

SCROOGE REVISITED

by Daniel Wray



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Scrooge Revisited

A Dickens of a sequel

by Daniel Wray

CAST OF CHARACTERS

SCROOGE: The timeless, decrepit old miser, with a new attitude. While he is much more benevolent than before his “caroling” experience, he is still uncertain as to the reason behind generosity in general.

BOB CRACHIT: The typical, friendly employee of the transformed Scrooge. He is as patient and giving as he is kind. He is delighted at the change in his boss, though he is somewhat disappointed in himself for not sharing more with the confused old gentleman.

MARY CRACHIT: Selfless wife of Bob, she is the perfect hostess and homemaker.

MARTHA CRACHIT: The eldest daughter, she is very helpful around the house and most grateful for Scrooge’s transformation.

TINY TIM CRACHIT: Not so tiny anymore, Tim is the beneficiary of physical therapy paid for by Scrooge, so the crutches are now gone! He plays cricket and everything!

MARLEY: Scrooge’s friendless, dead partner. He visits Ebenezer again, but is in no better humor.

LADY: Just your typical pedestrian, a “victim” of Scrooge’s good deeds.

SPIRITS 1, 2, and 3: They are different than the first time; perhaps they are kinder. What they really want is to show Scrooge the REAL meaning of Christmas. Spirit 3 even reminds us a bit of the Angel Gabriel...

THE SCROGGINS: Mom, Dad, and two kids (Jenny and Amy) are a modern-day version of the pre-transformation Scrooge’s attitude of humbug and Christmas greed.

NATIVITY CHARACTERS: At the minimum, Mary and Joseph. If there are enough cast members to accommodate the roles, add shepherds and angels.

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PRODUCTION NOTES

This play is designed to be performed by youth groups, although this is not a must. It is intended to poke fun at a timeless Christmas fixture, Ebenezer Scrooge. Sure, people can change their actions, but do their attitudes always follow? It is a comic look at how some people, no matter how self-centered they once were, can rise above that and look deeper into the *real* meaning of Christmas. I hope your audience enjoys the play as much as you will enjoy performing it.

CASTING

It is possible to use a smaller cast by doubling as follows: You may have the same performers for the Crachit and Scroggins kids; Mrs. Crachit may double as Mrs. Scroggins; and one of the kids may also double as the old lady (with costume changes, of course!). And anyone may be in the Nativity except Scrooge, Spirit 3, and the Crachits.

COSTUMES

All the Crachits, Scrooge, Marley, and the Old Lady should wear nineteenth-century garb — it need not be elaborate to be effective. Capes and shawls plus an occasional top hat or bonnet will work nicely. For the gentlemen, a vest with a ruffled tuxedo shirt should suffice. The ladies should wear long dresses. For the Spirits, flowing white garb is effective — sheets with wings optional. All members of the Scroggins family wear modern clothes. The kids should wear footie pajamas, if possible. Scrooge and Bob Crachit need coats and scarves. Scrooge will need a nightcap and a nightshirt to slip over his costume.

PROPS

An envelope with a Christmas bonus for Bob Crachit; chains for Marley to rattle; a bag of groceries for the Old Lady; Christmas tree ornaments for the Scroggins family; a cardboard cutout of a cow placed upside-down on the Crachit table is cute but optional; a clipboard for each of the Spirits is optional.

SET

This play may easily be performed in the chancel area of a church. No special lighting is necessary. The various scenes

are set as follows:

1. Counting House — Two small tables or desks and a coat rack. A sign designating Scrooge's business with a catchy slogan is optional.

2. Scrooge's Bedroom — A bed or a table with a sheet over it (a canopy can be achieved with cardboard or festooned cloth, if desired).

