

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

SCRIPT

Cast

Townpeople - every cast member except Scrooge throughout play

Narrators - Storyteller and townspeople who connect scenes

Ebenezer Scrooge - angry, old, miserly moneylender

Bob Cratchit - hard working clerk and father

Winifred - joyful niece of Scrooge

Applegate - well-meaning collector for the poor

Davies - gentle/kind collector for the poor

Marley Jacobs - Scrooge's former business partner. ghost

Spirit of the Past - ethereal phantom who shows Scrooge his memories

Student Scrooge - a young, quiet boy

Fan - Scrooge's younger sister, full of hope

School children - go to school with Scrooge

Fezziwig - Scrooge's first boss/employer. Every kind and happy

Belle - Young Scrooge's former love

Young Scrooge - kind, open; then unsocial, glum, and stern

Fezziwig Party Guests - happy, dancing, lively party-goers

Spirit of the Present - Sassy, laughing, jovial phantom who shows Scrooge events

Mrs Cratchett - Bob's kind/bold wife. Mother to Tim, Peter, Belinda, & Martha

Peter - oldest son to Bob and Mrs Crachit. helpful

Belinda - oldest daughter to Crachits. Smart, happy, tough

Martha - youngest Crachit daughter. Funny and excited

Tiny Tim - smallest Crachit child. Joyful but unwell. Walks with a cane/crutch

Claire/Cole - Winifred's party guest and close friend

Alex - Fred's friend #1

Ashley - Fred's friend #2

Harper - Fred's friend #3

Spirit of the Future - Ominous, hooded phantom; shows Scrooge future events

Towny 1 - townspeople speaking about Scrooge

Towny 2 - townspeople speaking about Scrooge

Towny 3 - townspeople selling Scrooge's belongings

Towny 4 - townspeople selling Scrooge's belongings

Haggler - rough townspeople, buying Scrooge's things

Child on the street - helps "new" Scrooge on Christmas morning

SCENE 1 OPENING

Lights come up on a London street. Music begins and townspeople enter, bustling around. Townies greet each other with “Merry Christmases” and well wishes. Today is Christmas Eve. Carolers cross, singing “Gloria, En Excelsis Deo”
Narrator enters with townies, greets folks, then comes center to begin.

NARRATOR 1

It had been 7 years to the day since Marley Jacobs had passed away. When she was alive, she was ruthless. She was selfish. She was mean. But she had nothing on Ebenezer Scrooge. Marley and Scrooge had been business partners at a counting house. Since her death, Scrooge had been running that business by himself. A counting house is a bit like a bank. People would come to Scrooge to borrow money to buy a house. They would pay back what they borrowed a little bit at a time. But Scrooge was greedy and he would charge people enormous fees. You see, Ebenezer Scrooge loved one thing and one thing only. Money. He was a tight-fisted hand to the grindstone, Scrooge... He was a squeezing, wrenching, grasping, clutching, covetous old sinner!

Door chimes Bell as Scrooge enters his shop. Bob Cratchit now sits at his desk, writing. He looks up at Scrooge. Scrooge walks to his desk. He shuffles papers, flips through, angrily.

CRACHIT

Good afternoon Mr Scrooge. A Merry Christmas to you.

SCROOGE

Mmmm.

Let us deal with the eviction notices for tomorrow Mr Crachit.

CRACHIT

For tomorrow sir?

SCROOGE

Yes Crachit, tomorrow.

CRACHIT

Well, tomorrow is Christmas Day sir

SCROOGE

Yes, and?

CRACHIT

Well you see sir, evicting people from their homes on Christmas... it hardly seems, well...

SCROOGE

Oh Crachit, Christmas is the perfect time for eviction notices. This is a very busy season for us; people are giving parties, and buying gifts they can't afford. They are spending their mortgage money on frivolous things! Oh yes, December is a very busy time for the money lender!

CRACHIT

Yes Mr Scrooge

SCROOGE

Good, now get on with your work Mr Crachit.

Scrooge sits, flipping through papers and reading his ledger. A girl, Winifred (Fred), enters holding a wreath as the bell chimes

WINIFRED

A Merry Christmas Uncle Scrooge! And God bless you!
 And a Merry Christmas to you too Bob!

CRACHIT

Merry Christmas Winifred.

SCROOGE

Merry? You don't have any right to be merry. You're poor enough.

FRED

It's Christmas uncle. Why are you dismal? You're rich enough!

SCROOGE

Christmas? Bah. Humbug!

WINIFRED

You're calling Christmas a humbug? Certainly not! Why it's...

SCROOGE

(Cutting her off) I'll tell you what it is: a giant waste. Any nincompoop who goes around with Merry Christmas on their lips ought to be boiled in his own Christmas Pudding and buried with a stake of holly thr--...well nevermind ...

