

Scrooge: He rose: but finding that
Ghost Past: the Spirit made towards the window,
Scrooge: clasped his robe in supplication. "I am mortal," Scrooge remonstrated, "and liable to fall."
Ghost Past: "Bear but a touch of my hand there," said the Spirit, laying it upon his heart, "and you shall be upheld in more than this." As the words were spoken, (with Scrooge) they passed through the wall, (alone) and stood upon an open country road, with fields on either hand.

SCENE 10

Scrooge: The city had entirely vanished, and the darkness and the mist had vanished with it,
Ghost Past: for it was a clear, cold, winter day, with snow upon the ground.
Scrooge: "Good Heaven! I was bred in this place. I was a boy here."
Ghost Past: The Spirit gazed upon him mildly. Its gentle touch, though it had been light and instantaneous,
Scrooge: appeared still present to the old man's sense of feeling. He was conscious of a thousand odours floating in the air, each one connected with a thousand thoughts, and hopes, and joys, and cares long, long, forgotten.
Ghost Past: "Your lip is trembling. And what is that upon your cheek?"
Scrooge: Scrooge muttered, with an unusual catching in his voice, that it was a pimple; and begged the Ghost to lead him where he would.
Ghost Past: "You recollect the way?"
Scrooge: "Remember it! I could walk it blindfold."
Ghost Past: "Strange to have forgotten it for so many years. Let us go on." (*with Scrooge*) They walked along the road,
Scrooge: Scrooge recognising every gate, and post, and tree; until a little market-town appeared in the distance, with its bridge, its church, and winding river.
Actor 9: Some shaggy ponies now were seen trotting towards them
Actor 2 & 3: with boys upon their backs,
Actor 9: who called
Actor 4 & 5: to other children in country gigs and carts, driven by farmers.

- Scrooge: Scrooge knew and named them every one. Why was he rejoiced beyond all bounds to see them? Why did his cold eye glisten, and his heart leap up as they went past? Why was he filled with gladness when he heard them
- Actor 3: give each other (*with Actors 2,4 & 5*) Merry Christmas,
- Actor 2: as they parted at cross-roads and-by ways, for their several homes?
- Scrooge: What was merry Christmas to Scrooge? Out upon merry Christmas! What good had it ever done to him?
- Ghost Past: "The school is not quite deserted. A solitary child, neglected by his friends, is left there still."
- Scrooge: Scrooge said he knew it. And he sobbed. (*with Ghost Past*) They left the high-road, (*alone*) by a well-remembered lane,
- Ghost Past: and soon approached a mansion of dull red brick, with a little weathercock-surmounted cupola, on the roof,
- Scrooge: and a bell hanging in it. It was a large house, but one of broken fortunes; for the spacious offices were little used, their walls were damp and mossy, their windows broken, and their gates decayed. Entering the dreary hall, and glancing through the open doors of many rooms, (*with Ghost Past*) they found them poorly furnished, cold, and vast. (*Scrooge*) There was an earthy savour in the air, a chilly bareness in the place, which associated itself somehow with too much getting up by candle-light, and not too much to eat.
- Ghost Past: (*with Scrooge*) They went, (*alone*) the Ghost
- Scrooge: and Scrooge, (*with Ghost Past*) across the hall, (*alone*) to a door at the back of the house. (*with Ghost Past*) It opened before them, (*alone*) and disclosed a long, bare, melancholy room, made barer still by lines desks.

SCENE 11

- Actor 4 (*Child Scr.*): At one of these a lonely boy was reading near a feeble fire;
- Scrooge: and Scrooge wept to see his poor forgotten self as he used to be.
- Ghost Past: Not a latent echo in the house, not a squeak and scuffle from the mice behind the paneling, not a drip from the half-thawed water-spout in the dull yard behind, not a sigh among the leafless boughs of one despondent poplar, not the idle swinging of an empty store-house door, no, not a clicking in the fire, but fell upon the heart of Scrooge with a softening influence, and gave a freer passage to his tears. The Spirit touched him on the arm, and pointed to his younger self,
- Child Scrooge: intent upon his reading.