3. Crachit Family's Dining Room — A large table and chairs. (The table need not be set.)

4. Scroggins Family's Living Room — A small Christmas tree and possibly a wreath or other decorations.

5. Nativity — A manger with doll inside, cardboard cutouts of animals, hay, etc.

The Crachit's dining room is at Stage Left. The counting house is Center Stage and gives way to Scrooge's bedroom when the scene ends, via stagehands. The Scroggins' home is Stage Right and gives way to the Nativity scene during the first scene at the Crachits. These scene changes can be achieved easily without a curtain, as the attention will be focused on where the action is; designate one or more stagehands to make the scene transitions more smoothly and less noticeably.

STAGE DIAGRAM

Stage Right	Center Stage	Stage Left
1. Scroggins Family's Living Room	1. Counting House	1. Scene With Old Lady (no special set)
changes to	changes to	changes to
2. Nativity Scene	2. Scrooge's Bedroom	2. Crachit Family's Dining Room

1 **AT RISE:** The scene is SCROOGE's counting house. Stage Right
2 and Stage Left are bare when the play begins. It is a full three
3 years beyond SCROOGE's transformation from a miserly old
4 humbug into the generous soul that we see Center Stage.
5 However, his mirth is gone — he appears somewhat
6 disenchanted with life, and his demeanor is melancholy. BOB
7 CRACHIT sits whistling happily, as it is Christmas Eve and
8 he is preparing to leave for the week holiday that SCROOGE
9 has given him with his family. The conversation between the
10 two begins.

11
12 SCROOGE: Almost done there, are you, Crachit?

13 BOB: Yes, sir, I am. I'll be leaving shortly...if that's all right
14 with you, sir.

15 SCROOGE: Yes, yes, of course. It is Christmas Eve, after all.

16 BOB: Yes, sir. Mary and I will be expecting you around the
17 noon hour for dinner tomorrow.

18 SCROOGE: I wouldn't miss it for the world! Did you get the
19 goose I sent over? Don't you think it's the biggest one
20 yet?

21 BOB: Well...yes, sir...

22 SCROOGE: Every year I have the largest one sent over. Isn't
23 it the most magnificent one you've ever seen?

24 BOB: Well...yes, sir...you certainly outdid yourself this year...

25 SCROOGE: Oh? You don't seem too pleased. Isn't it huge?

26 BOB: Oh, yes. But I think you may be trying too hard to be a
27 bit too generous.

28 SCROOGE: How so?

29 BOB: Well, upon closer examination...

30 SCROOGE: Yes...?

31 BOB: Well...sir, it was a cow.

32 SCROOGE: Really! *(Pause)* I guess that would explain the
33 boy's attitude when I told him to run it by your place as
34 fast as he could.

35 BOB: Please don't misunderstand me — we *are* grateful. I just

1 thought you should know...

2 SCROOGE: Yes...well, I guess I need to get my prescription
3 checked. Anyway, I just want to thank you for everything
4 you have done for me. (*Walking over to his desk, he hands*
5 *him an envelope.*) Merry Christmas!

6 BOB: (*Looking inside the money-stuffed envelope*) Oh, Mr.
7 Scrooge! I'm the one who should be thanking you! These
8 past three years have been so bountiful for our family,
9 and we owe it all to you. Tiny Tim is doing so well now,
10 with the physical therapy you've been paying for, and the
11 raises I've gotten in the last three years have allowed us
12 to nearly pay off our new house. We've never been
13 happier!

14 SCROOGE: But it is I who has gained the most! Without your
15 family to share my good fortune with, I would be a
16 miserable old man.

17 BOB: Oh, Mr. Scrooge...well...yes, I suppose you would be.

18 SCROOGE: (*Pause*) Yes...well...

19 BOB: I mean, you *were* a crotchety, greedy old hermit.

20 SCROOGE: Thank you...

21 BOB: In fact, for you to be who you are now from who you
22 were then — a despicable, hateful, soulless shell of a
23 man...

24 SCROOGE: (*Irritated*) I think we all understand what you are
25 trying to say!

26 BOB: Of course. I just mean that you give to so many worthy
27 causes now. The whole town prospers because of you.
28 Why, the statue in the town square should show you how
29 much they care for you.