CRACHIT

(timidly) Excuse my interruption Mr Scrooge, but Christmas is a time for giving. It's a season for people to be with their families - with their loved ones.

SCROOGE

Humbug.

WINIFRED

Uncle Scrooge, Christmas is a loving, honest, charitable time. And though it's never

put a scrap of gold into my pocket, I believe that Christmas *has* done me good, and *will* do me good, and I say God bless it!

CRACHIT
Here here!

SCROOGE
Back to work Bob. Those eviction notices aren't going to send themselves. I tell you what Winifred, why don't you keep *Christmas* in your way, and I'll keep it in mine?

He goes back to his ledger. The bell chimes as two people enter, dressed well. One carries a basket. The other a check list

SCROOGE
Good afternoon

APPLEGATE
Good afternoon. Do I have the pleasure of speaking with Mr Marley or Mr Scrooge?

SCROOGE
Ms Marley died 7 years ago today. I am Mr Ebenezer Scrooge. What business do you have here?

APPLEGATE
We are soliciting funds for the indigent and destitute.

CRACHIT
Huh?
DAVIES
We're collecting money for the poor.

SCROOGE
And?

APPLEGATE
And at this festive season, Mr Scrooge, many of us feel that it is our duty, no, our responsibility to take care of our poor and our homeless.

SCROOGE
So?

DAVIES
So... What may we put you down for sir?

SCROOGE
Oh. Nothing.

DAVIES
Oh, yes. You wish to remain anonymous?

SCROOGE
I wish to be left alone. I do not make merry at Christmas. I cannot afford to make idle, lazy people merry.

APPLEGATE
Mr Scrooge, I would like to kindly remind you that the good book says, "you shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor in your land." (*deut 15:11 esv*)

DAVIES
Yes, and "whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance." (*matt 13:12*)

SCROOGE
Ah... but doesn't it also say "the poor you will always have with you?" You see, if I were to give them my money now, the poor would no longer be poor! And if there are no longer poor people, *you* would be out of a job! Do you expect me to put you out of work... at Christmas time?

APPLEGATE
Well Mr Scrooge that...

SCROOGE
And aren't there workhouses? Aren't there prisons?

APPLEGATE
Why yes sir, but

SCROOGE
My taxes already go to pay for these places to house the poor and destitute. They should go there- not come to me!

APPLEGATE
Sir, many people would rather die than go to the workhouse. The conditions are so terrible there and...

SCROOGE
They would rather die... than work? Well if they would rather die, they should do it. This city is crowded enough as it is!

(Everyone gasps. After a beat, Winifred digs into her coat pocket and removes a coin.)

WINIFRED
Here, allow me.

DAVIES
Thank you sir. Thank you.

APPLEGATE
Thank you.

CRACHIT
I think you'd better go now.

DAVIES
Yes, we'll just be on our way. Merry Christmas

WINIFRED
Merry Christmas

SCROOGE
Bah! Humbug!

Door chimes as collectors exit.

WINIFRED
Uncle I almost forgot why I came to see you today. I wanted to invite you over for Christmas Dinner tomorrow.

Scrooge levels him with a look

WINIFRED
I know, I know. But I wanted to invite you anyway. Who knows? Maybe you'll change your mind. We'll have a place set for you. A Merry Christmas to you both. *(beat)* I hope I see you tomorrow uncle.

(she waves as she leaves. The door chimes.)

CRACHIT
Merry Christmas Winifred

SCROOGE
Humbug.

CRACHIT
Mr Scrooge, speaking of tomorrow, I was hoping I could -um... have the day off?

SCROOGE
The entire day?

CRACHIT

Well yes sir. In fact, I was thinking... Why open the business at all tomorrow? All of the other businesses will be closed after all. So, you'll have no one to do business with. ...And it would be such a waste of expensive coal for the fire.

SCROOGE
That's a poor excuse for picking a man's pocket every December 25th. But seeing as I'm the only person who knows that... Go ahead Crachit. Take the day off.

CRACHIT
Oh Thank you Mr Scrooge!

SCROOGE
But you won't be paid for it!

CRACHIT
Yes sir.

(Crachit gathers up his belongings and blows out his candle)

SCROOGE
And be here even earlier the next morning.

CRACHIT
You got it Mr Scrooge! And a Merry... a bah humbug to you sir!

(he exits. Door chimes. Scrooge gathers his things and set is moved as he begins walking)

SCENE 2 MARLEY

The desk, stools, and shop items are removed and all is dark. Narrator speaks from the side of the stage. Scrooge dresses in his hat and coat and walks angrily "home"- across stage, in front of stage, back across, then up to the chair as narrator speaks.