Actor 6: Suddenly a man, in foreign garments: wonderfully real and distinct to look at: stood outside the window, with an ax stuck in his belt, and leading by the bridle an ass laden with wood.

Scrooge: "Why, it's (*with Actor 6*) Ali Baba!" Scrooge exclaimed in ecstasy. "It's dear old honest Ali Baba. Yes, yes, I know. One Christmas time, when yonder

Child Scrooge: solitary child was left here all alone,

Actor 6: he did come, for the first time, just like that.

Scrooge: Poor boy.

Scrooge: And (*with Actor 2*) Valentine," said Scrooge, "and his wild brother, (*with Actor 8*) Orson; there they go. "There's the (*with Actor 9*) Parrot. Green body and yellow tail, with a thing like a lettuce growing out of the top of his head; there he is! There goes (*with Actor 3*) Friday, running for his life to the little creek! Halloa! Hoop! Hallo!"

Then, with a rapidity of transition very foreign to his usual character, he said, in pity for his former self, "Poor boy!" and cried again.

"I wish," Scrooge muttered, putting his hand in his pocket, and looking about him, after drying his eyes with his cuff: "but it's too late now."

Ghost Past: "What is the matter?"

Scrooge: "Nothing. Nothing. There was a boy singing a Christmas Carol at my door last night. I should like to have given him something: that's all."

SCENE 12

Ghost Past: The Ghost smiled thoughtfully, and waved its hand: saying as it did so, "Let us see another Christmas!"

Actor 3 (*Master Scr.*) Scrooge's former self grew larger at the words,

Actor 6: and the room became a little darker and more dirty.

Master Scrooge: that there he was, alone again, when all the other boys had gone home for the jolly holidays. He was not reading now, but walking up and down despairingly.

Scrooge: Scrooge looked at the Ghost, and with a mournful shaking of his head, glanced anxiously towards the door.

Actor 5 (*Fan*): It opened; and a little girl, much younger than the boy, came darting in,

Master Scrooge: and putting her arms about his neck, and often kissing him,

- Fan: addressed him as her "Dear, dear brother. I have come to bring you home, dear brother!" said the child, clapping her tiny hands, and bending down to laugh. "To bring you home, home, home!"
- Master Scrooge: "Home, little Fan?"
- Fan: "Yes!" said the child, brimful of glee. "Home, for good and all. Home, for ever and ever. Father is so much kinder than he used to be, that home's like Heaven! He spoke so gently to me one dear night 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; and sent me in a coach to bring you. 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."
- Master Scrooge: "You are quite a woman, little Fan!"
- Fan: She clapped her hands and laughed, and began to drag him, in her childish eagerness, towards the door.
- Actor 7: (*Sc'LMstr*) A terrible voice in the hall cried. "Bring down Master Scrooge's box, there!" And in the hall appeared the schoolmaster himself, who glared on Master Scrooge with a ferocious condescension,
- Master Scrooge: and threw him into a dreadful state of mind by shaking hands with him. He then conveyed him
- Fan: and his sister
- School Master: into the veriest old well of a shivering best-parlour that ever was seen, where the maps upon the wall, and the celestial and terrestrial globes in the windows, were waxy with cold. Here he produced a decanter of curiously light wine, and a block of curiously heavy cake,
- Fan and MS: and administered installments of those dainties to the young people.
- Master Scrooge: Master Scrooge's trunk being by this time tied on to the top of the chaise, (*with Fan*) the children bade the schoolmaster good-bye right willingly; (alone) and getting into it, drove gaily down the garden-sweep:
- Fan: the quick wheels dashing the hoar-frost and snow from off the dark leaves of the evergreens like spray.
- Ghost Past: "Always a delicate creature, whom a breath might have withered. But she had a large heart!"
- Scrooge: "So she had. You're right. I'll not gainsay it, Spirit. God forbid!"
- Ghost Past: "She died a woman, and had, as I think, children."
- Scrooge: "One child."

Ghost Past: "True. Your nephew!"