30 SCROOGE: Yes, well...I suppose that's nice enough. But...

31 BOB: And the change in you has caused a lot of other people
32 to change their attitudes as well...

33 SCROOGE: Bah! There are still those who think I've gone
34 mad. And sometimes I wonder if they're not right...

35 BOB: How so, sir?

1 SCROOGE: Oh, I don't know. I've worked for years to build a
 2 comfortable life for myself, and then because of some
 3 indigestion-related dream, I start giving all of it away.
 4 Why?

5 BOB: *(Pausing)* Hmmm. Well, you make a lot of people happy.

6 SCROOGE: Yes, I suppose so. It just seems as though
 7 something is missing...

8 BOB: *(Looking at his watch)* Oh, heavens...I must be going.
 9 *(Rises, picks up coat off rack.)* I haven't picked up all the
 10 things on my Christmas list yet, and if Tiny Tim doesn't
 11 get everything on it, he'll not sound so tiny tomorrow! I'm
 12 sorry, sir...

13 SCROOGE: No, no, not at all. Your family is waiting. You have
 14 a lovely evening, and I'll see you for goose tomorrow. Or,
 15 uh...top sirloin, I guess.

16 BOB: Thank you, sir. And...don't dwell on that feeling. I'm
 17 sure it's nothing. Merry Christmas! *(Exits.)*

18 SCROOGE: *(Walking to Center Stage to grab his coat)* That's just
 19 it. I give and I give...and it feels like...nothing. There
 20 must be more to Christmas than this. Perhaps I am
 21 missing something...

22 *(SCROOGE walks through the imaginary door out into the*
 23 *"street" (area at Stage Left). He presently encounters an old*
 24 *LADY at the street corner. The following exchange takes place*
 25 *while the set is quietly and quickly changed in the background*
 26 *— the counting house is transformed into SCROOGE's*
 27 *bedroom. SCROOGE's bed replaces the counting tables at*
 28 *Center Stage. The coat rack can stay put. MARLEY enters and*
 29 *sits on the bed.)*

30 SCROOGE: Oh, good even, my lady!

31 LADY: *(Bag in hand)* Good even, sir.

32 SCROOGE: Allow me to assist you in crossing the street.
 33 *(Takes her bag and begins across the street.)*

34 LADY: *(Following him)* No, sir, please, that's not...

35 SCROOGE: Oh, I know it's not! But it is Christmas Eve, after

1 all. And if one human being can't help another out on
2 Christmas Eve...

3 LADY: But sir, I beg you...

4 SCROOGE: Beg all you want, my lady! It shan't change my
5 attitude of help toward you! *(Reaching the other side)* Ah,
6 here we are, then. *(Hands her bag back to her.)* Merry
7 Christmas to you, my lady!

8 LADY: Yes, well...Merry Christmas to you, good sir. But I was
9 going the other way. *(She crosses back to the other side and*
10 *exits. The CRACHIT's dining room [table and chairs, cow*
11 *optional] may be set up Stage Left at any time following the*
12 *old LADY scene.)*

13 SCROOGE: Oh, dear. *(Pause)* Oh...bah! It seems that all my
14 efforts are pointless anymore! *(Walking to his house)* It's
15 not as if I would ever go back to the wretch I was before.
16 But I do wish I knew what it is that makes me feel so
17 empty. *(Enters his "door," hangs up his coat and scarf, and*
18 *enters his bedroom.)* Every day, it's the same old thing —
19 go to work, come home, say "hello" to my old dead
20 partner, Marley... *(Greets his dead partner without even*
21 *thinking.)* Hello, Marley...

22 MARLEY: Hello, Ebenezer.

23 SCROOGE: ...Make myself some tea, read the daily newspaper
24 — *(Realizes MARLEY is there and spins around)* Marley!
25 What in heaven's name...?

