry for Fezziwig are we.

YOUNG SCROOGE (Actor #1)

I'm just worried about what will become of the old man, that's all.

JACOB (Actor #3)

He's only in this situation because of his own doing. How many times have I told you Ebenezer, business is business and if you let your emotions and personal feelings interfere it clouds your judgement?

YOUNG SCROOGE (Actor #1)

Yes, of course, you are right: business is business.

JACOB (Actor #3)

And the only thing that matters in business is making a profit!

YOUNG SCROOGE (Actor #1)

And making the biggest profit you can, right Jacob?

JACOB (Actor #3)

Right you are. Come on, let's celebrate. Let's toast our success.

*BELLE enters.*

YOUNG SCROOGE (Actor #1)

Ah, yes of course. I will but um...

JACOB (Actor #3)

But you have some domestic matters to take care of first, it seems. Of course. You do that. I'll leave you two alone then, shall I? Belle.

BELLE (Actress #1)

Mr. Marley.

*JACOB exits.*

YOUNG SCROOGE (Actor #1)

What has brought you here at this time of day?

BELLE (Actress #1)

I spoke with our friend, Dick Wilkens, and he told me that you and your partner Jacob Marley are going to buy Old Fezziwig's.

YOUNG SCROOGE (Actor #1)

Yes, we have in fact. The deal is inked. You just missed the old man.

BELLE (Actress #1)

You never told me.

YOUNG SCROOGE (Actor #1)

I don't discuss my other business dealings with you, why should this be any different?

BELLE (Actress #1)

Dick also told me that you were cutting everyone's wages by half.

YOUNG SCROOGE (Actor #1)

Yes, well that can't be helped. Why do you think Fezziwig had to sell? He was careless with his money – paying his staff far more than his competitors and extending credit when he shouldn't. We'll get the company back on its feet, sell it, and make a good profit.

BELLE (Actress #1)

Ebenezer.

YOUNG SCROOGE (Actor #1)

It's business Belle.

BELLE (Actress #1)

And what am I to you then? A bad investment.

YOUNG SCROOGE (Actor #1)

Don't be silly.

BELLE (Actress #1)

I'm not being silly. Another idol has replaced me in your life and if it can cheer and comfort you in the future, as I would have tried to do, then I have no just cause to grieve.

YOUNG SCROOGE (Actor #1)

What are you talking about? What idol has displaced you?

BELLE (Actress #1)

A golden one.

YOUNG SCROOGE (Actor #1)

There is nothing in this world as harsh as poverty. How can you condemn with such contempt the pursuit of wealth?

BELLE (Actress #1)

You fear the world too much.

YOUNG SCROOGE (Actor #1)

Because, there is much to fear.

BELLE (Actress #1)

You were not like this when we first met. I have seen your more noble aspirations disappear one by one, until all you care about is profit and gain.

YOUNG SCROOGE (Actor #1)

I am not changed towards you, am I?

BELLE (Actress #1)

You are. Do you not see it?

YOUNG SCROOGE (Actor #1)

Everything I have done has been for us.

BELLE (Actress #1)

Then why have we not married? You are certainly wealthier now than you were five years ago.

YOUNG SCROOGE (Actor #1)

One bad investment, one deal gone wrong, can ruin a man. You think I want to end up like old Fezziwig, I think not.

BELLE (Actress #1)

I think, you are changed. When our contract was made you were a different man. I have not changed. When we were of one heart our marriage promised happiness but now that we are of two my heart is filled with misery.

YOUNG SCROOGE (Actor #1)

Oh, so I make you miserable, do I?

BELLE (Actress #1)

Are you not miserable? You hardly seem happy at the prospect of us spending our lives together, and so I have no choice but to release you.

YOUNG SCROOGE (Actor #1)

Release me? Have I ever sought release?

BELLE (Actress #1)

In words, no. Never.

YOUNG SCROOGE (Actor #1)

In what then?

BELLE (Actress #1)

In a changed nature. Tell me, if you had never promised to marry would you seek me out and try to win me now?

YOUNG SCROOGE (Actor #1)

Of course, I would. You think not.

BELLE (Actress #1)

I doubt very much that you would choose a poor and dowerless girl. You who measures everything in financial gain. And if you did choose her and turned your back on your one



BELLE (Actress #1) Cont'd

guiding principle you would in time come to regret your decision. And so, I release you with a full heart, for the love of him you once were and for what we could have been. May you be happy in the life you have chosen.

*BELLE exits*

SCROOGE

Go after her you fool! What is wrong with you? Why are you just standing there man – move your feet.

*YOUNG SCROOGE considers going after her. He heads towards the door when MARLEY enters from his office carrying two glasses of sherry.*

JACOB (Actor #3)

Ah, she's gone, then is she?

YOUNG SCROOGE (Actor #1)

Umm, yes.

SCROOGE

Don't listen to him, go after her. What are you waiting for?

JACOB (Actor #3)

Come now Ebenezer let us toast our success. Today is a new beginning. Today you have earned the right to be a full partner. How does that sound?

YOUNG SCROOGE (Actor #1)

A full partner!

*JACOB hands YOUNG SCROOGE a glass of Sherry.*

JACOB (Actor #3)

It was promised you and I am a man of my word. You have more than proven yourself, and in honour of the occasion, I am going to the expense of having a new sign made with both our names on it. We will be a force to be reckoned with, I dare say.

YOUNG SCROOGE (Actor #1)

Yes Jacob, a force to be reckoned with. A full partner. My word.

JACOB (Actor #3)

A full partner. Cheers!

YOUNG SCROOGE (Actor #1)

Cheers!

*YOUNG SCROOGE and JACOB toast their success.*

SCROOGE

Spirit show me no more. Conduct me home. Why do you torture me with these visions? I do not want to think of them. If I cannot change them, why show them to me?

FIRST SPIRIT (Actress #3)

So, you may consider the path you have tread. Come, there is more for you to see.

SCROOGE

No more! No more. Please, show me no more.

FIRST SPIRIT (Actress #3)

Our time grows short. Hurry.

*End Scene*

## SCENE viii: BELLE’S HOME

*BELLE is a much older woman now. Married to her old friend DICK WILKINS. It has been a busy Christmas day and the children have all gone up to their beds and BELLE and DICK are about to enjoy some quiet time when their youngest children, George and Grace, come running in. SCROOGE and the FIRST SPIRIT watch.*

BELLE (Actress #1)

Good heavens, what are you two doing out of bed?

GEORGE (Actor #5)

We’re not tired.

BELLE (Actress #1)

You should be tired – all the running around you two did today.

GRACE (Actress #4)

Can’t we have a story?

DICK (Actress #1)

You’ve already had three.

GEORGE (Actor #5)

Just one more – please.

BELLE (Actress #1)

More stories tomorrow my dears.

GEORGE & GRACE

Awww.

DICK (Actor #4)

Now come on back to bed you two. Your mother and I will be up shortly to kiss you goodnight.

GEORGE (Actor #5)

But, I’m hungry.

GRACE (Actress #4)

Me too.

BELLE (Actress #1)

Hungry? After all the tarts you had for dessert, how can you be hungry?

GRACE (Actress #4)

Can't we please have another story?

DICK (Actor #4)

Did I ever tell you the story about the two children that didn't go to bed and got baked in a pie?

*DICK grabs the children and they laugh.*

GEORGE (Actor #5)

We don't want to hear that story.

GRACE (Actress #4)

No, we want to hear, *Twas the night before Christmas!*

BELLE (Actress #1)

But you've already heard that story.

GRACE (Actress #4)

We want to hear it again.

GEORGE (Actor #5)

Yes! Again, and again, and again!

DICK (Actor #4)

Alright then, you two run off to bed, and if you're still awake when your mother and I come up I'll tell you that story.

GRACE (Actress #4)

Yay!

GEORGE (Actor #5)

On Dasher! On Dancer! On Prancer!

BELLE (Actress #1)

Now, settle down you two and don't make a lot of noise. I don't want you waking your brothers and sisters.

*BELLE kisses GEORGE and GRACE before they run off to bed.*

BELLE (Actress #1) (*Laughing*)

Oh my, what a day!

DICK (Actor #4)

A wonderful day, my dear. Oh, it feels good to sit down. Do you know I saw an old friend of ours in town this afternoon?

BELLE (Actress #1)

Oh, who?

DICK (Actor #4)

Guess!

BELLE (Actress #1)

Guess? How can I?

DICK (Actor #4)

Oh, come on, be a sport.

BELLE (Actress #1)

Well give me a clue then.

DICK (Actor #4)

I'll give you one. Humbug.

BELLE (Actress #1)

Mr. Scrooge.

DICK (Actor #4)

Ha, ha, ha, Mr. Scrooge it was.

BELLE (Actress #1)

And how is Ebenezer?

DICK (Actor #4)

Fully engaged with his enterprises it would seem.

BELLE (Actress #1)

Focused on some very good business opportunities and timely investments, no doubt?

SCROOGE

And what's wrong with that?

DICK (Actor #4)

We spoke of nothing but business, and I must say he did not seem very happy to see me.

SCROOGE

Why would I be happy to see you – you scoundrel.

DICK (Actor #4)

He has a peculiar effect on people these days you know. Crowds part way, like the Red Sea before Moses, when Scrooge walks down the street. But I stood my ground and he had no choice but to acknowledge my presence. "Scrooge, my good man, how are you?" I said!

BELLE (Actress #1)

And what was his reply?

DICK (Actor #4)

Good day, sir.

BELLE (Actress #1)

That was all? Good day, sir. Nothing more.

DICK (Actor #4)

Well, who can blame him. His misfortune has been my good fortune. You my dear, have made me rich beyond anything I could have hoped for. He has his money, but little else.

BELLE (Actress #1)

How very sad.

DICK (Actor #4)

Sad?

BELLE (Actress #1)

You knew him Dick when he wasn't so harsh with the world. He changed when his sister became ill and died.

DICK (Actor #4)

Sooner or later his true nature would have surfaced, don't you think?

BELLE (Actress #1)

His sister was always able to bring out his good and loving nature.

DICK (Actor #4)

If Scrooge ever had a good and loving nature it has long since been buried and is dead to the world.

BELLE (Actress #1)

I hope that's not entirely true.

DICK (Actor #4)

You are kind. You see the good in all. I'm so glad you thought me good enough to marry. You certainly made me wait long enough.

BELLE (Actress #1)

You should have said something.