NARRATOR 2

The coldest winter didn't bother Scrooge. No warmth could warm him. No wintery weather could make his cold heart colder than it already was. No bitter wind was more bitter than him.

In the street, no one ever stopped to ask, "Scrooge, how are you?" No beggars asked him for money. No children ever came up and asked him for the time, and no woman ever asked him for directions. People tried their best to stay away when they saw Scrooge coming.

But what did he care? This was the very thing he liked; to edge his way around the crowd- to keep his distance from all other people.

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen is sung as carolers cross. Scrooge makes his way up an aisle and to his door

NARRATOR 3

Scrooge lived in a home that had once been owned by his late partner. It was large. It was dark. It was cold. But Scrooge didn't mind that. Dark and cold were cheap.

(Scrooge arrives at his door)

NARRATOR 2

Now it is a fact that there wasn't anything special about Scrooge's door knocker- except that it was very large. He had seen it every morning and every night since he had moved in. It should also be shared that Scrooge had not thought of Marley, even once, since he had mentioned her earlier that afternoon. Yet, the moment Scrooge slid his key into the lock he looked up to find- not a door knocker, but the face of Marley herself.

It happened so quickly, he hadn't realized what he was seeing. Her hair was flowing and wild. Her eyes and mouth were opened wide in anguish. Her skin was a silvery white.

Scrooge gaped at her for a moment. He rubbed his eyes deeply and looked again. Marley's face was gone and the same old door knocker was back in its place.

As Narrators continue, Scrooge enters, lights a candle and dresses for bed. Night shirt, cap, slippers. He sits, covered in a blanket in a high back chair, left center.

NARRATOR 3

This had startled Scrooge and caused him a moment of shock and fear. But nonetheless, he opened the door and entered his home.

Scrooge told himself that he had imagined it. His door knocker hadn't transformed into Marley. Today was the anniversary of her death afterall. She was

just on his mind- even if he hadn't realized it before.

So Scrooge sat alone by the fire, feeling a little bit spooked. But after a while, he drifted off to sleep.

Spooky noises begin. Wind. chains, step- drag- step. Door Knocker sounds (the knocking startles Scrooge)

GHOST MARLEY

Ebenezer! *(like a "ghost")* ...Ebenezer!

(she calls his name a few times until he responds. She stands just R of him)

SCROOGE

Who's there? ... Who are you?

MARLEY

Don't you recognize me Scrooge? It's only been 7 years. Do I look so different? In life, I was your partner.

SCROOGE

M-M-M-Marley? Is that you? What has happened to you?

MARLEY

I was like you Scrooge. I clenched my fists tightly and I hoarded any money I could get my fingers on. I died and never even had the chance to spend so much of it. But in death? In death, I'm doomed to carry the weight of my harsh choices.

SCROOGE

What do you mean? You were brilliant! You taught me everything I know! Why, you should see how much money I've made now. My fortune has surpassed any money we made together

MARLEY

No! No! In life I swindled people out of their money. I didn't care who I hurt. I built my fortune coin by coin, and when I died, none of it came with me! I was wrong. I was so wrong. And now, I'm destined to carry these chains throughout eternity. There is no hope. I'm doomed to misery!

SCROOGE

Doomed?

MARLEY

Doomed Scrooge! You too are doomed! Your chains are already forged and they are longer and heavier than mine! But YOU... You have a chance to change!

SCROOGE

No, no, you can't mean me.

MARLEY

I do. You have to change your heart. Change your ways. It's not too late for you
my old friend!

Tonight you will be visited by three spirits. Follow them. Listen to them. Do
what they say.

SCROOGE

Oh I don't think that's necessary. No spirits. No thank you. I'll just go back to
sleep now. It was nice to see you, Marley. I believe you know the way out. Please
don't come again.

(he covers with the blanket, closes eyes)

MARLEY

You were always so stubborn Scrooge. Without these visits, you cannot hope to
avoid this terrible fate! The spirits Will come to you. You can expect the first
when the clock strikes one. Follow them. Listen to them. Do what they say.

Goodbye Scrooge.

She exits up L. Scrooge trembles and faints in his chair. Blackout

*Scrooge slipped into the empty silence of a dreamless sleep. But he woke with a
start when the clock chimed one.*

SCENE 3 PAST SCHOOL

Past enters from down SL and crosses to center. Scrooge wraps his blanket on his shoulders and looks up R. Past startles him when he turns back around.

SCROOGE

Are you the spirit? The one Marley told me to expect?

PAST

I am.

SCROOGE

(squeaks) Well, whatever you need to tell me, please go ahead. I'd like to get back to sleep.

PAST

I am the ghost of Christmas Past. Now take heed Scrooge, you need to grab my hand and come with me

(he grumbles to himself. He lets the blanket go and puts on his slippers, then grasps her hand) From down R, students enter; Scrooge and Past are far L.