26 MARLEY: *(Laughing very heartily)* Heaven's name, indeed! How
27 are you anyway, old man? I expected to find you in a
28 little better humor.

29 SCROOGE: Yes, well...I am much happier than...your last
30 visit. How are you doing?

31 MARLEY: Well, I'd say that I'm...*still* dead! How *should* I be?

32 SCROOGE: Oh...sorry. I guess I forgot.

33 MARLEY: Yes, well...I would think that if I can remember to
34 be dead, the least you could do is remember that I *am*...

35 SCROOGE: I said I was sorry. I guess I'm a little preoccupied.

- 1 Tell me, Jacob — since you've been...on the other side...
2 do you have the answers to all of the mysteries of life?
- 3 MARLEY: Well, some. What are you getting at?
- 4 SCROOGE: I mean, if someone who is not dead were to ask
5 you to solve one of those mysteries...
- 6 MARLEY: Ahhh! I know what you want — what every living
7 mortal wants to know of those who have crossed over!
- 8 SCROOGE: You do?
- 9 MARLEY: Yes! You see, mosquitoes were never really
10 supposed to be a part of the plan. They were the direct
11 result of...
- 12 SCROOGE: No, Marley! That's not what I wanted to know!
- 13 MARLEY: Really?
- 14 SCROOGE: No!
- 15 MARLEY: Well, aren't you even curious?
- 16 SCROOGE: Frankly, no. I have been quite troubled by what
17 the true meaning of Christmas is.
- 18 MARLEY: Oh, brother. Didn't we cover this a while back?
- 19 SCROOGE: Well, yes. And I have changed, really. But there is
20 still an emptiness inside me.
- 21 MARLEY: Uh-oh. Is it a deep emptiness?
- 22 SCROOGE: Yes...
- 23 MARLEY: Sort of a hollow, meaningless void?
- 24 SCROOGE: (*More interested*) Yes...
- 25 MARLEY: A feeling that even though you're a good person
26 now, that the things you do have no purpose?
- 27 SCROOGE: Yes, yes! That's it! So you *can* help me?
- 28 MARLEY: No. I can't.
- 29 SCROOGE: What do you mean?
- 30 MARLEY: What you're describing is the hopelessness of what
31 the dead feel when they know it is too late to change
32 their ways. *I* know the feeling well.
- 33 SCROOGE: But I have changed! Since I saw you years ago, I
34 have changed almost everything I do!
- 35 MARLEY: Yes, I know. But why?

- 1 SCROOGE: Because the spirits showed me that giving and
2 kindness were the only way to be happy.
- 3 MARLEY: Ah! But do you really understand why? Or have you
4 only been trying to make others like you because you are
5 no longer the greedy, friendless old man of three years
6 ago?
- 7 SCROOGE: I wasn't so bad...
- 8 MARLEY: You were a miserable waste of a man.
- 9 SCROOGE: Yes, I suppose...
- 10 MARLEY: A selfish old tightfisted money-grubber.
- 11 SCROOGE: Yes, yes, of course...
- 12 MARLEY: In fact, you made *me* look like the patron saint of
13 generosity.
- 14 SCROOGE: (*Getting angry*) What's your point?
- 15 MARLEY: Oh, yes. My point is, you discovered what to do,
16 but you don't know why you want to do it. You haven't
17 really a clue as to what Christmas is all about.
- 18 SCROOGE: Yes, yes — that's it! So you can help me?
- 19 MARLEY: I'm afraid not. Each man must find his own path to
20 the truth. But I can see that you are ready for another
21 visit.
- 22 SCROOGE: By the spirits?
- 23 MARLEY: Well, not the exact same spirits. I think they've all
24 retired. But three spirits, nonetheless.
- 25 SCROOGE: (*Moving to the bed and sitting upon it*) Are you sure
26 this is necessary? I recall the last visit was none too
27 pleasant.
- 28 MARLEY: Important lessons are always hard. (*Rising*) Well,
29 have a nice night!
- 30 SCROOGE: That's it?
- 31 MARLEY: Ebenezer, if I had heard the message that you will
32 hear tonight, I could've shared it with you myself. Good
33 luck to you, friend.
- 34 SCROOGE: Will I see you again?
- 35 MARLEY: I certainly hope not! (*Exits.*) Good night, Ebenezer...

