



A
CHRISTMAS
CAROLL

by Charles Dickens

set in scene by Margarete Lazar

Characters:

Ebenezer Scrooge

Ghost of Jacob Marley

Ghost of Christmas Past

Ghost of Christmas Present

Ghost of Christmas Future

Nephew Fred

Clerk Bob Cratchit (and his family)

Newspaper Boy

Narrator

Scene I

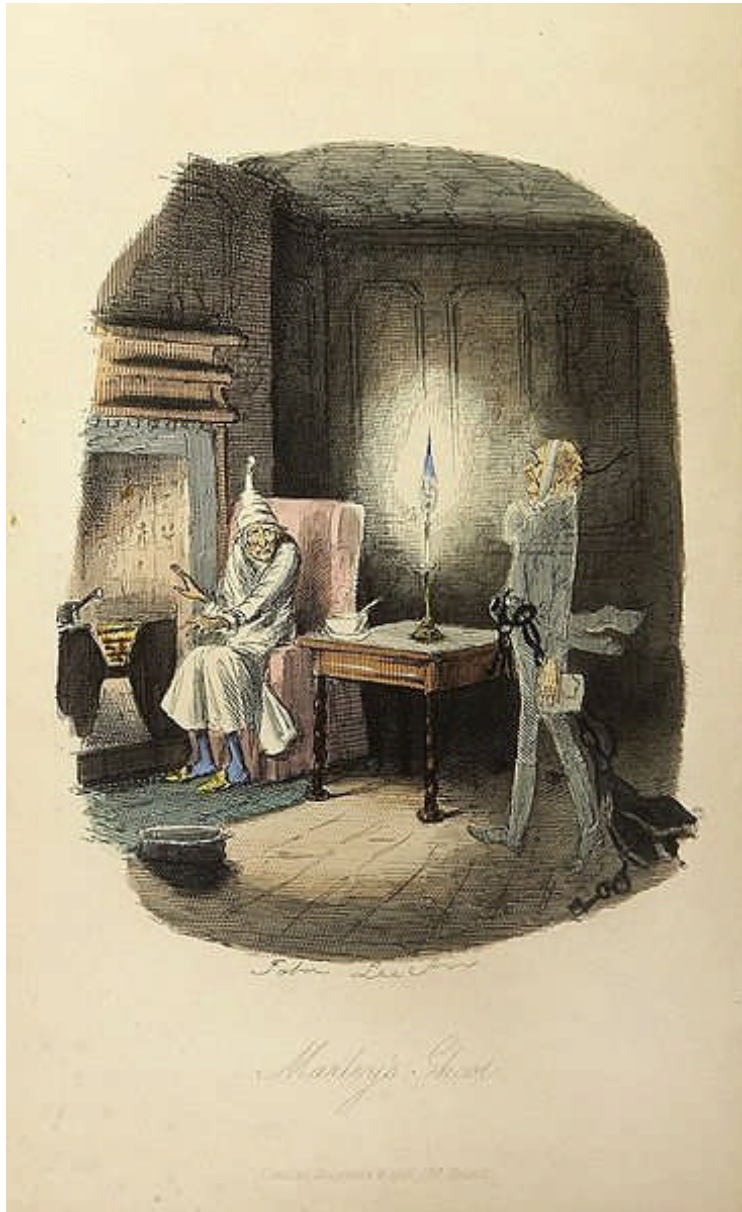
Narrator: Ebenezer Scrooge is a money lender and a tight-fisted old miser. It is Christmas Eve now and he is in his office:

Nephew Fred: A Merry Christmas, Uncle.

Ebenezer: Bah, humbug. Why are you merry, you are so poor. You have no money. You cannot be happy.

Scene II

Narrator: Ebenezer has a lot of money but he is not happy. He shuts his office and goes home. At home it is cold and he is alone. Then he hears a voice. It is his old partner Jacob Marley.



Ghost of Jacob Marley: I warn you, Ebenezer. You must become a better man. You must help people, feel sorry for them and laugh with them. It is too late for me, but it is not too late for you.

Ebenezer: I can't believe it is you, Jacob. I will just go to bed now.