SCROOGE

Well, alright. Where are we

PAST

Don't you mean WHEN are we? Look around Scrooge. Do you recognize anything?

A boy is sitting on the edge of the stage. His nose is stuck in a book.

SCROOGE

Why, that's me! How young I was.

Several boys enter and play/run. Student breaks away to invite student Scrooge

STUDENT 1

Ebenezer, come on! Come play with us!

Playful boys exit

SCROOGE

Spirit tell me, do they know we are here?

PAST

These are only shadows of the past. They cannot see or hear us.

Fanny runs in and hugs Scrooge

FANNY

Ebenezer! It's you!

STUDENT SCROOGE

Oh Fanny! My little sister! What are you doing here?

FANNY

Father says that your school days are over! It's time for you to come home! Oh Ebenezer, he's so much kinder now. He sent me in a carriage to come and bring you home. We'll finally spend Christmas together as a family!

STUDENT SCROOGE

I'll send for my things. First, you must tell me, how is everyone?

They "talk" animatedly, but silently. Then exit arm in arm

SCROOGE

She was such a delicate creature. I always thought a big, strong gust of wind might blow her away.

PAST

When she died, she was fully grown. And I believe she had children

SCROOGE

She had one child.

PAST

Yes. One child. Your niece, Winifred. Come now Scrooge, there is more to see.

SCENE 4 PAST FEZZIWIG

Lively music begins to play

Cast enters dancing- Young Scrooge, Belle, Fan, and others They dance and then break away to stand in groups, pantomiming conversation. Some have drinks in hand. Some place decorations around upstage before the dance starts.

SCROOGE

It's Old Fezziwig himself! Fezziwig was my very first boss! He was the kindest, most generous person you could ever hope to work for. And there- that's Mr Wilkins! And there- these were- why they were all my friends! It's been so many years since I've seen them all.

FEZZIWIG

Merry Christmas my friends! Thank you for a wonderful year in business. I want to thank Master Scrooge for his very hard work this year. Three cheers for Scrooge!

EVERYONE CLAPS

FEZZIWIG

I hope everyone will enjoy themselves and have a very Merry Christmas!

Party guests clap, then slowly exit. Isabelle comes up to Fezziwig and Young Scrooge comes too.

SCROOGE

There she is. I had almost forgotten. This is the night I met...

FEZZIWIG

Master Scrooge, I would like to introduce you to my niece, Isabelle

(he walks away to speak to others as they all exit)

Young Scrooge is lost for words. One by two, all partygoers exit.

BELLE

It's lovely to meet you. My uncle has told me so much.

YOUNG SCROOGE

The pleasure is mine.

The music fades and changes. It's love at first sight.

Scrooge and Isabelle walk arm and arm to center stage. Time has passed.

SCROOGE

Oh no spirit. Please don't show me this.

BELLE

Ebenezer, It's been so many years.

YOUNG SCROOGE

I know Belle. I do want to marry you, but what can I do? My accounts have not grown the way I wanted them to.

BELLE

You're a partner in your own firm now. Wasn't that the goal?

YOUNG SCROOGE

It was but... You just don't understand. I need more money. I have to make more money! If I don't, how can we ever be together?

BELLE

Oh Ebenezer, we don't need money to be happy. We just need each other.

YOUNG SCROOGE

You're wrong Belle. We need to be comfortable. Money will make that happen. Just wait a little while longer. Be patient. I'm doing this for *you*. For *us*. We cannot be happy without money.

BELLE

I have been patient. I'm sorry. I hope you are happy in the life you have chosen. Goodbye Ebenezer.

They walk in opposite directions, off stage

SCROOGE

Oh spirit please! Stop! Don't show me anymore. This is torture.

PAST

I told you, these are merely the shadows of what has happened. I can only remind you of what has already taken place.

Scrooge's chair and blanket is brought center stage.

SCROOGE

Well you've certainly done that.

PAST

My time goes short. I will leave you.

(Scrooge curls into his blanket on stage, sitting.)

SCENE 5 PRESENT CRACHIT

Scrooge again curls into his chair at center. He bundles up and closes his eyes for a minute. The clock strikes two and we hear merry singing coming from the rear of the sanctuary/audience entrance. PRESENT enters, singing down the aisle. "On Christmas Day in the Morning!"

PRESENT

Up! Up! Up! It's time to go! Come along Ebenezer Scrooge!
It's the night, before the dawn, before the day of Christmas! Let's not waste a moment of it!

SCROOGE

I don't understand

PRESENT

I am the ghost of Christmas Present! My mind is filled with the here and now and the here and now is Christmas! Haven't you ever noticed that everything seems wonderful at Christmas?