1 **SCROOGE:** Good night, Marley. *(Pause, then laughing to himself*
 2 *quietly)* Good night, Tiny Tim. Good night, Mary Ellen.
 3 Good night, John Boy! *(Laughing a bit to himself)* I loved
 4 that show...

5 *(SCROOGE lays down. SPIRIT 1 enters as SCROOGE is*
 6 *laughing to himself. During the following exchange between*
 7 *SCROOGE and SPIRIT 1, the tree is set up Stage Right for*
 8 *the SCROGGINS family living room scene. The SCROGGINS*
 9 *family enters and MOM, AMY, and JENNY sit around the tree*
 10 *as DAD starts to decorate it.)*

11 **SPIRIT 1:** Scrooge?

12 **SCROOGE:** *(Jumping up in bed)* Aaahhh! Aren't you supposed
 13 to wait until I'm at least asleep?

14 **SPIRIT 1:** Sorry. I'm a little behind schedule. I am the Spirit
 15 of Christmases Yet to Come.

16 **SCROOGE:** Wait a minute. You're supposed to be last!

17 **SPIRIT 1:** That was your first visit. We do things differently
 18 the second time around.

19 **SCROOGE:** You mean this happens a lot?

20 **SPIRIT 1:** Not as often as we would hope, but...Come with me.

21 **SCROOGE:** Spirit? Should I fear you the most, like the last
 22 time?

23 **SPIRIT 1:** Nah. That was my brother, Eddie. He's a drama
 24 major. Always overacting.

25 **SCROOGE:** No, I mean the things you will show me — are
 26 they the most frightening?

27 **SPIRIT 1:** Well, I guess so. I like to think of them as sorta sad
 28 and pathetic, but if scary works for you...

29 **SCROOGE:** Where are you taking me?

30 **SPIRIT 1:** Far into the future. A hundred years from now,
 31 when Christmas has lost all its meaning.

32 **SCROOGE:** All?

33 **SPIRIT 1:** Practically. Well — judge for yourself. This is the
 34 home of some of your descendants — the Mark Scroggins
 35 residence.

- 1 SCROOGE: Scroggins?
- 2 SPIRIT 1: Yeah — the Scrooge name kind of took on a bad
3 connotation when your story was retold to future
4 generations, so they had to change it to Scroggins.
- 5 SCROOGE: I see.
- 6 SPIRIT 1: It came to mean a miserable old man who held
7 tightly to his money.
- 8 SCROOGE: Yes, I gathered.
- 9 SPIRIT 1: It's even in the thesaurus next to miserly.
- 10 SCROOGE: Yes, yes...I understand.
- 11 SPIRIT 1: It's also synonymous with tightwad, penny-pincher,
12 grouch, cheapskate...
- 13 SCROOGE: I get the point! May we move on?
- 14 SPIRIT 1: Yes, well...the Scroggins family is celebrating this
15 Christmas Eve — it should speak for itself. *(DAD continues*
16 *to decorate the somewhat scrawny tree with a few meager*
17 *ornaments as MOM, AMY, and JENNY audibly admire his*
18 *efforts.)*
- 19 JENNY: Come on, Amy, we need to get to bed so Santa can
20 come!
- 21 DAD: That's right, you two. The faster you get to bed, the
22 faster morning will get here!
- 23 AMY: There's no such thing as Santa, you dweeb! It's Dad!
- 24 DAD: Now listen, you little... *(Moving toward them menacingly,*
25 *then remembering it's Christmas and giving a little chuckle)*
26 Heh-heh. *(Pause)* There is too a Santa. And if Jenny wants
27 to believe in him, you better let her! Or Santa may not
28 bring you anything at all — *Got it?*
- 29 JENNY: Besides, remember last year when we heard the
30 reindeer on the roof?
- 31 AMY: Yeah, I remember. Try not to break your neck this
32 year, Dad!
- 33 DAD: *(Angrily)* Get to bed! Both of you! *(Calming down as MOM*
34 *enters)* I mean, so Santa will be able to come soon. OK?
- 35 TOGETHER: *(Very sweetly)* Yes, Dad! Good night! And Merry