DICK (Actor #4)

You were engaged. To make my feelings known before you were free to be mine would have been most inappropriate, and I regret nothing because we are together now, my dear, and nothing in this world could make me happier.

*BELLE and DICK kiss warmly and lovingly and cuddle by the hearth.*

*SCROOGE wipes a tear away.*

SCROOGE

Spirit remove me from this place. Why do you torture me? Why do you show me these things?

SPIRIT (Actress #3)

These are the shadows of things that have been. They are what they are and cannot be changed.

SCROOGE

Please I cannot bear it! Leave me. Show me no more. Haunt me no longer. I do not want these memories. Wash them from my mind and leave me in peace!

*The SPIRIT disappears as it had appeared in a blinding flash of light.  
SCROOGE finds himself alone in the darkness. Blackout!*

*End Act One*



**A CHRISTMAS CAROL**  
**ACT II**

**SCENE i: A LONDON STREET**

*The stage is dark and in the blackness the WESTMINSTER CHIMES begin.*

**SFX: WESTMINSTER CHIMES**

*A dim light falls upon SCROOGE. He is alone in the dark and exhausted from his encounter with the FIRST SPIRIT. He rises to his feet and looks around uncertain of what to expect next. As the hour strikes two a great wind blows and the SECOND SPIRIT the GHOST of CHRISTMAS PRESENT appears surrounded by gifts and food. This giant of a SPIRIT is dressed in one simple green robe bordered with white fur. On his head he wears a holly wreath. His eyes are bright, and his voice is rich and booming. He laughs a great laugh.*

SCROOGE

Oh, my word, what sort of Spirit are you?

SECOND SPIRIT (Actor #2)

What sort of Spirit am I? Do you not know me?

SCROOGE

I do not. You are unfamiliar to me.

SECOND SPIRIT (Actor #2)

Am I? Well then, come closer! Come closer and know me better man!

SCROOGE

Oh Spirit, I am exhausted from my previous encounter and cannot go on. I do not wish to seem ungrateful, but I am tired and in need of sleep.

*The SECOND SPIRIT hands SCROOGE a great mug of hot rum punch.*

SECOND SPIRIT (Actor #2)

Here drink from my cup and you will be restored in more than this and given the strength to continue. We have much to see and little time. Drink up man – drink up!

*SCROOGE drinks deeply.*

SECOND SPIRIT (Actor #2)

I am the Ghost of Christmas Present. You mean to tell me you've never shared in the abundance of the season; never given a gift; received a gift; enjoyed a Christmas feast; a plum pudding; a rum punch? Ha, ha, ha. Come now Scrooge, there was a Christmas or two – many years ago – when you were a much younger man and had plans and hopes for a life with Belle when you knew my brothers.

SCROOGE

That may be true, but that was long ago.

SECOND SPIRIT (Actor #2)

Well then you know the joy of giving and fun of receiving. It is not dead in you. You can awaken these feelings of generosity and kindness. The choice is yours my friend; live as you have, or change.

SCROOGE

But I am too old to change.

SECOND SPIRIT (Actor #2)

Nonsense, come, let me show you the joy of the season. It knows no class boundaries. It knows no age. It is shared by all regardless of race, gender, or wealth. Touch my robe and we shall see how even the poor have much to celebrate on Christmas Day.

*End Scene*

## SCENE ii: BOB CRATCHIT's HOME

*The scene transforms to the home of BOB CRATCHIT. The family is preparing for the Christmas feast. The table is being set by MRS. CRATCHIT. PETER is tending to the potatoes and the youngest ABBY – is running about happily.*

SCROOGE

Where is this place?

SECOND SPIRIT (Actor #2)

This is the home of your clerk Bob Cratchit. Have you never been to visit?

SCROOGE

No.

SECOND SPIRIT (Actor #2)

It is a modest dwelling, but a happy one.

*ABBY is running around her mother and the table as MRS. CRATCHIT tries to avoid dropping anything.*

MRS. CRATCHIT (Actress #2)

Goodness...me...ha, ha, ha, settle down before you crash into something or make me drop a plate and break it.

ABBY (Actress #4)

Where's daddy, mommy?

MRS. CRATCHIT (Actress #2)

I don't know.

ABBY (Actress #4)

Why isn't he home yet?

MRS. CRATCHIT (Actress #2)

Oh, your father and Tiny Tim are probably up to some mischief knowing those two. They should have been home long before this, and your sister Martha wasn't nearly this late last Christmas.

ABBY (Actress #4)

Look, here's Martha now, mother.

*MARTHA enters.*

PETER (Actor #1)

Hurrah, here's Martha!

ABBY (Actress #4)

There's such a goose, Martha!

MARTHA (Actress #1)

Is there?

ABBY (Actress #4)

Yes!

MRS. CRATCHIT (ACTRESS #2)

Why bless your heart alive my dear – how late you are!

*MRS. CRATCHIT kisses MARTHA and takes her shawl and bonnet for her.*

MARTHA (Actress #1)

We had a lot of work to finish up last night and there was an awful lot to clear away this morning, mother. I'm sorry, I came as quickly as I could.

MRS. CRATCHIT (ACTRESS #2)

Well, never mind, you are here now. Sit down before the fire, my dear, and warm yourself.

ABBY

No, no, no! There's father coming. Hide, Martha, hide!

MARTHA

Hide?

PETER

Yes, hide.

*MARTHA hides.*

*BOB enters in a grand mood with TINY TIM who carries a small crutch and wears leg braces.*

ABBY (Actress #4)

Hello father!

PETER (Actor #1)

Happy Christmas.

BOB (Actor #4)

Yes, Happy Christmas indeed. *(To Mrs. Cratchit)* How are you my dear?

MRS. CRATCHIT (Actress #2)

Very glad you and Tim are finally home.

BOB (Actor #4)

Mmmm, it all smells delicious, doesn't it Tim.

TINY TIM (Actor #5)

Yes, father.

BOB (Actor #4)

Where is our Martha?

MRS. CRATCHIT (Actress #2)

Oh, not coming, I'm afraid.

BOB (Actor #4)

What? Not coming! Not coming on Christmas Day. But why?

ABBEY (Actress #4)

Don't you know father?

BOB (Actor #4)

Know what? Has something happened?

PETER (Actor #1)

Yes, as a matter of fact, something has.

BOB (Actor #4)

Well what is it? What's happened?

PETER (Actor #1)

Um, well, Martha has...been...

BOB (Actor #4)

Yes?

PETER (Actor #1)

Summoned to Buckingham Palace to meet the Queen.

BOB (Actor #4)

Oh, has she indeed?

ABBY (Actress #4)

Oh yes, it's quite true father. They sent a carriage to pick her up.

TINY TIM (Actor #5)

Lucky Martha.

BOB (Actor #4)

And she's to have Christmas dinner with the Queen, no doubt.

PETER (Actor #1)

I wonder what they'll have.

BOB (Actor #4)

Whatever they have it won't be near as good as the feast your mother has prepared for us, I am sure of that.

PETER (Actor #1)

That's true.

ABBY (Actress #4)

Yummy!

BOB (Actor #4)

Dear me, poor Martha stuck having Christmas dinner with the Queen – how horrible – that will never do.

ABBY (Actress #4)

What are you going to do father?

BOB (Actor #4)

The only thing I can do.

PETER (ACTOR #1)

What?

BOB (Actor #4)

We'll just have to invite the Queen here for Christmas dinner, so Martha can be with her family.

ABBY

Are you really going to invite the Queen?

MRS. CRATCHIT (Actress #2)

Oh Bob, don't be silly.

BOB (Actor #4)

I'm not being silly. I'm sure we have room for one more at the table my dear. Now everyone practice your bows and curtses. We'll want to show her majesty, that although we may not live in a palace, we do know proper etiquette.

*BOB bows and all the children practice their bows and curtses.*

BOB (Actor #4)

Come on now Peter, that's it. Very good.

MRS. CRATCHIT (Actress #2)

Oh, Abby, what a little lady you are; and Tim, you are very dashing sir. Isn't he Bob?

BOB (Actor #4)

Oh yes, and I dare say, once the Queen gets a taste of your mother's fine cooking, I have no doubt, she'll be a regular guest here for Sunday dinners.

ABBY (Actress #4)

The Queen!

BOB (Actor #4)

None other.

MRS. CRATCHIT (Actress #2)

Oh, Bob.

*MARTHA comes out of her hiding place.*

MARTHA (Actress #1)

Oh father, you are a silly one!

BOB (Actor #4)

What's this? Martha here! Good heavens!

MARTHA (Actress #1)

I was here all along, and you knew it.

BOB (Actor #4)

Heavens no. I'm quite astonished to find you here, but very pleased. Merry Christmas, Martha. I have missed you so.

MARTHA (Actress #1)

Merry Christmas, Father.

*Martha and Bob hug.*

MRS. CRATCHIT (Actress #2)

And how was Church?

BOB (Actor #4)

Grand my dear. The new deacon is a fine fellow.



MRS. CRATCHIT (Actress #2)

And how did little Tim behave?

BOB (Actor #4)

Better than gold, isn't that right Tim.

TINY TIM (Actor #5)

Yes, father.

BOB (Actor #4)

You're a thoughtful child, you know that. Do you know what he told me, my dears, on the way home?

PETER (Actor #1)

No, what?

BOB (Actor #4)

That he hoped people saw him in church because he was a cripple and that on Christmas Day it would be good for people to remember who made lame beggars walk and blind men see.

PETER (Actor #1)

Maybe one day Tim will be a deacon.

BOB (Actor #4)

Of course, why not!

MRS. CRATCHIT

Our little Tim, a deacon, wouldn't that be a blessing.

MARTHA (Actress #1)

It certainly would.

BOB (Actor #4)

And you are growing stronger my boy. Stronger and more hearty every day, aren't you? Isn't he my dears?

*The family all agree although they know the truth as BOB gives TIM a big hug.*

BOB (Actor #4)

Well let's eat shall we. Everything looks and smells so good. My goodness there never was such a goose as this.

*The family digs into the feast.*

SCROOGE

Seems like a very small goose for a family this size.

SECOND SPIRIT (Actor #2)

And what of it? There are many in this world with far less than that. God rewards those who work hard, and he punishes those who don't.

SCROOGE

And so, God means to punish this child and this family. I can't believe that. I can't believe that's true. What is to become of Tiny Tim?