Scrooge is a little mystified at the question- at the immense joy coming from PRESENT

SCROOGE

In all honesty, no. But perhaps I just don't understand?

PRESENT

Well, before this day is done, I'll make sure you *do* understand!
Now, are you ready? There isn't a moment to lose. Grab a hold of my robe and let's go!

SCROOGE

(hesitating) Spirit, the last of you that visited me left quite an impression. Last time, I felt that I was forced to go. I saw things that I believe have begun to teach me a lesson. Tonight, I am willingly. Perhaps I will learn a little more.

Scrooge takes their hand. As he does so, the two face down center. Behind them, the city fills up. Townspeople enter and the music changes. They turn. People are hugging, giving baskets and gifts. Very Very Merry. Singing carolers, they've just left church and are headed to their various parties "Gloria In Excelsis Deo"

SCROOGE

They all seem so... happy. Are they happy just because it's Christmas day?

PRESENT

Christmas day brings joy to so many Ebenezer

SCROOGE

Well that's what they say, but... *(beat, pensive, marveling)*
...I had no idea.

PRESENT

Come along Scrooge, you could do with a bit of joy yourself!

The townspeople exit. A table is set in the center. A stove is off to one side with a small pot on a fire. Mrs Crachit is busy making the room look nice. She lays the cloth and sets the places. Her children help her

NARRATOR

Scrooge was moved by the generous, joyous faces he had seen in the street. Then, suddenly, he was in a small house. There were no fancy decorations. Just a small woman, attending to her home. Her dress was threadbare and had been repaired several times, but even with her modest home and dress, she couldn't help but to smile.

MRS CRACHIT

Peter! Martha! Belinda! It's time to come inside! *(she stirs a pot)*

PETER AND BELINDA

(entering) Merry Christmas Mother!

PETER

What can we do to help you? *(he sets the cutlery)*

MRS CRACHIT

Well you can help me make the table ready. I do hope your father will be home soon

BELINDA

He's coming, mother! *(she sets the cups)* I saw them coming down the lane just now!

MARTHA

(entering) Oh Mother, you won't believe it! Father has found *such* a goose for us!
It will be a wonderful supper!

PETER

A goose!? That sounds delicious!

BELINDA

We'll have a true *feast* tonight!

MRS CRACHIT

We will! Now everyone wash-up. Your father will be here in a moment

BOB CRACHIT
We're home!

ALL CHILDREN
Father! Merry Christmas!

BOB CRACHIT
Merry Christmas everyone!

TINY TIM
(hobbling in) Merry Christmas!

MRS CRACHIT
Merry Christmas dears. Peter, will you please help your brother wash up?

PETER
Yes mother.

MRS CRACHIT
And how did our Tiny Tim behave at church this evening?

BOB CRACHIT
As good as gold! Do you know, he said the sweetest thing to me as we walked home. He said he hoped people saw him in church- and because he has to walk with his crutch- he hoped it reminded people that Jesus made the lame beggar walk and made the blind men see!

MRS CRACHIT
He is such a sweet boy

BOB CRACHIT
And he grows stronger and heartier every day!

She gives him a sad smile and the children return. Tim's crutch is heard clicking on the ground as he enters. His siblings help him to the table.

BELINDA
Oh father, this is wonderful!

MARTHA
Look at the size of that goose! We'll eat like kings tonight!

SCROOGE
Spirit, what goose?

PRESENT

The little bird in the middle of the table

SCROOGE
Is this their entire meal? All of these people will share that tiny bit of food?

MRS CRACHIT
It looks delicious Bob. Thank you for bringing it home for our Christmas supper!

BOB CRACHIT
You're very welcome. After all, Christmas comes but once a year. Alright everyone, let's bow our heads.
(He prays)
Thank you Lord for this delicious feast. Thank you for sending your Son, to be born on this night. Help us to remember that when we celebrate Christmas, we're really celebrating Jesus. Please bless this food, and bless us all. Amen.

EVERYONE
Amen

TINY TIM
And God bless us, everyone.

They eat and pantomime talking

SCROOGE
Spirit tell me, that sickly child- Tiny Tim- what is the matter with him? Will he be alright?

PRESENT
I am not the ghost of Christmas Future. My business is the present.

SCROOGE
Please tell me spirit, if you know.

PRESENT
If things do not change for the Crachit family soon, I see an empty chair at the family table. I see a crutch in the corner with no owner.

SCROOGE
Do you mean that Tiny Tim will- will die?

PRESENT
Well if he's going to die, he ought to do it. This city is crowded enough as it is! ... isn't that what you said?

SCROOGE
I did. I said that before but... Oh spirit, I didn't mean...

(Bob Cratchit raises his cup to toast, interrupting them)

BOB CRATCHIT

A toast: to Mr. Scrooge! The founder of the feast

SCROOGE

What was that?