Scrooge: Scrooge seemed uneasy in his mind; and answered briefly, "Yes." Although they had but that moment left the school behind them,

SCENE 13

Ghost Past: they were now in the busy thoroughfares of a city.

Actor 6: It was made plain enough, by the dressing of the shops, that here too it was Christmas time again;

Actor 4: but it was evening, and the streets were lighted up.

Ghost Past: The Ghost stopped at a certain warehouse door, and asked Scrooge if he knew it.

Scrooge: "Know it!" said Scrooge. "Was I apprenticed here?"

Ghost Past: They went in.

Actor 7 (*Fezziwig*): At sight of an old gentleman in a Welsh wig, sitting behind such a high desk, that if he had been two inches taller he must have knocked his head against the ceiling,

Scrooge: "Why, it's old Fezziwig! Bless his heart; it's Fezziwig alive again!"

Fezziwig: Old Fezziwig laid down his pen, and looked up at the clock, which pointed to the hour of seven. He rubbed his hands; adjusted his capacious waistcoat; laughed all over himself; and called out in a comfortable, oily, rich, fat, jovial voice: "Yo ho, there! Ebenezer! Dick!"

Actor 2 (*Young Scr*): Scrooge's former self, now grown a young man, came briskly in,

Actor 3 (*Wilkins*): accompanied by his fellow-prentice.

Scrooge: "Dick Wilkins, to be sure. Bless me, yes. There he is. He was very much attached to me, was Dick. Poor Dick. Dear, dear."

Fezziwig: "Yo ho, my boys!" said Fezziwig. "No more work to-night. Christmas Eve, Dick. Christmas, Ebenezer. Let's have the shutters up," cried old Fezziwig, with a sharp clap of his hands, "before a man can say Jack Robinson."

Young Scrooge: You wouldn't believe how those two fellows went at it.

Dick Wilkins: They charged into the street with the shutters --

Young Scrooge: one, two, three -- had them up in their places --

Dick Wilkins: four, five, six -- barred them and pinned them --

- Young Scrooge: seven, eight, nine -- and came back before you could have got to twelve, panting like race-horses.
- Fezziwig: "Hilli-ho!" cried old Fezziwig, skipping down from the high desk, with wonderful agility. "Clear away, my lads, and let's have lots of room here. Hilli-ho, Dick! Chirrup, Ebenezer."
- Young Scrooge: Clear away! There was nothing they wouldn't have cleared away,
- Dick Wilkins: or couldn't have cleared away,
- Fezziwig: with old Fezziwig looking on.
- Dick Wilkins: It was done in a minute.
- Young Scrooge: Every movable was packed off,
- Dick Wilkins: as if it were dismissed from public life for evermore;
- Young Scrooge: the floor was swept and watered,
- Dick Wilkins: the lamps were trimmed,
- Young Scrooge: fuel was heaped upon the fire;
- Dick Wilkins: and the warehouse was as snug,
- Young Scrooge: and warm,
- Dick Wilkins: and dry,
- Young Scrooge: and bright a ball-room,
- Dick Wilkins: as you would desire to see upon a winter's night.
- Scrooge: In came a fiddler with a music-book, and went up to the lofty desk, and made an orchestra of it.
- The following is to music, a stringed instrument. Each "in came" during the following, is repeated by all the actors who have already spoken.*
- Actor 9 (Mrs. F.): In came Mrs Fezziwig, one vast substantial smile.
- Actors 4, 5: In came the Miss Fezziwigs, beaming and lovable.
- Actor 2, 3, 6, 8: In came the young followers whose hearts they broke.
- Actors 3, 4, 5, 6: In came all the young men and women employed in the business.
- Actor 4: In came the housemaid, with her cousin,