SECOND SPIRIT (Actor #2)

I see a vacant seat in the poor chimney-corner, and a crutch without an owner, carefully preserved. If these shadows remain unaltered by the future, the child will die.

SCROOGE

Die? No. No, no, no – the Ghost of Christmas past had no power to change things, but surely you have that power. You are here in the present. Surely you, or some other emissary from your realm, can provide for the boy.

SECOND SPIRIT (Actor #2)

The power to change the world lies not in my realm but in the realm of the living. If these shadows remain unaltered by the future, none other of my race will find him here.

SCROOGE

You can't let him die, Spirt, if it can be helped.

SECOND SPIRIT (Actor #2)

Why not let him die and decrease the surplus population? What business is it of yours?

SCROOGE

You use my own words against me.

SECOND SPIRIT (Actor #2)

And why not? Who are you, to decide what men shall live and what men shall die? In the sight of Heaven, you may be less fit to live than millions of others just like this poor man's child.

*The family laughs and has just finished desert.*

BOB (Actor #4)

Oh, my dear, you have outdone yourself this year. What a feast and your pudding, by far the best you've ever made – wouldn't you all agree?

MARTHA (Actress #1)

Oh, yes mother, a very fine pudding.

TINY TIM (Actor #5)

Best ever!

ABBY (Actress #4)

It was so good.

*BOB raises his glass as do all the other CRATCHITS*

BOB (Actor #4)

Ah, the whole family here for Christmas. I could not be happier, and so a Merry Christmas to us all, my dears. God bless us!

ALL

God bless us!

TINY TIM (Actor #5)

God bless us, everyone!

*They all drink the toast.*

BOB (Actor #4)

You are quite right Tim. God bless us everyone. And so, with that in mind, and in the spirit of the season, I say we toast Mr. Scrooge, the Founder of the Feast.

MRS. CRATCHIT (Actress #2)

Mr. Scrooge!

BOB (Actor #4)

Yes, my dear.

MRS. CRATCHIT (Actress #2)

The Founder of the Feast, indeed. I wish I had him here – I'd give him a piece of my mind to feast upon.

BOB (Actor #4)

My dear, the children. Christmas Day.

MRS. CRATCHIT (Actress #2)

Only on Christmas Day would one ever drink to the health of such a cruel, stingy, and unfeeling man as Mr. Scrooge. You know he is, Robert. Nobody knows it better than you do, poor fellow.

BOB (Actor #4)

My dear, Christmas – a kind, forgiving, charitable time.

MRS. CRATCHIT (Actress #2)

Oh, very well, I'll drink to his health for your sake and the Day's but not for his. Long life to him. A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. He'll be very merry and very happy; I have no doubt. Mr. Scrooge.

All

Mr. Scrooge.

TINY TIM (Actor #5)

God bless Mr. Scrooge.

*They all drink but are sour and quiet for a long moment after the toast.*

BOB (Actor #4)

Well...what say we have a song, then eh? How does that sound?

MARTHA (Actress #1)

What a good idea.

PETER (Actor #1)

What shall we sing?

ABBY (Actress #4)

Jingle Bells!

TINY TIM (Actor #5)

Yes, Jingle Bells!

BOB (Actor #4)

Alright, Jingle Bells it is.

*BOB begins and the family joins in. They sing with loud voices and laughter.*

ALL  
DASHING THROUGH THE SNOW  
IN A ONE HORSE OPEN SLEIGH  
O’ER THE FIELDS WE GO  
LAUGHING ALL THE WAY  
BELLS ON BOB TAILS RING  
MAKING SPIRITS BRIGHT  
WHAT FUN IT IS TO LAUGH AND SING  
A SLEIGHING SONG TONIGHT

OH, JINGLE BELLS, JINGLE BELLS  
JINGLE ALL THE WAY  
OH, WHAT FUN IT IS TO RIDE  
IN A ONE HORSE OPEN SLEIGH – HEY!  
JINGLE BELLS, JINGLE BELLS  
JINGLE ALL THE WAY  
OH, WHAT FUN IT IS TO RIDE  
IN A ONE HORSE OPEN SLEIGH

*The light fades on the CRATCHIT home.*

SECOND SPIRIT (Actor # 2)

Come let us visit your nephew and see how he celebrates the season.

*End Scene*

### SCENE iii: FRED'S HOME

*Fred's home is decorated for Christmas. FRED, his wife EMMA, her sister ROSE, as well as their friend TOPPER, are all playing a game of Yes and No.*

EMMA (Actress #1)  
Is it living or dead?

FRED (Actor #1)  
Ah, yes or no questions only my dear, remember.

EMMA (Actress #1)  
Sorry. Is it living?

FRED (Actor #1)  
Yes.

ROSE (Actress #3)  
Is it an animal?

FRED (Actor #1)  
Oh yes.

TOPPER (Actor #4)  
Is it a cow? Mooooo!

FRED (Actor #1)  
No.

EMMA (Actress #1)  
Does it live in the country?

FRED (Actor #1)  
No.

ROSE (Actress #3)  
In the city then?

Yes.	FRED (Actor #1)
Does it growl?	TOPPER (Actor #4)
Oh, yes.	FRED (Actor #1)
Is it a dog?	ROSE (Actress #3)
Woof woof!	TOPPER (Actor #4)
No.	FRED (Actor #1)
A cat?	TOPPER (Actor #4)
No.	FRED (Actor #1)
A rat?	EMMA (Actress #1)
Uh, no.	FRED (Actor #1)
Is it a horse?	ROSE (Actress #3)
No.	FRED (Actor #1)
A jackass!	TOPPER (Actor #4)

FRED (Actor #1)

Yes and no.

TOPPER (Actor #4)

Heehaw!

EMMA (Actress #1)

Oh, I know what it is, Fred! I know it!

FRED (Actor #1)

What is it?

EMMA (Actress #1)

It's your Uncle Scrooge!

FRED (Actor #1)

Yes!

*A roar of laughter from the group.*

FRED (Actor #1)

Ha, ha, ha! When I saw him yesterday, he said that Christmas was a, "Humbug!" can you believe it?

TOPPER (Actor #4)

A humbug?

FRED (Actor #1)

And he believes it too, poor fellow. Ha, ha, ha!

EMMA (Actress #1)

More shame for him, Fred.

ROSE (Actress #3)

What a thing to say.

FRED (Actor #1)

He's a comical old fellow that's the truth and not as pleasant as he could be.



TOPPER (Actor #4)

That's certainly true.

FRED (Actor #1)

But his offences carry their own punishment, and I have nothing to say against him.

EMMA (Actress #1)

He is very rich.

ROSE (Actress #3)

One of the richest men in London.

FRED (Actor #1)

What of it? His wealth is of no use to him.

TOPPER (Actor #4)

I'd make good use of it.

FRED (Actor #1)

I'm sure you would Topper, but what good does he do with it? He certainly doesn't make himself comfortable with it.

EMMA (Actress #1)

I have no patience with him.

ROSE (Actress #3)

Neither do I.

FRED (Actor #1)

Oh, I have. I am sorry for him. I couldn't be angry with him if I tried. Who suffers by his harsh and uncaring attitude? Himself, always. Here, he takes it into his head to dislike us and not come to dinner, and so he loses a very fine dinner and a chance to celebrate the season.

TOPPER (Actor #4)

Very true, I'm sure it will be a very fine dinner.

EMMA (Actress #1)

Thank you.

FRED (Actor #1)

And yet, there was a time when he wasn't such an unpleasant old fool.

EMMA (Actress #1)

What are you talking about Fred?

FRED (Actor #1)

He often wrote to my mother, and I came across some letters he'd sent to her when he was a young lad in school and during his courtship to someone named Belle.

SCROOGE

You had no right to read those Fred.

EMMA (Actress #1)

Courtship!

TOPPER (Actor #4)

Scrooge was engaged.

ROSE (Actress #3)

I don't believe it!

FRED (Actor #1)

Believe it.

SCROOGE

Quite right, why shouldn't you believe it.

FRED (Actor #1)

Does that change your opinion of him? To know that he once was in love; that he once had hopes of becoming a husband and father.

EMMA (Actress #1)

Not any husband I would like.

*They laugh.*

ROSE (Actress #3)

What happened?

SCROOGE

I made a mistake.

FRED (Actor #1)

Oh, I don't know. The engagement was broken off for some reason, I take it.

TOPPER (Actor #4)

I guess he lost interest...you know interest...Scrooge is a money lender...um.

*Oh, I get it now – laughter from the crowd.*

ROSE (Actress #3)

Oh yes, I get it now.

FRED (Actor #1)

Well whatever happened, that's the Scrooge my mother loved. He was a very different man than the man he has become.

EMMA (Actress #1)

How sad.

FRED (Actor #1)

Isn't it? And so, I plan to give him the same chance to have Christmas dinner with us every year, whether he likes it or not, for I pity him. He may rail at Christmas till he dies, but he can't help thinking better of it and of all people if he finds me going there, in good cheer, year after year, and saying Uncle Scrooge, how are you? Merry Christmas come have dinner with us. And if the only outcome is that he takes it into his conscience to leave his poor clerk, Bob Cratchit, fifty pounds, then that's something.

EMMA (Actress #1)

Here, here Fred.

TOPPER (Actor #4)

Well said.

FRED (Actor #1)

And so, in considering the merriment he has given us, I think we should drink to his health. A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to the old man, whatever he is!

TOPPER (Actor #3)

Heehaw!

FRED (Actor #1)

He wouldn't take it from me, but may he have it, nonetheless. Uncle Scrooge!

ALL

Uncle Scrooge!

*They toast Scrooge.*

SECOND SPIRIT (Actor #2)

You treat your nephew with such contempt and yet he drinks to your health. He wishes you well. He invites you to dinner.

SCROOGE

My nephew is a dreamer and has no head for business.

SECOND SPIRIT (Actor #2)

And yet he is clearly a much happier man than you.

SCROOGE

He is young and when you are young you don't always understand how cruel the world can be.

SECOND SPIRIT (Actor #2)

Just because the world can be cruel is no reason for you to be. Come Ebenezer we must hurry.

*End Scene*

## SCENE iv: MR. BENTLEY's PLACE OF BUSINESS

*MR. BENTLEY, MR. MURDOCK, and MRS. DILBER are in the office.*

MR. BENTLEY (Actor #3)

Mr. Scrooge recommended your services Mrs. Dilber.

MRS. DILBER (Actress #2)

Yes, sir.