MRS. CRATCHIT

A toast... to Mr. Scrooge? Oh I wish I had him here right now. I would give him a piece of my mind! I would tell him what a lousy, low-down, grimy, selfish, no good...

BOB CRATCHIT

My dear, think of the children. It's Christmas day after all

MRS. CRATCHIT

He just makes me so... furious! But you're right Bob. Today is Christmas day. I have some good-will I can offer him. I'll drink to his health. May he ...have a Merry Christmas... and a happy New Year too.

To Mr. Scrooge *(she raises her glass)*

The Cratchit family gathers their things and begins to exit SR

SCENE 6 PRESENT FRED

PRESENT

Come along Ebenezer Scrooge. My time is short

SCROOGE

Spirit, I wish to see my kin. Please take me to see my family.

PRESENT

As you wish

Winifred and the party guests enter SL and are seated around the stairs- Winifred at center, in layers going down the stairs

SCROOGE

Why, it's Winifred! And this must be the Christmas party she invites me to every year!

Winifred and her friends are very happy and when the lights come up. Each holds a cup of punch and they are laughing. Winifred laughs loudest. She's finishing a story that everyone thinks is hilarious

WINIFRED

He actually called Christmas a Humbug! Ha! And he believed it!

CLARA

He believed it? What a shame. Honestly, he's so rich, but so sullen. I don't think there's a thing in this world that he enjoys.

WINIFRED

He may be very rich, but I know two things for sure. He doesn't ever spend his money- not on himself, or on anyone else

FRIEND 1

What's the other thing Fred?

WINIFRED

Well, I know that when the time comes for Uncle Scrooge to leave this world, he won't leave any of his riches to me! *(she laughs)*

CLARA

Well I have no patience for him, or his attitude.

WINIFRED

Well, I feel sorry for him- the funny old fellow. I couldn't be mad at him if I tried. Really, ask yourself- who is the one who suffers from his bad attitude? He made up his mind to not like us- to not share this wonderful day together. And what's

his consequence? He misses out on good company and this delicious dinner!

ALL

Here here! *(raising their glass)*

WINIFRED

Yes, thank you to everyone who brought a food to share. It's been wonderful

ALL PARTY GUESTS AGREE

Yes, Very Good, Wonderful Meal, a true feast, etc

CLARA

Well now, what should we do?

Should we sing a carol, or... play a game?

Party guests all talk at once to say what they would rather do - go for a walk, sing carols, play games, take a nap etc

FRIEND 2

Let's play a game! And I know just the one. It's called yes and no.

CLARA

Oh I love that game!

WINIFRED

Oh let me go first! I have a great one in mind!

FRIEND 1

Yes, Winifred should go! She always comes up with good ones!

FRIEND 3

How do we play?

CLARA

Winifred thinks of a thing, and we all ask her questions! She can only answer yes or no!

FRIEND 3

I see! Well let's try it!

WINIFRED

I've got the perfect thing in mind!

FRIEND 2

Alright Fred! Is it vegetable?

Or Mineral?

WINIFRED
No and No

CLARA
Animal?

WINIFRED
Yes

FRIEND 1
What else? Let's see, does it live on a farm?

WINIFRED
No

FRIEND 3
Not on a farm? Then in the City?

WINIFRED
Yes

FRIEND 2
Does it drive a cab?

WINIFRED
No

CLARA
Is it a Dog?

FRIEND 2 and FRIEND 3
(guessing together) A Cat?!

CLARA
Is it an Unwanted creature?

WINIFRED
(laughing to self) Often!

FRIEND 1
Is it a Mouse?

WINIFRED
No

FRIEND 3
A rat?

WINIFRED
No

FRIEND 2
A cockroach?

WINIFRED
No *(Winifred laughs)* ...but sort of! Oh it's too good, I can't stand it!

CLARA
Oh I know! It's an unwanted creature that lives in the city. It's not a mouse, a rat, or a cockroach... is it... is your Uncle Scrooge?

WINIFRED
(pauses) ... YES!

EVERYONE
Laughing loudly they say Tremendous... so funny... it's so obvious now... oh that is good... etc

SCROOGE
Spirit, I think I'd better go now.

PRESENT
As you wish

The party exits with props. Scrooge and PRESENT walk down stairs and tombstone places UL

SCROOGE
I do have to admit, my niece was pretty funny. And did you hear her laugh? They all had such a good time together

PRESENT
They would make you feel welcome... if you wanted to join them

SCROOGE
You know spirit, I think that's something I would enjoy

PRESENT
My time is nearly gone Ebenezer Scrooge.