- Actor 8: the baker.
- Actor 5: In came the cook,
- Actor 3: with her brother's particular friend, the milkman.
- Actor 2: In came the boy from over the way, who was suspected of not having board enough from his master; trying to hide himself
- Actor 4: behind the girl from next door but one, who was proved to have had her ears pulled by her mistress.
- Actors 2-6 & 8: In they all came, one after another;
- Actor 5: some shyly,
- Actor 2: some boldly,
- Actor 4: some gracefully,
- Actor 3: some awkwardly,
- Actor 6: some pushing,
- Actor 8: some pulling;
- Actors 2-6 & 8: (*not together*) in they all came,
- Actors 3 & 8: anyhow
- Actors 5 & 6: and anyhow.
- Actors 2-5: (*not together*) Away they all went,
- Actor 4 & 8: twenty couple at once;
- Actor 5 & 2: hands half round and back again the other way;
- Actor 4 & 8: down the middle and up again;
- Actor 5 & 2: round and round in various stages of affectionate grouping;
- Actor 4 & 8: old top couple always turning up in the wrong place;
- Actors 5 & 2: new top couple starting off again.
- Scrooge: The fiddler plunged his hot face into a pot of porter, especially provided for that purpose. But scorning rest, upon his reappearance, he instantly began again,
- Actor 3: though there were no dancers yet,

Actor 6: as if the other fiddler had been carried home, exhausted, on a shutter,

Actor 8: There were more dances,

Each "and there were" is repeated by the actor(s) who speak the line following.

Actor 2: and there were forfeits,

Actor 5: and more dances,

Actor 3: and there was cake,

Actor 4: and there was negus,

Actor 2: and there was a great piece of Cold Roast,

Actor 8: and there was a great piece of Cold Boiled,

Actor 3: and there were mince-pies,

Actor 6: and plenty of beer.

Fezziwig: But the great effect of the evening came

Mrs. Fezziwig: after the Roast

Fezziwig: and Boiled,

Mrs. Fezziwig: when the fiddler struck up "Sir Roger de Coverley."

Fezziwig: Then old Fezziwig stood out to dance

Mrs. Fezziwig: with Mrs Fezziwig.

Mr & Mrs. F: Top couple too; with a good stiff piece of work cut out for them;

Actors 2-6 & 8: three or four and twenty pair of partners;

Actor 2: people who were not to be trifled with;

Actor 5: people who would dance,

Actors 3 & 4: and had no notion of walking.

Fezziwig: But if they had been twice as many -- ah, four times -- old Fezziwig would have been a match for them,

Mrs. Fezziwig: and so would Mrs Fezziwig. As to her, she was worthy to be his partner

Fezziwig: And when old Fezziwig
Mrs. Fezziwig: and Mrs Fezziwig had gone all through the dance;
Fezziwig: advance and retire,
Mrs. Fezziwig: both hands to your partner,
Fezziwig: bow and curtsey,
Actor 4: corkscrew,
Actor 2: thread-the-needle,
Mrs. Fezziwig: and back again to your place;
Fezziwig: Fezziwig cut -- cut so deftly,
Mrs. Fezziwig: (*alarmed*) that he appeared to wink with his legs,
Fezziwig: and came upon his feet again without a stagger. (*Actors 6, 8, 5 bell strike*)
Scrooge: When the clock struck eleven, this domestic ball broke up.
Mr. & Mrs. F: Mr and Mrs Fezziwig took their stations,
Mrs. Fezziwig: one on either side of the door,
Mr. Fezziwig: and shaking hands
Actor 3: with every person
Actor 2: individually as he
Actor 5: or she
Actors 6: went out,
Actor 8: wished him
Actor 4: or her
Mr. & Mrs. Fezziwig: a Merry Christmas. When everybody had retired
Wilkins & Yng. Scr.: but the two prentices,
Mr. & Mrs. F. they did the same to them;
Actors 2-6 & 8: and thus the cheerful voices died away, (*growing dim*)