MR. BENTLEY (Actor #3)

He said you were dependable and very affordable.

MRS. DILBER (Actress #2)

Did he sir? Um, how affordable did he say?

MR. BENTLEY (Actor #3)

I shall pay you the same hourly wage he does; I see no reason to pay more.

MRS. DILBER (Actress #2)

Well, Mr. Bentley it's an extra half hour coming and going to your place than to Mr. Scrooges.

MR. BENTLEY (Actor #3)

That's not my concern. I have no intention of paying you for travel time. If you want the job you can have it. Otherwise, I'll find someone else.

MRS. DILBER (Actress #2)

No, don't do that Mr. Bentley, please...I could use the extra money, sir. Thank you.

MR. BENTLEY (Actor #3)

Excellent. You can begin in the new year, Mrs. Dilber. Monday and Friday afternoon, if you please.

MRS. DILBER (Actress #2)

Yes, Mr. Bentley. Merry Christmas.

MR. BENTLEY (Actor #3)

Good afternoon.

*MRS. DILBER exits.*

MR. BENTLEY (Actor #3)

The question is, who stands to profit more Mr. Murdock?

MR. MURDOCK (Actor #1)

It would appear from all accounts that this would be a good and even match Mr. Bentley. Together you and Mr. Scrooge would have ten times the leverage you have now.

MR. BENTLEY (Actor #3)

It would certainly open up many business opportunities abroad.

MR. MURDOCK (Actor #1)

Yes, sir.

MR. BENTLEY (Actor #3)

There's a lot of money to be made in India – and of course there is the fur trade in the new world, that interests me. There is a hunger for fur, Mr. Murdock, and the new world offers an abundance of such resources, and the man willing to invest, wisely mind you, will be well rewarded, I would think.

MR. MURDOCK (Actor #1)

I imagine so sir.

MR. BENTLEY (Actor #3)

Yes, I like this idea a lot. Mr. Scrooge is a good man of business. Level-headed – sharp as a tack and good on his word.

MR. MURDOCK (Actor #1)

Very good sir. Shall we call it a day?

MR. BENTLEY (Actor #3)

Uh yes, you can go, but I plan to stay a bit longer.

MR. MURDOCK (Actor #1)

Oh, are you not going to a Christmas dinner yourself Mr. Bentley?

MR. BENTLEY (Actor #3)

No.

MR. MURDOCK (Actor #1)

Oh, well um you would be welcome to join my wife and myself. It is just the two of us but I hate to think of anyone dining alone at Christmas.

MR. BENTLEY (Actor #3)

Thank you, Mr. Murdock, but I prefer to dine alone at Christmas. It's not a time of the year I particularly enjoy. People become unfocused and sentimental. It is a poor time for doing business, and I am glad when it is over.

MR. MURDOCK (Actor #1)

Oh, I see.

MR. BENTLEY (Actor #3)

We serve God best through hard work and industry, Mr. Murdock.

MR. MURDOCK (Actor #1)

Yes sir. Very well, good evening then.

MR. BENTLEY (Actor #3)

Good evening.

*MR. BENTLEY sits in his office counting coins and putting them into a strong box. The light fades and SCROOGE and the SECOND SPIRIT are left standing surrounded by darkness.*

SECOND SPIRIT (Actor #2)

Does this man's Christmas seem familiar to you?

SCROOGE

It does.

SECOND SPIRIT (Actor #2)

It is a sad way to spend the day compared to the joy and love we have seen from others.

SCROOGE

Yes, Spirit.

SECOND SPIRIT (Actor #2)

Each man travels a road in life that leads him in certain directions. You yourself are on this road – but it need not be so.

SCROOGE

No.

SECOND SPIRIT (Actor #2)

No.

SCROOGE

Spirit, I did not want to say anything before, but I have noticed that you are aged.

SECOND SPIRIT (Actor #2)

I am. My life upon this globe is very brief. It ends tonight.

SCROOGE

Oh Spirit, do not leave me – I do not want to be left alone – is there nothing more you can show me?

SECOND SPIRIT (Actor #3)

There is one thing more you must see.

*The SPIRIT reveals two children – a BOY (Actor #5) and a GIRL (Actress #6) – wretched, abject, frightful, hideous, and miserable. They have appeared out of the darkness and they knell at the Spirit's feet and cling to his robe.*

SCROOGE

Oh, my good Lord, are these your children?

SECOND SPIRIT

They are Mans.

SCROOGE

Mans?

SECOND SPIRIT

This boy is Ignorance, and this girl is Greed. Beware them both. But most of all, beware this boy. If he is allowed to grow and flourish, he will bring you and your kind nothing but doom.



SCROOGE

How?

SECOND SPIRIT (Actor #2)

Those who know him well live in fear and act on fear with violence and hate. If you encounter this boy speak against him and all that would use him. Silence him with love and compassion and knowledge, for this is the path towards understanding and peace.

**SFX: CLOCK BEGINS TO CHIME THE WESTMINSTER AND THEN RING THE HOUR OF THREE.**

SCROOGE

Have they no refuge or resource?

SECOND SPIRIT (Actor #2)

Are there no prisons? Are there no workhouses? Are there no prisons? Are there no workhouses? Are there no prisons? Are there no workhouses?

*The SECOND SPIRIT and the BOY and GIRL vanish. Fog swirls about SCROOGE as the clock strikes three. The THIRD SPIRIT (Actress #3) the GHOST of CHRISTMAS FUTURE moves forward out of the darkness and is a cloaked phantom.*

SCROOGE

Am I in the presence of the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come?

*The THIRD SPIRIT (Actress #3) nods its head.*

SCROOGE

And you are here to show me the shadows of things that have not happened yet, but – will – happen in the future?

*THE THIRD SPIRIT (Actress #3) nods its head.*

SCROOGE

Oh, Ghost of the Future, I fear you more than any spectre I have seen tonight. I do not want to continue, but I know your purpose is to do me good, and I know that you have lessons to teach, and so I am prepared to bear you company.

*The THIRD SPIRIT (Actress #3) points its bony hand straight before them.*

SCROOGE

Yes, yes, lead on! Lead on! The night is waning fast, and it is precious time to me, I know. Lead on, Spirit.

*End Scene*

## SCENE v: LONDON BUSINESS DISTRICT

*TWO BUSINESSMEN are standing on the street talking. SCROOGE and the THIRD SPIRIT (Actress #3) stand nearby.*

FIRST MAN (Actor #3)

I had heard that Mr. Bentley and Mr. Scrooge were joining forces.

SECOND MAN (Actor #4)

Yes, I'd heard the very same thing.

FIRST MAN (Actor #3)

Two peas in a pod, eh? Those two.

SECOND MAN (Actor #4)

Yes, of course that's all changed now that he's dead.

FIRST MAN (Actor #3)

When did he die?

SECOND MAN (Actor #4)

Last night, I believe – and quite unexpected.

FIRST MAN (Actor #3)

What was the matter with him?

SECOND MAN (Actor #4)

God knows.

FIRST MAN (Actor #3)

What has he done with his money?

SECOND MAN (Actor #4)

I haven't heard.

FIRST MAN (Actor #3)

Left it to his company, I suppose.

SECOND MAN (Actor #4)

He hasn't left any of it to me. That's all I know.

*They laugh.*

FIRST MAN (Actor #3)

It will probably be a very cheap funeral, I would imagine.

SECOND MAN (Actor #4)

On my life, I don't know of anybody who will go – do you?

FIRST MAN (Actor #3)

Oh, I'll go, but only if a lunch is provided.

SECOND MAN (Actor #4)

I don't think he ever bought anyone lunch when he was alive. Why would he go to the expense of buying us a lunch now that he's dead?

FIRST MAN (Actor #3)

Well, if there is no lunch, I can't think of any other reason to go – can you?

SECOND MAN (Actor #4)

No.

FIRST MAN (Actor #3)

Nor I.

*Another laugh.*

*The THIRD SPIRIT (Actress #3) and SCROOGE move away.*

SCROOGE

Spirit, those men – I know them. How far into the future is this? Is it Mr. Bentley who has died? Am I to learn from his life and his nature so that I do not make the same mistake? Why do you not speak to me?

*The THIRD SPIRIT (Actress #3) points and moves off. SCROOGE follows.*

SCROOGE

Yes, yes, there is more to see...I understand...lead on and I will follow.

*End Scene*

## SCENE vi: OLD JOE's

*OLD JOE's is on the darker side of town and is a place where illegal goods are bought and sold – and no questions asked. OLD JOE sits counting out his money and making notations in his book.*

SCROOGE

Where is this place? Am I to end up alone and destitute? Am I to lose my fortune? Who is this man, and what does he have to do with me?

*MR. NEWBURY, the undertaker enters.*

OLD JOE (Actor #2)

Ah Mr. Newbury – evening sir – what brings you out on a cold night like this?

MR. NEWBURY (Actor #1)

Business.

OLD JOE (Actor #2)

Music to me ears, sir. Music to me ears. We are always open for business eh...ha, ha. No matter what the season – no matter what the reason – there's always money to be made. Just like your profession sir – I'm a 365 day a year enterprise. Death don't take no holiday so why should we, eh? Now, what have you got for me?

MR. NEWBURY (Actor #1)

I have only a few items, but they are of good quality.

OLD JOE (Actor #2)

Alright then, bring them over. Let's have a look.

*MR. NEWBURY is bumped forward by the entrance of MRS. DILBER.*

MRS. DILBER (Actress #2)

Oh dear, I'm sorry sir.

MR. NEWBURY (Actor #1)

That's quite all right ma'am.

SCROOGE

That's Mrs. Dilber. What's she doing here?

MRS. DILBER (Actress #2)

Oh, ha, ha, ha. Mr. Newbury...I didn't see you there.

MR. NEWBURY (Actor #1)

Ha, ha, ha, Mrs. Dilber.

MRS DILBER (Actress #2)

Merry Christmas to you.

MR. NEWBURY (Actor #1)

Yes, Merry Christmas. Fancy us meeting up here.

MRS. DILBER (Actress #2)

If I'd known you was coming here – we could have split a cab ride I spose – eh?

*They laugh.*

MR. NEWBURY (Actor #1)

Yes. Although, I do not make this a common practice Mrs. Dilber, but with certain clients one needs to cover expenses. I would prefer that we keep this a secret between us.