SCROOGE
Do you really have to leave? I feel like I've changed so much already... Perhaps ... perhaps I don't need to meet the third spirit after all

PRESENT

No. The final spirit will come, and soon. Remember what you have seen. Learn from it. *(Present looks away, then back to Scrooge)* Goodbye.

SCROOGE

Please don't leave me. I am afraid!

SCENE 7 FUTURE TOWNIES

Fog rolls in, unsettling music starts, and Scrooge is alone. Future enters. Scrooge braces himself and approaches

SCROOGE

Are you the spirit they told me about? The spirit of Christmas yet to come?

Future, dressed in long black robes does not respond. Their face is hidden. They do not react to Scrooge- only stare.

SCROOGE

Will you please speak to me?

No response from FUTURE

SCROOGE

Not even a word? *(beat)*

No matter spirit. I have learned so much by now. Lead on. I will follow where you gp.

They walk down the aisle, back up to the stage. A group of 3 are gathered in the street SL. Scrooge + Future come near them and overhear them, already in conversation

TOWNY 1

...I don't know much about it. I just know he's dead

TOWNY 2

When did it happen?

TOWNY 1

Last night, I think

TOWNY 2

What's gonna happen to all of his money? Who did he leave it all to?

TOWNY 3

I've got no idea, but I know he didn't leave it to me! *(laughing)*

TOWNY 2

Do you think anyone will go to his funeral?

TOWNY 1

No one I know. I don't think he had any friends

TOWNY 3

Well, I'm gonna see what I can get off the old man afterall.

TOWNY 3 walks to the Haggler and they gather around to barter over a few of Scrooge's belongings. Haggler is already standing with Towny 4 as they look over items

TOWNY 4

I'm telling you, I got this from the old man's house. It's top of the line! *(Holds up curtains)*

HAGGLER

It does look like decent quality...I'll give you... 4 for it.

TOWNY 4

Is that all? Look at the craftsmanship!

TOWNY 3

Move aside now! He said he'd give you good-coin for it.

(shoving in front)

Now look at this right here. I bet *this* would fetch a pretty penny!

(holds a candle stand)

SCROOGE

Spirit, whose belongings are these people trying to sell? Who is the man who has passed away? It seems terrible that no one will come to his funeral. Surely that can't be true.

(Hagglers and Townies exit opposite side from Kermit and Piggy)

SCENE 8 FUTURE CEMETERY

The Hagglers and Townies exit. Future motions to two people walking: Bob Crachit and his wife

BOB CRACHIT

Oh, you should see it my dear. It's at the top of a hill, overlooking the city. It doesn't look like a sad place at all. The grass is so green, and the flowers are already starting to bloom. Tiny Tim would have loved the view from up there.

MRS CRACHIT

(Cries into her handkerchief) I know that. I just miss our little boy. He was such a light to everyone he met

BOB CRACHIT

He was. Tiny Tim was the kindest, gentlest, and happiest little boy. We will never, ever forget him

They exit

SCROOGE

Oh spirit, no. Not Tiny Tim! Please tell me: These events you are showing me- are they the shadows of things that WILL be, or are they things that MIGHT be? Can these events be changed?

Future says nothing, but after a beat, motions toward the stage where a headstone sits

SCROOGE

You still won't answer me? *(exasperated, looking back at the headstone)* Spirit, before I read that stone, I must know... the man who died- the one that had no friends- no one to come to his funeral... Who was that man?

Future points to the stone

Scrooge Approaches the stone. He reads his own name. Future points to the stone, then to Scrooge.

SCROOGE

Ebenezer Scrooge.. It's me. It's my grave. Oh spirit, no!

Spirit, please hear me! I am not the man I was!

I will not be that man ever again! Why show me this if I am past all hope?

No response from Future. He continues pointing.

SCROOGE

Please spirit, please... assure me that I can still change these futures! Tell me that if I change, then these shadows will change too!

Future nods and exits

SCROOGE

Falling to his knees) I will honor Christmas and try to keep it all the year! I will live my life, thinking of the past, the present, and future! I will not shut out what I have learned!

I can change. I will change! Lord with your help, I know You can change me! Please!

Scrooge is alone on a dark stage. Blackout. His chair and blanket have been placed center. The lights come up and he's back in his room.

SCENE 9 CHRISTMAS DAY

The lights come up and he's back in his room. Church bells sound

SCROOGE

Morning? It's Christmas morning! I'm back! I haven't missed it!
Oh! I feel like I'm as light as a feather! I'm as happy as an angel! I'm as merry as
a schoolboy! I'm as giddy as... well, a child on Christmas morning! A Merry
Christmas to everybody! A happy new year to all the world!
Merry Christmas!

*He dresses while speaking- exits UR. Townspeople enter DS, "Merry xmas"
Scrooge runs out and shouts Merry Christmas to people he passes.
He stops a small child*

SCROOGE

You there, child! Merry Christmas! I need your help please. Do you know the
butcher shop on the next street?