1 Christmas! (*They exit.*) Good night, Mom!
2 MOM: Good night, kids! Sleep tight! (*To DAD*) Aren't they
3 sweet kids?
4 DAD: Yes, until the authorities pick them up. I mean, I
5 suppose they are...in December.
6 MOM: What do you mean?
7 DAD: Well, as long as they know they have to be good to get
8 anything for Christmas, they're perfect angels.
9 MOM: Oh, Mark. They're not that bad.
10 DAD: No, I suppose not. If you compare them to...say...Nazi
11 youth.
12 MOM: Why are you in such a foul mood?
13 DAD: It's Christmas. Christmas always puts me in a foul
14 mood!
15 MOM: That's the old Christmas Spirit, Scrooge!
16 SCROOGE: Hey!
17 DAD: Well, between being badgered for the last six weeks for
18 toys they'll break within two, and having to work
19 overtime just to afford them, not to mention that I'll be
20 up until three in the morning putting together those
21 stupid "Mighty Morphin Mega Module" things, all I've got
22 left is...humbug!
23 SCROOGE: Hey! Hey!
24 MOM: My, my! Perhaps we *should* change your name to
25 Ebenezer!
26 SCROOGE: Stop it, stop it, stop it! Spirit! They're hurting my
27 feelings!
28 SPIRIT 1: Pansy!
29 DAD: Besides, it's all such a stupid reason to have a few days
30 off. All this "goodwill" stuff lasts until about three hours
31 after the tree is down anyway. Did you know that
32 Christmas is the leading time for suicides? It's because
33 people realize that it's all a big charade, and that there's
34 nothing left to live for.
35 MOM: Now, Mark, stop it. You're depressing me.

1 DAD: See? (*Beat*) What's not to be depressed about? Do you
2 realize that stores have been decorated with Christmas
3 displays since the second week of October? We've gotten
4 three phone calls a night for donations to worthy causes
5 for the holiday season.

6 MOM: Isn't that what Christmas is about? Giving?

7 SCROOGE: Yeah! That's what I want to know.

8 DAD: Hardly. You know, the biggest front-page story this
9 month has been the PTA's fight to keep the word
10 "Christmas" out of the school's holiday program. If you
11 ask me, we should skip the whole Christmas scene and
12 move on to New Year's Eve.

13 MOM: Well, remind me not to ask you. Ever. (*Moving toward the*
14 *exit*)

15 DAD: Where are you going? Aren't you going to help me put
16 some of that "Morphin" plastic garbage together?

17 MOM: In a little bit. I'm going outside to shake the jingle bells
18 loud enough so Jenny can hear them. I don't want you
19 risking your life by making reindeer noises up on the
20 roof again.

21 DAD: Don't worry. I learned my lesson last year. But it's a
22 good idea to shake the bells. At least it will leave a little
23 of the joy in Christmas for Jenny. (*MOM and DAD exit.*
24 *The tree is removed and the manger, hay, and animals are set*
25 *up for the Nativity scene at some point following the departure*
26 *of the SCROGGINS family.*)

27 SPIRIT 1: It's time we were getting back.

28 SCROOGE: That was sure depressing. It seems as though they
29 have no idea what the true meaning of Christmas is.

30 SPIRIT 1: Not a clue.

31 SCROOGE: So how does this help me?

32 SPIRIT 1: It doesn't, really. It just gives you a preview of
33 what will happen to future generations if you don't
34 happen to get it right soon.