MRS. DILBER (Actress #2)

Of course, Mr. Newbury, I understand completely. I don't begrudge you for what you do. Every person has a right to take care of themselves they have.

MR. NEWBURY (Actor #1)

Very true.

MRS. DILBER (Actress #2)

He did.

MR. NEWBURY (Actor #1)

No man more so.

MRS. DILBER (Actress #2)

And who's the worse for the loss of a few things like these? Not a dead man, I suppose.

MR. NEWBURY (Actor #1)

They are of no use to him now.

OLD JOE (Actor #2)

Alright then, alright, come on, time's money. You two can prattle away on your own time – not mine. Now, who wants to go first?

MR. NEWBURY (Actor #1)

Ladies first.

MRS. DILBER (Actress #2)

Oh no Mr. Newbury, you were here first, and you should go first.

MR. NEWBURY (Actor #1)

Very well.

*MR. NEWBURY takes a small bundle and unwraps it. It contains a seal or two, a pencil case, a pair of cuff links, and a brooch.*

OLD JOE (Actor #2)

Lets, see – high quality eh...that's what you said.

MR. NEWBURY (Actor #1)

Yes. That's a very fine pencil case.

OLD JOE (Actor #2)

There's a lot of these around – not worth as much as they used to be.

MR. NEWBURY (Actor #1)

And those cufflinks are pure gold.

OLD JOE (Actor #2)

Plated I think, and if you think different you can take them back. Okay – well that's not really worth much of anything. I could make a bob or two on this...lets see. That it then?

MR. NEWBURY (Actor #1)

That's it.

OLD JOE (Actor #2)

I'll give ya 12 bob for the lot and I wouldn't give another sixpence, even if I was to be boiled in oil for not doing it. That's a fair price, Mr. Newbury.

MR. NEWBURY (Actor #1)

Is it, indeed?

OLD JOE (Actor #2)

That it is. Now, lets see what you've got dearie.

*MRS. DILBER tosses her bundle up on the desk. OLD JOE starts to open the bundle.*

MRS. DILBER (Actress #2)

Here you go Joe.

OLD JOE (Actor #2)

What's this then? Bed curtains?

MRS. DILBER (Actress #2)

Aye! Bed-curtains. And very fine – very nice ones too.

OLD JOE (Actor #2)

These are nice...feel that...very good quality. Very nice. So, how did you come by these then...did you take 'em down, rings and all, with him lying right there?

MRS. DILBER (Actress #2)

Yes, I did. And why not? Why shouldn't I take em – if I can – I'm just looking out for me-self – why should I care about him – he never gave a care about me – why shouldn't I take his bed curtains? He owed me.

OLD JOE (Actor #2)

Alright dearie, alright dearie, you don't need to defend your actions to me. What's this then? His blankets?

MRS. DILBER (Actress #2)

Of course, they're his blankets. Whose else would they be? He isn't likely to catch cold without 'em.

OLD JOE (Actor #2)

He didn't die of anything catching, did he?

MRS. DILBER (Actress #2)

If he had I certainly wouldn't have come near him.



OLD JOE (Actor #2)

Oh now, look at this – this is very fine work – very high quality.

*OLD JOE takes a shirt and examines it.*

MRS. DILBER (Actress #2)

It's the best shirt he had and a fine one too. You can look through that till your eyes ache but you won't find a hole in it, nor a threadbare place. They'd have wasted it, if it hadn't been for me.

OLD JOE (Actor #2)

What do you mean wasted it?

MRS. DILBER (Actress #2)

They was going to bury him in it. But I took it off him. If calico ain't good enough for being buried in, it ain't good enough for anything.

OLD JOE (Actor #2)

Much easier to get things off the corpse before it's buried – if you know what I mean Mrs. Dilber.

*They laugh.*

MRS. DILBER (Actress #2)

Right you are, and if he hadn't frightened everyone away from him when he was alive, he'd of had somebody there to look after him when he was struck with death, instead of lying there all alone gasping out his last breath.

MR. NEWBURY (Actor #1)

Truer words have never been spoken. It was a judgement upon him.

OLD JOE (Actor #2)

Alright here you go dearie – this is more than fair. I always give too much to the ladies. It's bound to be my downfall.

MRS. DILBER (Actress #2)

Thank you, Joe.

SCROOGE

Spirit! I see. I see the lesson you are trying to teach me. The case of this unhappy man might be my own. My life tends that way now, but if I am to change then this terrible ending need not be...I will not die alone and unloved...I am most grateful to you – thank you very much – I have learned my lesson and now I wish to return home.

*End Scene*

## SCENE vii: THE UNDERTAKERS

*The scene changes to a room with a pine box coffin lying on a stand with the lid propped against one side. SCROOGE and the THIRD SPIRIT (Actress #3) stand some distance from the coffin and cannot see in it.*

SCROOGE

This is not my home...oh, merciful Heaven, what place is this? Where have you brought me, now?

*The SPIRIT (Actress #3) points to the box.*

SCROOGE

Ohhh, is this the man whose funeral none will attend?

*The SPIRIT (Actress #3) nods.*

SCROOGE

Do I know this man?

*The SPIRIT (Actress #3) points to the coffin but SCROOGE does not approach.*

SCROOGE

Spirit, this is a terrible place. I do not want to stay. Let us leave here now and in leaving it I shall not leave its lesson unlearned, trust me. Let us go!

*The SPIRIT points to the coffin but SCROOGE still does not move.*

*MR. NEWBURY (Actor #1) the funeral director enters the room and takes the lid and places it on the coffin. SCROOGE moves closer to the box.*

SCROOGE

I understand what you want, and I would look, if I could. But I do not have the strength to face what is in that box.

*MR. NEWBURY (Actor #1) nails the coffin lid shut.*

SCROOGE

Spirit, tell me, is there no man, woman, or child to grieve for this man? To offer a kind word. To feel some emotion at his passing.

*The SPIRIT (Actress #3) lowers its hand.*

SCROOGE

Oh Spirit, if there is any person in this town who feels anything because of this man's death please show that person to me, Spirit, I beg of you!

*The SPIRIT moves off and SCROOGE follows.*

*End Scene*

## SCENE viii: THOMAS & CAROLINE's HOME

*THOMAS enters the home. HE is happy but feels guilty about the happiness he feels.*

CAROLINE (Actress #1)

You were gone so long that I was worried.

THOMAS (Actor #3)

Yes, well I'm back now my dear, and I have some very good news.

SCROOGE

Who are these people? I don't know them. Are they any relation to the man that died?

*The THIRD SPIRIT (Actress #3) points to the couple.*

CAROLINE (Actress #1)

Tell me what has happened?

THOMAS (Actor #3)

What has happened is – we are not to be ruined. He is dead.

CAROLINE (Actress #1)

Dead!

*The two laugh and hug.*

THOMAS (Actor #3)

Yes.

CAROLINE (Actress #1)

Oh, Thomas this is – as you say – although I regret to repeat it – good news.

THOMAS (Actor #3)

Very good news.

CAROLINE (Actress #1)

For us, God forgive me.

THOMAS (Actor #3)

That cleaning woman I told you about last night that turned me away when I tried to see him and get a week's delay was telling the truth. He was ill – and not only ill – but dying.

CAROLINE (Actress #1)

To whom will our debt be transferred?

THOMAS (Actor #3)

I don't know. But this gives us some time, and when our debt is transferred, we shall be ready with the money.

CAROLINE (Actress #1)

And even if we're not it's very unlikely that we'll be dealing with so merciless and cruel a creditor in his successor as he was.

THOMAS (Actor #3)

Yes, we may sleep well tonight with light hearts. He is gone and his shadow will no longer haunt our days.

SCROOGE

You show me this...this is not what I asked to see...can you not show me some tenderness connected with death...some grief for a soul that walked this earth.

*The THIRD SPIRIT (Actress #3) moves off and SCROOGE follows.*

*End Scene*

## SCENE ix: BOB CRATCHIT's HOME

*PETER is reading from the bible. ABBY sits listening. MARTHA and MRS. CRATCHET are working on their knitting.*

SCROOGE

Oh Spirit no. No. No. No. Please spirit...no...not Tiny Tim.

*The THIRD SPIRIT (Actress #3) points to the family.*

PETER (Actor #1)

The Lord is my Shepard; I shall not want.  
He maketh me lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

*PETER stops reading. MARTHA takes the bible from her brother and continues. MRS. CRATCHIT puts down her knitting.*

MARTHA (Actress #1)

He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

PETER (Actor #1) and MARTHA (Actress #1)

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

MRS. CRATCHIT (Actress #2) joins in with PETER & MARTHA

Thou prepares a table before me in the presence of mine enemies; thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.  
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

MRS. CRATCHIT (Actress #2)

Very nice Peter. What a fine voice you have. Very nice Martha. You two must read to your father when he gets home.

PETER (Actor #1) & MARTHA (Actress #1)

Yes, mother.

MRS. CRATCHIT (Actress #2)

He is very late. It is well past his time.

MARTHA (Actress #1)

He seems to walk so much slower these last few evenings, mother.

MRS. CRATCHIT (Actress #2)

Yes, but I have known him to walk very fast with Tiny Tim upon his shoulder, very fast indeed.

PETER (Actor #1)

And so, have I. Often.

ABBY (Actress #4)

Me too.

MRS. CRATCHIT (Actress #1)

But he was very light to carry, and your father loved him so, that it was no trouble; no trouble, at all. Ah, at last there is your father at the door.

*BOB enters*

BOB (Actor #4)

Hello my dears.

PETER (Actor #1)

Hello father.

ABBY (Actress #4)

Father.

MRS. CRATCHIT (Actress #2)

I am so glad you are home.

BOB (Actor #4)

As am I. What have you been up to my dear?

MRS. CRATCHIT (Actress #2)

Peter has been reading to us and Martha, Abby and I have been doing some knitting, haven't we?

ABBY (Actress #4)

Yes, we have.



MRS. CRATCHIT (Actress #2)

We have been waiting for you.

BOB (Actor #4)

Oh, I'm sorry my dear. You shouldn't wait for me.

MRS. CRATCHIT (Actress #2)

No, no, no, we'll take our tea together. What took you so long Robert?

BOB (Actor #4)

I was making some final arrangements my dear. I wish you could have come. It would have done you good to see how green a place it is. How peaceful. But you'll see it often. We all will. We shall go there on Sundays won't we my dears.

MARTHA (Actress #1)

Yes, father.