CHILD

Yes sir.

SCROOGE

Well of course you do! Brilliant! I need you to go to that shop and buy the biggest
goose in the window!

CHILD

Do you mean the goose that's almost as big as me?

SCROOGE

Yes! That's the one. Here is the money ...and if you have the butcher bring it to
this address within the hour, I'll pay you double!

CHILD

Oh boy! You've got it Mr Scrooge!

SCROOGE

Haha! Merry Christmas!

Applegate and Davies are also in the street on the opposite side.

SCROOGE

My good friends, is that you? Ms Applegate? Ms Davies?

DAVIES

Why, it's Mr. Scrooge!

APPLEGATE

Mr. Scrooge?

SCROOGE

A very Merry Christmas to you both! I have a donation for your most worthy
cause.

From his pockets, he pulls out a bag of money and hands it to Applegate

DAVIES

Oh! That is most generous of you sir!

APPLEGATE

There must be more than 50 gold coins in this bag

SCROOGE

It's not enough eh? Well take this one as well!

Scrooge hands Davies the second bag and tips his hat.

SCROOGE

A Merry Christmas to you both!

APPLEGATE & DAVIES

Merry Christmas Mr. Scrooge!

they exit, passing WINIFRED who is carrying a gift

WINIFRED

Uncle Scrooge?

SCROOGE

My dear niece! Merry Christmas Winifred!
I cannot wait to join you for your Christmas Party this evening. Can I bring
anything?

WINIFRED

(stunned) You-you're coming to the party? That's wonderful news! I was just
walking over to your house. I brought you a gift.

SCROOGE

A gift! For me? Thank you WiniFred!

He unwraps the bow and removes the lid. It's a scarf. Scrooge puts it on

WINIFRED

It looks wonderful Uncle! I made it myself you know

SCROOGE

Well I will cherish it all the more! I must go now. There's so much to do! Have a Merry Christmas and I will see you tonight!

WINIFRED

Goodbye Uncle. Merry Christmas!

She exits with the box

NARRATOR 5

Scrooge spent the morning giving his kindest wishes to every person he met. As he headed toward the home of his clerk, he smiled to himself. He knew Bob Cratchit's life was about to change forever!

Scrooge continues through the town, shaking hands and giving hugs when appropriate- bowing, etc. Townspeople are Scrooge are silent as Narrator speaks.

Scene 10 CHRISTMAS CRACHITS

The Crachit family is busy and setting the table for Christmas and Scrooge knocks harshly on their door

MRS CRACHIT
Now who could that be?

BOB CRACHIT
I'm not sure dear.

He opens the door to find a glaring Scrooge

BOB CRACHIT
Why, Mr. Scrooge! Uh... won't you come in?

SCROOGE
Crachit! *(He enters, pretending to be furious)*
You were not at work this morning!

BOB CRACHIT
But, Mr. Scrooge! You gave me today off because of.. of Christmas!

SCROOGE
Do you know what I ought to do to you for missing work?!

MRS. CRACHIT
That's it! I'll tell you what you ought to do Mr Scrooge! *(She grabs a rolling pin)*

SCROOGE
I ought to give you ... a raise!

BOB & MRS CRACHIT
A Raise?!

SCROOGE
Yes, a raise. And a new job. Bob Crachit, I'm making you my new partner!

BOB CRACHIT
Your new- oh Mr Scrooge! Really?

SCROOGE
I won't take no for an answer Bob! You've worked so hard a long time. I want to give you what you truly deserve.

A knock at the door. It's the butcher, carrying a giant, cooked bird

SCROOGE
Perfect timing! Peter, come help me with this!

PETER
Yes sir!

They help to place the giant bird in the center of the table

BELINDA
Is this for us Mr. Scrooge?

SCROOGE
It is dear girl

MARTHA
It's huge!

MRS CRACHIT
Oh Mr Scrooge- I ... Thank you sir.

SCROOGE
It's my pleasure, madam. This- all of this is long overdue!

BOB CRACHIT
Thank you.

Tiny Tim hobbles over

TINY TIM
God bless us, everyone!

NARRATOR 6
Scrooge was true to his promise. To the Crachit family, and especially to Tiny Tim, he became like a second father. He did all that he said and more. He changed miraculously and became a good friend, a wonderful boss, and one of the most generous souls a person could encounter. He lived with an open heart and an open palm for the rest of his days.
The end.

ALL CAST SINGS TOGETHER

Joy to the World
The Lord has come
Let earth receive her King!
Let every heart
Prepare Him room
Let heaven and nature sing!
Let heaven and nature sing!
Let heaven and heaven and nature sing!