35 SCROOGE: But I really want to know!

- 1 SPIRIT 1: Sorry. Perhaps the next spirit will answer your
2 question. (*SPIRIT 1 exits.*)
- 3 SCROOGE: Well, I hope so. (*Moves toward the bed again.*) In the
4 meantime, I'm very sleepy! (*Yawns.*) I'll just grab a little
5 shuteye in between specters.
- 6 SPIRIT 2: Ebenezer!
- 7 SCROOGE: *Aaahhh!* (*Jumps as SPIRIT 2 startles him.*) What in
8 the Dickens is wrong with you spirits? (*Pause*) At least last
9 time I got some rest during intermission! (*During this*
10 *dialog, the CRACHITS take their places around table at Stage*
11 *Left.*)
- 12 SPIRIT 2: Ebenezer, I am the spirit of...
- 13 SCROOGE: Yeah, yeah...Christmas present. I know the drill.
- 14 SPIRIT 2: Hey — I got a job to do! Would you like me to show
15 you what I know or not?
- 16 SCROOGE: Sorry. I'm just anxious.
- 17 SPIRIT 2: That's no reason to be rude. Although from what
18 I've heard, it's a far cry from the miserable tightwad of
19 an old...
- 20 SCROOGE: Please! Must we keep bringing this up?
- 21 SPIRIT 2: Sorry. Anyway, I am the Spirit of Christmas
22 present. Follow me.
- 23 SCROOGE: Spirit, are the people still speaking ill of me?
- 24 SPIRIT 2: Take a look for yourself at the home of your
25 employee, Bob Crachit. (*Stage Left is the CRACHIT dinner*
26 *table, ready for Christmas dinner.*)
- 27 MARY: So, Bob, where is Ebenezer?
- 28 BOB: I don't know, Mary. He said he would be here. He must
29 be running a tad late. He was a bit off yesterday, I don't
30 mind telling you.
- 31 MARY: What do you mean?
- 32 BOB: Well, he was saying that he felt empty — that he didn't
33 know what the true meaning of Christmas was all about.
- 34 MARY: And did you tell him, Bob?
- 35 BOB: Well, I wanted to, but I was in a hurry. I felt badly, but

- 1 I started praying for him right after I left the counting
2 house.
- 3 MARY: And?
- 4 BOB: Well, I felt this peace, and something telling me that
5 today is the day.
- 6 MARY: Well, I hope so. After all, we owe so much to him.
7 Don't we, children?
- 8 MARTHA: Yes, Mother.
- 9 TIM: I think Mr. Scrooge is wonderful!
- 10 SCROOGE: Oh! What a dear boy!
- 11 TIM: I like him a whole lot better than that mean old grouch
12 he used to be.
- 13 SCROOGE: Uh-oh.
- 14 TIM: He was the most cruel, cheap, grumpy old geezer that
15 I've ever seen.
- 16 SCROOGE: Oh, brother, here we go again!
- 17 TIM: I mean, talk about your tightfisted old... (*SCROOGE*
18 *himself bursts through the "door."*)
- 19 SCROOGE: Hey, Crachits! Sorry I'm late, but the most
20 amazing thing has happened!
- 21 BOB: Ebenezer! Heh-heh! We were just talking about you!
- 22 SCROOGE: Yes, I know. Listen, I had the most amazing visit
23 last night, and I know now...
- 24 SPIRIT 2: No, no, no! Not yet! You're getting in the way of this
25 scene too quickly!
- 26 SCROOGE: (*Realizing his mistake*) Oh. Never mind! (*Exits.*)
- 27 MARY: How strange. Now, where were we?
- 28 BOB: Yes, Tiny Tim, we all know how he was, but he's a
29 changed man.
- 30 TIM: Yes, I know, Father. I of all people know. I mean,
31 because of his change, not only am I able to walk, but
32 I'm playing cricket now and everything.
- 33 MARY: And you're wonderful, dear!
- 34 MARTHA: And I've never been happier now that kids don't
35 make fun of us because of our shabby clothes.