ABBY (Actress #4)

Yes

PETER (Actor #1)

Every Sunday, father.

BOB (Actor #4)

Yes, every Sunday. My little child. My little, little child.

MARTHA (Actress #1)

Don't be sad father.

ABBY (Actress #4)

We love you.

BOB (Actor #4)

Of that, I am certain of, my dears.

*The children surround BOB and give him kisses and hugs.*

BOB (Actor #4)

Do you know I ran into Mr. Scrooge's nephew, Fred, on my way to the Church and seeing that I was not myself he asked what had happened to upset me so. I am heartily sorry for your loss, Mr. Cratchit he said, and heartily sorry for your good wife. If I can be of service to you in any way Pray come, see me."

MRS. CRATCHIT (Actress #2)

I'm sure he's a good soul.

BOB (Actor #4)

You would be sure of it, my dear, if you saw and spoke to him. He is as kind-hearted and loving as his Uncle Scrooge is cold-hearted and bitter. I shouldn't be at all surprised – mark what I say – if he got Peter a better situation.

MRS. CRATCHIT (Actress #2)

Hear that, Peter?

MARTHA (Actress #1)

And then Peter will be keeping company with someone and setting up for himself.

PETER (Actor #1)

And what's wrong with that?

BOB (Actor #4)

Not a thing, you're a handsome fellow and good man, Peter.

MRS. CRATCHIT (Actress #2)

And one of these days, if you're lucky, you'll meet someone nice that you'll want to spend your life with.

BOB (Actor #4)

Very true my dear, though there's plenty of time for that. And I do hope that in the years to come, however and whenever we part from one another, for whatever reason, I am quite certain that none of us will forget our little Tiny Tim – shall we – and this first parting among us.

ALL

Never, father!

BOB (Actor #4)

And I know, I know, my dears, that when we remember how patient and how kind he was; even though he was only a little child; we shall not quarrel easily among ourselves and forget our little Tim in doing it.

ALL

No, never, father!

BOB (Actor #4)

I am very happy. I am so very...very...happy!

*The family gathers around BOB and huddle together in their grief.*

SCROOGE

I do not belong here...I should not be here...I should let this poor family grieve in peace. Oh Spirit, I sense our parting is at hand, although I do not know why – can you not tell me who was that man we saw lying dead?

*The THIRD SPIRIT (Actress #3) turns and SCROOGE follows.*

*End Scene*

## SCENE x: CHURCHYARD

*A large unmarked tombstone looms out of the darkness. Beneath the tombstone lies a pine box. Fog drifts among the tombstones.*

### SFX WHISPERING SPIRITS CALLING EBENEZER SCROOGE

SCROOGE

Spirit, before I draw nearer to that stone to which you point answer me one question. Are these the shadows of the things that will be or are they shadows of things that may be, only?

*The THIRD SPIRIT (Actress #3) points to the grave. The coffin opens.*

SCROOGE

Yes, men's actions foreshadow certain ends, to which, if persevered, they must lead. But if the courses be departed from, the ends will change. Is this not true? Answer me, who lies buried here – what fate awaits me?

*The name EBENEZER SCROOGE appears across the gravestone.*

SCROOGE

Oh, no spirit! It is as I feared, no! Please have mercy...I am not the man I was.

*Great chains emerge from the grave and begin to wrap themselves around SCROOGE and drag him towards the open coffin.*

SCROOGE

Why show me this, if I am past all hope? Assure me that I may yet change the shadows you have shown me, by an altered life. No, no, no please...I beg of you...forgive me spirit...forgive me...and I will honour Christmas in my heart. I will not shut out the lessons of this night. I will live in the Past, the Present, and the Future. The Spirits of all Three shall strive within me. Oh, tell me I may sponge away the writing on this stone!

*SCROOGE is pulled into the coffin. The lid slams shut.*

*End Scene*

## SCENE xi: SCROOGE'S BED CHAMBER

*SCROOGE appears in the bed thrashing and tossing and turning until he realizes that he is in his own bed.*

SCROOGE

No, Spirit...please...forgive me I am a changed man...a changed man...oh...where am I. Oh my word...ha, ha, ha, I am in my own bed. Oh, thank the Lord. Thank the Lord, I am in my own bed and I am alive! I am alive! Oh, here it is Christmas morning and I am alive.

*SCROOGE gets out of his bed and falls to his knees in thanks.*

SCROOGE

Ha, ha, ha, I am not dead...Oh Jacob Marley! Heaven, and the Spirits of Christmas be praised...I say it on my knees Jacob – on my knees. I am alive. Ha, ha, ha.

*SCROOGE gives a great sigh of relief and falls back on the floor as MRS. DILBER comes in with a breakfast tray. She stops when she sees SCROOGE lying on the floor laughing.*

MRS. DILBER (Actress #2)

Mr. Scrooge?

SCROOGE

Mrs. Dilber!

MRS. DILBER (Actress #2)

Are you quite alright Mr. Scrooge?

*SCROOGE jumps to his feet.*

SCROOGE

Oh, yes Mrs. Dilber. Ha, ha, ha! I am as light as a feather, I am as happy as an angel, I am as merry as a schoolboy. Ha, ha, ha. I am as giddy as a drunken man. Ha, ha, ha. How wonderful to see you. And look at that – you have not torn down my bed curtains – rings and all. They are here! I am here! You are here! The shadows of things that would have been – will not be. I will make certain of that!

MRS. DILBER (Actress #2)

Will you sir?

SCROOGE

Oh yes! I say, there's the mirror, by which the Ghost of Jacob Marley entered!

MRS. DILBER (Actress #2)

The ghost of Jacob Marley.

SCROOGE

And here's where the Ghost of Christmas Past – long past – no, my past – appeared. Ha, ha, ha.

MRS. DILBER (Actress #2)

Did it sir?

SCROOGE

And here's the window where I saw the wandering Spirits! Ha, ha, ha!

*SCROOGE looks at MRS. DILBER. She looks at him and then screams and runs around the room with SCROOGE chasing her trying to catch her and calm her down.*

MRS. DILBER (Actress #2)

Ahhhhh!

SCROOGE

Oh, I'm sorry – I'm sorry Mrs. Dilber. Calm yourself. I do not mean to scare you.

MRS. DILBER (Actress #2)

I don't know what you're talking about Mr. Scrooge!

SCROOGE

I'm talking about Christmas Mrs. Dilber. The joy of the season. I'm sorry if I frightened you.

MRS. DILBER (Actress #2)

Here Mr. Scrooge, are you quite alright? You are acting a bit peculiar and – forgive me for saying so – but maybe you should have your head examined.

SCROOGE

You're quite right, maybe I should – what a good idea – I wonder what they'd find in it?  
Ha, ha, ha!

MRS. DILBER (Actress #2)

I'll fetch the doctor, shall I?

SCROOGE

No, no, no. No need, I'm quite sane. Now run along home to your family. What are you doing here with me on Christmas morning? What horrible old penny-pincher would make you work on Christmas Day?

MRS. DILBER (Actress #2)

Why, you would Mr. Scrooge.

SCROOGE

I would – that's true I would – ha, ha, ha – but I won't any longer. Here's a pound note for you to take and spend on you and your family this Christmas!

MRS. DILBER (Actress #2)

A whole pound!

SCROOGE

Oh, yes.

MRS. DILBER (Actress #2)

Are you sure? That's a lot of money that is.

SCROOGE

Oh, I'm very sure.

MRS. DILBER (Actress #2)

Why thank you Mr. Scrooge. That is most kind and generous of you. Thank you.

SCROOGE

Merry Christmas, Mrs. Dilber.

MRS. DILBER (Actress #2)

Merry Christmas, Mr. Scrooge. Are you sure you're quite alright?

SCROOGE

Oh yes, never better. Ha, ha, ha.

*MRS. DILBER exits*

*SCROOGE throws open his window and stands looking at the street. A young GIRL and BOY enter below.*

SCROOGE

A merry Christmas to everybody! A happy New Year to all the world. Ha, ha, ha. Hallo there! Hello! You there, girl – boy! Hello!

GIRL (Actress #4) & BOY (Actor #5)

Hello!

SCROOGE

Do you two know the Butchers in the next street but one, at the corner?

GIRL (Actress #4)

We do.

SCROOGE

Ah, an intelligent girl! Do you know whether or not they've sold the prize Turkey that was hanging there? Not the little prize Turkey – the big one?

BOY (Actor #5)

The one as big as me?

SCROOGE

What a delightful child. Yes, that one!

GIRL (Actress #4)

It's hanging there still.

SCROOGE

Is it? Good. Go and buy it.



GIRL (Actress #4)

Go buy it?

BOY (Actor #5)

Are you off your nut?

SCROOGE

Ha, ha, ha. No, no, no. I am not off my nut – good Heavens – I am in earnest – I assure you. Go and buy it and tell them to bring it here to Mr. Scrooge, so that I can tell them where to take it. Come back with the man, and I'll give you a shilling. Come back with him in less than five minutes and I'll give you half-a-crown!

GIRL (Actress #4)

Yes sir!

BOY (Actor #5)

Right away gov!

SCROOGE

Ha, ha, ha. Look at them go.

*The CHILDREN run off.*

SCROOGE

I'll send it to Bob Cratchit! He won't know who sent it. Ha,ha, ha. It's twice the size of Tiny Tim. Oh, I don't deserve to be so happy! But I am. I can't help it. Ha, ha, ha. What to do? What to do? A whole day – a whole day to spend celebrating the season! Ha, ha, ha!

*End Scene*

## SCENE xii: A LONDON STREET

*It is Christmas Day and the street is filled with people. There is a group singing Christmas Carols and people rushing by with presents. There is lots of laughter and conversation and SCROOGE is enjoying all the activities and greeting people.*

SCROOGE

Good morning to you. Merry Christmas. A Merry Christmas to you!

*SCROOGE see's MR. GRANGER and approaches him.*

SCROOGE

My dear sir, how are you?

MR. GRANGER (Actor #2)

Mr. Scrooge?

SCROOGE

I hope you succeeded yesterday. It was very kind of you. A Merry Christmas to you sir!

MR. GRANGER (Actor #2)

You are Mr. Scrooge, aren't you?

SCROOGE

Yes, that is my name, and I fear it may not be pleasant to you. Allow me to ask your pardon, I would like to make a donation to your fund.

*SCROOGE whispers into his ear.*

MR. GRANGER (Actor #2)

Lord bless me! My dear Mr. Scrooge, are you serious?