- Wilkins & Yng. Scr.: and the lads were left to their beds; which were under a counter in the back-shop.
- Scrooge: During the whole of this time, Scrooge had acted like a man out of his wits. His heart and soul were in the scene, and with his former self. It was not until now,
- Young Scrooge: when the bright faces of his former self
- Wilkins: and Dick were turned from them,
- Scrooge: that he remembered the Ghost, and became conscious that it was looking full upon him,
- Ghost Past: while the light upon its head burnt very clear. "A small matter," said the Ghost, "to make these silly folks so full of gratitude."
- Scrooge: "Small!" echoed Scrooge.
- Ghost Past: The Spirit signed to him to listen
- Wilkins: to the two apprentices,
- Young Scrooge: who were pouring out their hearts in praise of Fezziwig:
- Ghost Past: and when he had done so, said, "Why! Is it not! He has spent but a few pounds of your mortal money: three or four perhaps. Is that so much that he deserves this praise?"
- Scrooge: "It isn't that," said Scrooge, heated by the remark, and speaking unconsciously like his former, not his latter, self. "It isn't that, Spirit. He has the power to render us happy or unhappy; to make our service light or burdensome; a pleasure or a toil. Say that his power lies in words and looks; in things so slight and insignificant that it is impossible to add and count them up: what then? The happiness he gives, is quite as great as if it cost a fortune." He felt the Spirit's glance, and stopped.
- Ghost Past: "What is the matter?"
- Scrooge: "Nothing in particular."
- Ghost Past: "Something, I think?"
- Scrooge: "No. No. I should like to be able to say a word or two to my clerk just now! That's all." His former self turned down the lamps (*Actor 2 does so*) as he gave utterance to the wish; and Scrooge
- Ghost Past: and the Ghost (*with Scrooge*) again stood side by side in the open air. (*alone*)
"My time grows short. Quick!"

SCENE 14

- Scrooge: This was not addressed to Scrooge, or to any one whom he could see, but it produced an immediate effect. For again Scrooge saw himself.
- Actor 6 (*Man Scr.*): He was older now; a man in the prime of life. He was not alone,
- Actor 9: (*Fiancee*): but sat by the side of a fair young girl in a mourning-dress: in whose eyes there were tears,
- Ghost Past: which sparkled in the light that shone out of the Ghost of Christmas Past.
- Fiancee: "It matters little," she said, softly. "To you, very little. Another idol has displaced me; and if it can cheer and comfort you in time to come, as I would have tried to do, I have no just cause to grieve."
- Man Scrooge: "What Idol has displaced you?"
- Fiancee: "A golden one. You fear the world too much. I have seen your nobler aspirations fall off one by one, until the master-passion, Gain, engrosses you. Have I not?"
- Man Scrooge: "What then? Even if I have grown so much wiser, what then? I am not changed towards you."
- Fiancee: She shook her head.
- Man Scrooge: "Am I?"
- Fiancee: "Our contract is an old one. It was made when we were both poor and content to be so, until, in good season, we could improve our worldly fortune by our patient industry. You are changed. When it was made, you were another man."
- Man Scrooge: "I was a boy."
- Fiancee: "How often and how keenly I have thought of this, I will not say. It is enough that I have thought of it, and can release you."
- Man Scrooge: "Have I ever sought release?"
- Fiancee: "In words? No. Never."
- Man Scrooge: "In what, then?"
- Fiancee: "In a changed nature; in an altered spirit; in another atmosphere of life; another Hope as its great end. In everything that made my love of any worth or value in your sight. If this had never been between us, tell me, would you seek me out and try to win me now? Ah, no!"
- Man Scrooge: "You think not?"

- Fiancee: "You may have pain in this. A very, very brief time, and you will dismiss the recollection of it, gladly, as an unprofitable dream, from which it happened well that you awoke. May you be happy in the life you have chosen." She left him, (*with Man Scrooge*) and they parted.
- Scrooge: "Spirit!" Remove me from this place."
- Ghost Past: "I told you these were shadows of the things that have been. That they are what they are, do not blame me!"
- Scrooge: "Remove me! I cannot bear it! Haunt me no longer!"
- Ghost Past: In the struggle, if that can be called a struggle in which the Ghost with no visible resistance on its own part was undisturbed by any effort of its adversary,
- Scrooge: Scrooge was conscious of being exhausted, and overcome by an irresistible drowsiness; and, further, of being in his own bedroom. He had barely time to reel to bed, before he sank into a heavy sleep.

INTERMISSION