1 MARY: And don't forget all the nice things we have here at
2 home because of Mr. Scrooge. He's been very generous
3 to us these last three years.

4 BOB: Yes, we all agree his transformation is tremendous. But
5 we all know who it is that we really owe all our good
6 fortune to.

7 ALL: Yes, Father.

8 SCROOGE: Who? Who else but me?

9 BOB: And I didn't offer to share all that with him. I feel
10 so ashamed!

11 MARY: Now, Bob, it's not to late. It all happens in his timing
12 anyway. Let's invite him to go with us today, when he
13 arrives...or comes back, or...whatever.

14 BOB: I will, I know that's what it is that he's missing...

15 SCROOGE: What is? Invite me to go where?

16 SPIRIT 2: It's time to go.

17 SCROOGE: Now just a cotton-pickin' minute here! Bob
18 Crachit seems to have what I'm looking for. Let me go
19 back into this scene and find out what it is!

20 SPIRIT 2: That's not the way it works, Ebenezer. You have
21 one more visitor to meet.

22 SCROOGE: *(Making his way back into bed)* But if you would just
23 let me hear a little more, it would be unnecessary, right?

24 SPIRIT 2: You heard the lady. It all happens in his timing.
25 *(NATIVITY CHARACTERS enter and take their places around*
26 *the manger at Stage Right.)*

27 SCROOGE: Whose timing? What are you talking about?
28 *(SPIRIT 2 exits.) Wait! (Pause) Oh! (Starts to lay down, then*
29 *remembers that the other two SPIRITS have surprised him, so*
30 *he's not going to let that happen again.) Wait a minute! If a*
31 *third spirit is going to visit me, I'm going to be ready for*
32 *him! (Gets out of bed and creeps over to the canopy. He tries to*
33 *peek behind it. SPIRIT 3 comes out the other way, following*
34 *SCROOGE without his knowing it. At an appropriate moment,*
35 *SPIRIT 3 — who does not speak unless absolutely necessary —*

1 *startles him.) Aaahhh!* I wish you spirits wouldn't have to
2 startle me like that!

3 **SPIRIT 3:** Be not afraid.

4 **SCROOGE:** That's easy enough for you to say...

5 **SPIRIT 3:** I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall
6 be to all people. (Luke 2:10, KJV)

7 **SCROOGE:** Hey, that sounds familiar... (*SPIRIT 3 points in the*
8 *general direction of Stage Right, where a Nativity scene has*
9 *been set up. MARY, JOSEPH, and the manger are essentials*
10 *— depending upon cast size, SHEPHERDS and ANGELS*
11 *should be added at the appropriate times as Luke 1:26-35 and*
12 *2:1-20 is read, either by SPIRIT 3 or by an Off-stage*
13 *NARRATOR. This may also be prerecorded. Here is The*
14 *Message version:)*

15 **SPIRIT 3 or NARRATOR:** ...God sent the angel Gabriel to the
16 Galilean village of Nazareth to a virgin engaged to be
17 married to a man descended from David. His name was
18 Joseph, and the virgin's name, Mary. Upon entering,
19 Gabriel greeted her:

20 “You're beautiful with God's beauty, beautiful inside
21 and out! God be with you.”

22 She was thoroughly shaken, wondering what was
23 behind a greeting like that. But the angel assured her,
24 “Mary, you have nothing to fear. God has a surprise for
25 you: You will become pregnant and give birth to a son
26 and call his name Jesus. He will be great, be called ‘Son
27 of the Highest.’ The Lord God will give him the throne of
28 his father David; he will rule Jacob's house forever — no
29 end, ever, to his kingdom.”

30 Mary said to the angel, “But how? I've never slept with
31 a man.”

32 The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come upon
33 you, the power of the Highest hover over you; there-
34 fore, the child you bring to birth will be called Holy, Son
35 of God.”



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