SCROOGE

If you please, not a farthing less. A great many back-payments are included in it, I assure you. Will you do me that favour?

MR. GRANGER (Actor #2)

My dear sir, I don't know what to say to such generosity.

SCROOGE

Don't say anything. And do include my partner Jacob Marley's name on the donation if you please. This was all his doing you see.

MR. GRANGER (Actor #2)

Well who's ever doing it was I thank you very much Mr. Scrooge. You have helped us exceed our goal by much more than we could have imagined. Thank you, sir.

*BELLE and DICK who are also now in their mid years enter the street.*

SCROOGE

It is I who must thank you. And ummm (*Scrooge see's Belle & DICK*) ummm I have some ideas about creating a Merchant Association to raise funds for the poor throughout the year.

MR. GRANGER (Actor #2)

Oh, well that would be a wonderful gesture.

SCROOGE

Yes, you must come and see me, and we can discuss this further.

MR. GRANGER (Actor #2)

Yes, Mr. Scrooge. Thank you. Merry Christmas.

MR. SCROOGE

Merry Christmas, my good man! Thank you very much. I am much obliged to you. I thank you fifty times, bless you.

*SCROOGE approaches BELLE and DICK. At first, they don't see him but then they turn in his direction. SCROOGE is overjoyed to see them.*

SCROOGE

My word Belle!

BELLE (Actress #1)

Ebenezer!

SCROOGE

Yes! It is I! Oh Belle, I am so glad to see you.

*SCROOGE runs forward and picks BELLE up and twirls her around and sets her down laughing!*

BELLE (Actress #1)

Ebenezer!

SCROOGE

I'm so sorry that was most inappropriate of me. I am just so overwhelmed to see you again after so many years. This is a day filled with blessings. How are you my dear?

BELLE (Actress #1)

Well.

*SCROOGE gives DICK a hearty handshake.*

SCROOGE

And Dick, Dick Wilkens, my good friend – how long it has been since I've called you that?

DICK (Actor #4)

Um, yes.

SCROOGE

And how is your family?

BELLE (Actress #1)

Well.

DICK (Actor #4)

Yes, very well.

SCROOGE

I am glad to hear it – it has been too long – and I am to blame. We must not be strangers, eh. Here we are living in the same city and we do not spend any time together. Well, that will never do. I think that you and Dick must come see me, and we must have a good visit, and you can tell me all about your dear family. How does that sound? I do wish us to remain friends, if you will allow it.

*BELLE and DICK look at each other.*

BELLE (Actress #1)

Of course, we will.

DICK (Actor #4)

Of course, Ebenezer. Merry Christmas.

SCROOGE

Yes, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. It is so good to see you.

*DICK and BELLE exit.*

*The CAROLERS start to sing and SCROOGE claps along enjoying the song.*

CAROLERS

WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS

WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS

WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

GOOD TIDINGS WE BRING TO YOU AND YOUR KIN

GOOD TIDINGS FOR CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

SCROOGE

Ah, ah very nice – very beautiful. Merry Christmas.

*MR. BENTLEY enters*

MR. BENTLEY (Actor #3)

Ah, Mr. Scrooge I was just on my way to your office.

SCROOGE

Well, you may go to my office, but you won't find me there.

MR. BENTLEY (Actor #3)

Uh, no Mr. Scrooge...of course not...you are here.

SCROOGE

I most certainly am.

MR. BENTLEY (Actor #3)

Well then, maybe we can walk back together.

SCROOGE

What? And work on Christmas Day!

MR. BENTLEY (Actor #3)

What is Christmas Day to you sir?

SCROOGE

Oh, it's not the day, it's the spirit my friend. The Spirit of Christmas – that I celebrate today and every day. You should try it!

MR. BENTLEY (Actor #3)

I don't think I'll try any such thing, sir.

SCROOGE

No?

MR. BENTLEY (Actor #3)

No.

SCROOGE

Oh, what a shame. Well Mr. Bentley, I happened to belong to a group of business men that are raising a fund to buy the poor some meat and drink and means of warmth at this festive time of year and I would be most pleased if you would make a donation.

MR. BENTLEY (Actor #3)

Uh, Mr. Scrooge I don't make merry myself at Christmas...

SCROOGE

...and I can't afford to make idle people merry. Yes, yes I've heard it all – said it all – and it's all a bunch of codswallop.

MR. BENTLEY (Actor #3)

I think I will have to reconsider doing business with you Mr. Scrooge.

SCROOGE

That is up to you entirely Mr. Bentley, but in the meantime, why don't you donate that hundred pounds you made yesterday?

MR. BENTLEY (Actor #3)

Mr. Scrooge, have you lost your mind?

SCROOGE

You're not the first one to accuse me of losing my mind today, and you probably won't be the last, but that is no reason for you not to donate. You can afford it.

MR. BENTLEY (Actor #3)

If I was to give away my money to anyone who asked for it – it would not be long before I found myself in the poor house. Good day, sir.

*MR. BENTLY turns to leave.*

SCROOGE

Merry Christmas.

MR. BENTLEY (Actor #3)

Bah!

SCROOGE

And a happy New Year!

MR. BENTLEY (Actor #3)

Humbug!

SCROOGE

Humbug indeed. Ha, ha, ha. He'll take some work, that one. Oh dear, look at the time. I must hurry.

*End Scene*

### SCENE xiii: FRED'S HOME

*FRED's home is decorated for Christmas and looks identical to the scene we saw when SCROOGE was there with the SECOND SPIRIT.*

ROSE (Actress #3)  
Is it an animal?

FRED (Actor #1)  
Oh yes.

TOPPER (Actor #4)  
Is it a cow? Mooooo!

FRED (Actor #1)  
No.

EMMA (Actress #1)  
Does it live in the country?

FRED (Actor #1)  
No.

ROSE (Actress #3)  
In the city then?

FRED (Actor #1)  
Yes.

TOPPER (Actor #4)  
Does it growl?

FRED (Actor #1)  
Oh, yes.

ROSE (Actress #3)  
Is it a dog?



Woof woof! TOPPER (Actor #4)

No. FRED (Actor #1)

A cat? TOPPER (Actor #4)

No. FRED (Actor #1)

A rat? EMMA (Actress #1)

Uh, no. FRED (Actor #1)

Is it a horse? ROSE (Actress #3)

No. FRED (Actor #1)

A jackass! TOPPER (Actor #4)

Yes and no. FRED (Actor #1)

Heehaw! TOPPER (Actor #4)

Oh, I know what it is, Fred! I know it! EMMA (Actress #1)

What is it? FRED (Actor #1)

*The door to the dining room opens and SCROOGE enters just as EMMA shouts.*

EMMA (Actress #1) & SCROOGE

It's your Uncle Scrooge!

*The room turns and looks and is stunned for the moment and then there is an uneasy laugh and then FRED steps forward.*

FRED (Actor #1)

Why bless my soul, so it is! Uncle?

SCROOGE

Fred, I have come to dinner if you will still have me.

FRED (Actor #1)

Of course, Uncle, I am so glad that you are here. Pray what changed your mind?

SCROOGE

The Ghost of Jacob Marley changed my mind. The spirit of Christmas – past present and future changed my mind. Your words changed my mind, Fred. You're right. Christmas is a kind, forgiving, and charitable time. A time when men and women open their hearts and think of their fellow man. A time for mercy, charity, and benevolence. And so, in the memory of your dear mother, I will honour Christmas and keep it all the year – and I say along with you, God bless it!

FRED (Actor #1)

Oh, Uncle I could not be happier.

EMMA (Actress #1)

Welcome Uncle.

SCROOGE

Bless you. Bless you all.

*End Scene*

**SCENE xiv: SCROOGE & MARLEY's**

*SCROOGE is peaking out the window happily humming, We Wish You a Merry Christmas. He breaks into song as he keeps an eye out for BOB CRATCHIT.*

SCROOGE

WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS  
WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS  
WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR  
GOOD TIDINGS WE BRING TO YOU AND YOUR KIN  
GOOD TIDINGS FOR CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

*SCROOGE sees BOB running down the street. SCROOGE hops back up on his desk and tries to stop giggling and takes a stern appearance. BOB hurries into the office and takes off his hat and hops up on his chair at his desk and gets right to work. SCROOGE lets out some muffled giggles. He looks up at BOB*

SCROOGE

Mr. Cratchit.

BOB (Actor #4)

Yes, Mr. Scrooge?

SCROOGE

What do you mean by coming here at this time of day?

BOB (Actor #4)

I am very sorry, sir. I am behind my time.

SCROOGE

You are? Yes, I think you are. Step this way, sir, if you please.

BOB (Actor #4)

It's only once a year, sir. It shall not be repeated. I was making rather merry yesterday.

SCROOGE

Were you?

BOB (Actor #4)  
Yes.

SCROOGE  
Eating lots of turkey no doubt!

BOB (Actor #4)  
Why yes, Mr. Scrooge.

SCROOGE  
Plum pudding?

BOB (Actor #4)  
Yes.

SCROOGE  
Sounds like quite the feast, but even so that is no excuse for being late, and I am not going to stand for this sort of thing any longer Mr. Cratchit, and therefore I have no choice but to triple your salary!

*Pause*

BOB (Actor #4)  
I'm sorry, did you say triple my salary?

SCROOGE  
Yes.

BOB (Actor #4)  
My salary?

SCROOGE  
Your salary.

BOB (Actor #4)  
Are you quite yourself Mr. Scrooge?

SCROOGE  
I have never been more myself. A merry Christmas, Bob! A merrier Christmas, Bob, my good fellow, than I have given you for many a year! I'll triple your salary, and assist your

SCROOGE (Cont'd)

struggling family, and we will discuss your affairs this very afternoon, my friend, over a cup of Christmas cider at the King's Head Pub! How does that sound?

BOB (Actor #4)

Very good, Mr. Scrooge. Thank you.

SCROOGE

Now I want you to go buy more coal before you dot another I, Bob Cratchit. Let's make up the fires and warm this place up.

BOB (Actor #4)

Yes, Mr. Scrooge.

*BOB grabs the coal- scuttle and heads out.*

SCROOGE

Ah, Christmas time be praised. Thank you, Jacob, may ye yet find some peace. Merry Christmas to all.

*The rest of the CAST enter stage as FRED moves forward and speaks his final lines to the audience. Tiny Tim comes on stage and Scrooge hoists him on his shoulder. BOB and the rest of the Cratchits stand beside SCROOGE. The cast moves down and surrounds FRED as he speaks.*

FRED (Actor #1)

And do you know my Uncle Scrooge was better than his word.

EMMA (Actress #1)

He did it all and much more.

BOB (Actor #4)

And to Tiny Tim, who I'm happy to say, did not die, he was a second father.

ROSE (Actress #3)

Scrooge became as good a friend, as good a master, and as good a man, as the good old city of London knew, or any other good old city, town, or borough, in the good old world.

FRED (Actor #1)

And from that time on it was always said of him, that he knew how to keep Christmas well, if any man alive possessed the knowledge. May that be truly said of us all.

MRS. CRATCHIT (Actress #2)

And so, as Tiny Tim observed,

ALL

God bless us, everyone!

*END PLAY*

## Production Notes:

Just a few notes from the playwright to consider when creating your production.

### The Letters

There is a moment in the play when Scrooge picks up the letters he wrote to his sister and he undoes the ribbon that holds them together. This is a significant moment because that's when we hear, for the first time, spirits from beyond the grave. It is the removing of the ribbon that symbolically releases the spirits.

Also, having the letters rise out of the trash and land back on Scrooge's desk at the end of the scene can be achieved with any number of theatrical tricks. The letters that rise do not need to be the same letters that were thrown into the trash. You can have letters pre-rigged in the trash that rise and land on the desk through the use of fishing line or some other trick. You can even have stagehands dressed in black to perform the magical tricks of the play.

### The First Spirit

There are an infinite number of ways the script can be interpreted. The visual idea of the first spirit appearing with a thousand lights in the air can be achieved with the purchase of several strings of LED Christmas lights strung about. Each spirit's arrival is signalled by the clock and this can be used to help create the magical moment each spirit arrives.

### Scene Changes

It's important that you create a fluid movement between the scenes. In order to achieve this it is probably better not to use full sets but rather bits of furniture and set pieces to set the scene. Of course, how you stage things will also depend on your performance space but keeping the show moving is the important thing. Much can be done with lighting and sound in order to set the mood and feel of a scene and you need not have more than a few props or a pool of light for some parts of the play.

### The Graveyard Scene

And finally, I just want to mention that in the graveyard scene Scrooge finally begs for forgiveness. It is only when he humbles himself and seeks forgiveness that a different future is possible for the old man.

## CASTING BREAKDOWN PER ACTOR

<p><b>ACTOR #1</b></p> <p><b>ACT I</b></p> <p>Scene #1 – Fred</p> <p>Scene #2 –</p> <p>Scene #3 –</p> <p>Scene #4 –</p> <p>Scene #5 – Young Scrooge</p> <p>Scene #6 – Young Scrooge</p> <p>Scene #7 – Young Scrooge</p> <p>Scene #8 –</p> <p><b>ACT II</b></p> <p>Scene #1 –</p> <p>Scene #2 – Peter Cratchit</p> <p>Scene #3 – Fred</p> <p>Scene #4 – Mr. Murdock</p> <p>Scene #5 – Mr. Newbury</p> <p>Scene #6 – Mr. Newbury</p> <p>Scene #7 –</p> <p>Scene #8 –</p> <p>Scene #9 – Peter Cratchit</p> <p>Scene #10 –</p> <p>Scene #11 –</p> <p>Scene #12 –</p> <p>Scene #13 – Fred</p> <p>Scene #14 – Fred</p>	<p><b>ACTRESS #1</b></p> <p><b>ACT I</b></p> <p>Scene #1 – Belle</p> <p>Scene #2 –</p> <p>Scene #3 –</p> <p>Scene #4 –</p> <p>Scene #5 –</p> <p>Scene #6 – Belle</p> <p>Scene #7 – Belle</p> <p>Scene #8 – Belle</p> <p><b>ACT II</b></p> <p>Scene #1 –</p> <p>Scene #2 – Martha</p> <p>Scene #3 – Emma</p> <p>Scene #4 –</p> <p>Scene #5 –</p> <p>Scene #6 –</p> <p>Scene #7 –</p> <p>Scene #8 – Caroline</p> <p>Scene #9 – Martha</p> <p>Scene #10 –</p> <p>Scene #11 –</p> <p>Scene #12 – Belle</p> <p>Scene #13 – Emma</p> <p>Scene #14 – Emma</p>
<p><b>ACTOR #2</b></p> <p><b>ACT I</b></p> <p>Scene #1 – Mr. Granger</p> <p>Scene #2 – Mr. Granger, Mr. Harrington</p> <p>Scene #3 –</p> <p>Scene #4 –</p> <p>Scene #5 –</p> <p>Scene #6 – Fezziwig</p> <p>Scene #7 – Fezziwig</p> <p>Scene #8 –</p> <p><b>ACT II</b></p> <p>Scene #1 – Second Spirit</p> <p>Scene #2 – Second Spirit</p> <p>Scene #3 – Second Spirit</p> <p>Scene #4 –</p> <p>Scene #5 –</p> <p>Scene #6 – Old Joe</p> <p>Scene #7 –</p>	<p><b>ACTRESS #2</b></p> <p><b>ACT I</b></p> <p>Scene #1 – Mrs. Dilber</p> <p>Scene #2 –</p> <p>Scene #3 – Mrs. Dilber</p> <p>Scene #4 –</p> <p>Scene #5 – Cook</p> <p>Scene #6 – Mrs. Fezziwig</p> <p>Scene #7 –</p> <p>Scene #8 –</p> <p><b>ACT II</b></p> <p>Scene #1 –</p> <p>Scene #2 – Mrs. Cratchit</p> <p>Scene #3 – Mrs. Dilber</p> <p>Scene #4 –</p> <p>Scene #5 –</p> <p>Scene #6 – Mrs. Dilber</p> <p>Scene #7 –</p>



<p>Scene #8 –  Scene #9 –  Scene #10 –  Scene #11 –  Scene #12 – Mr. Granger  Scene #13 –  Scene #14 –</p>	<p>Scene #8 –  Scene #9 – Mrs. Cratchit  Scene #10 –  Scene #11 – Mrs. Dilber  Scene #12 –  Scene #13 –  Scene #14 – Mrs. Cratchit</p>
<p><b>ACTOR #3</b>  <b>ACT I</b>  Scene #1 – Thomas  Scene #2 – Mr. Bentley  Scene #3 –  Scene #4 – Marley’s Ghost  Scene #5 –  Scene #6 – Jacob Marley  Scene #7 – Jacob Marley  Scene #8 –  <b>ACT II</b>  Scene #1 –  Scene #2 –  Scene #3 –  Scene #4 – Mr. Bentley  Scene #5 – First Man  Scene #6 –  Scene #7 – Thomas  Scene #8 –  Scene #9 –  Scene #10 –  Scene #11 –  Scene #12 – Mr. Bentley  Scene #13 –  Scene #14 –</p>	<p><b>ACTRESS #3</b>  <b>ACT I</b>  Scene #1 – Rose  Scene #2 –  Scene #3 –  Scene #4 – First Spirit  Scene #5 – First Spirit  Scene #6 – First Spirit  Scene #7 – First Spirit  Scene #8 – First Spirit  <b>ACT II</b>  Scene #1 –  Scene #2 –  Scene #3 – Rose  Scene #4 – Third Spirit  Scene #5 – Third Spirit  Scene #6 – Third Spirit  Scene #7 – Third Spirit  Scene #8 – Third Spirit  Scene #9 – Third Spirit  Scene #10 – Third Spirit  Scene #11 –  Scene #12 –  Scene #13 – Rose  Scene #14 – Rose</p>
<p><b>ACTOR #4</b>  <b>ACT I</b>  Scene #1 – Bob Cratchit  Scene #2 – Bob Cratchit  Scene #3 –  Scene #4 –  Scene #5 –  Scene #6 – Dick Wilkens  Scene #7 –  Scene #8 – Dick Wilkens  <b>ACT II</b>  Scene #1 –</p>	<p><b>ACTRESS #4</b>  <b>ACT I</b>  Scene #1 – Girl  Scene #2 –  Scene #3 –  Scene #4 –  Scene #5 – Fan  Scene #6 –  Scene #7 –  Scene #8 – Grace  <b>ACT II</b>  Scene #1 –</p>

<p>Scene #2 –  Scene #3 – Topper  Scene #4 –  Scene #5 – Second Man  Scene #6 –  Scene #7 –  Scene #8 –  Scene #9 – Bob Cratchit  Scene #10 –  Scene #11 – Dick Wilkens  Scene #12 –  Scene #13 – Topper  Scene #14 – Bob Cratchit</p>	<p>Scene #2 – Abby  Scene #3 –  Scene #4 – Greed  Scene #5 –  Scene #6 –  Scene #7 –  Scene #8 –  Scene #9 – Abby  Scene #10 –  Scene #11 – Girl in Street  Scene #12 –  Scene #13 –  Scene #14 – Abby</p>
<p><b>ACTOR #5</b>  <b>ACT I</b>  Scene #1 – Boy  Scene #2 –  Scene #3 – Boy in street  Scene #4 –  Scene #5 – Scrooge as a young boy  Scene #6 –  Scene #7 –  Scene #8 – George  <b>ACT II</b>  Scene #1 –  Scene #2 – Tiny Tim  Scene #3 –  Scene #4 – Ignorance  Scene #5 –  Scene #6 –  Scene #7 –  Scene #8 –  Scene #9 –  Scene #10 –  Scene #11 – Boy in Street  Scene #12 –  Scene #13 –  Scene #14 – Tiny Tim</p>	<p><b>SCROOGE</b>  <b>ACT I</b>  Scene #1 –  Scene #2 – Scrooge  Scene #3 – Scrooge  Scene #4 – Scrooge  Scene #5 – Scrooge  Scene #6 – Scrooge  Scene #7 – Scrooge  Scene #8 – Scrooge  <b>ACT II</b>  Scene #1 – Scrooge  Scene #2 – Scrooge  Scene #3 – Scrooge  Scene #4 – Scrooge  Scene #5 – Scrooge  Scene #6 – Scrooge  Scene #7 – Scrooge  Scene #8 – Scrooge  Scene #9 – Scrooge  Scene #10 – Scrooge  Scene #11 – Scrooge  Scene #12 – Scrooge  Scene #13 – Scrooge  Scene #14 – Scrooge</p>