Scene III

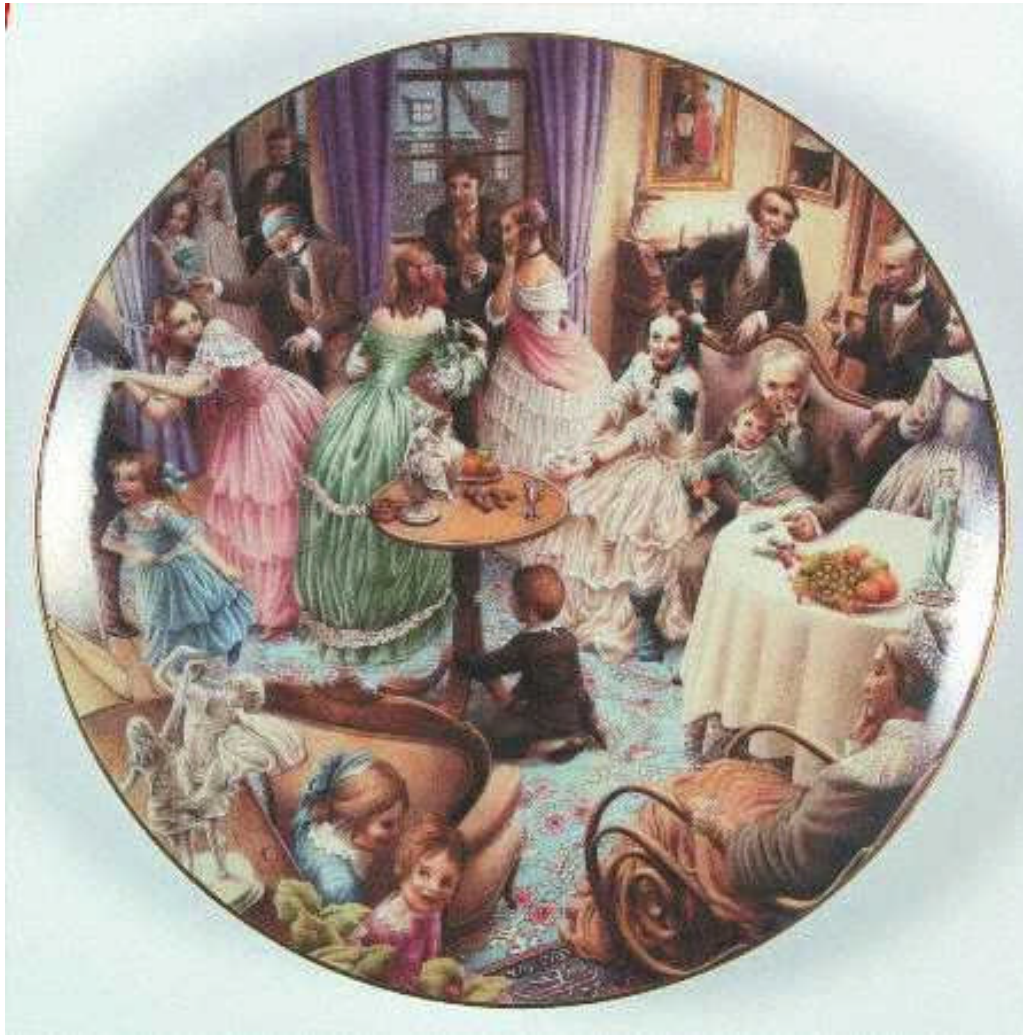
Narrator: In this night, Ebenezer has a long dream. At first he is visited by the Ghost of Christmas Past.



Ghost of Christmas Past: Ebenezer Scrooge, wake up, wake up and come with me. I will take you back to happier days.

Ebenezer: My God, what`s this. It`s old Mr. Fezziwig, my master. He was such a good man. And this is Christmas in his house. We had a lot of fun.

(Mute scene with Mr Fezziwig, his wife, three daughters and lots of apprentices, fiddlers playing Christmas carols)



Scene IV

Ghost of Christmas Past: And do you remember her? That pretty girl over there. She loved you but you loved your money more than her.

Ebenezer: Yes, yes, I know. I am sorry. I am not a good man. I can see that now. Please take me back home.



Scene V

Narrator: But Ebenezer must see more. He cannot go home. Now he is visited by the Ghost of Christmas Present.

Ghost of Christmas Present: Ebenezer Scrooge, come with me and look into the house of your clerk Bob Cratchit. You do not give him enough money for his family. His daughter Martha must work, even on Christmas Eve.



(Mute scene with Bob Cratchit and his family, sitting around a table, with a tiny goose on the table, but everyone friendly and laughing. The youngest boy, Tiny Tim looks very ill.)

Ebenezer: I am sorry, I am sorry. And who is this little boy there?

Ghost of Christmas Present: This is Tiny Tim. His father has no money for the doctor. If things don't get better soon for Bob Cratchit, Tiny Tim will die.

Scene VI



Narrator: Ebenezer Scrooge is unhappy. He wants to change his life. But he is visited by another ghost.

(Mute scene: People in black looking at a poster that tells them Ebenezer Scrooge has died.)

Ebenezer: Where are we now? Someone has died but all the people are laughing.

Ghost of Christmas Future: Yes, the people are laughing because they are happy that you are dead, you, Ebenezer, the old, unfriendly miser.

Ebenezer: No, no, I want to change. I am not the man I was, Please take me back.



Scene VII

Narrator: Ebenezer wakes up. There is no ghost in his room. He is alone in his bed but he really wants to change now. He opens his window and looks out.

Ebenezer: A merry Christmas to everybody. What`s today?

Newspaper Boy: Why? It`s Christmas Day, of course.

Ebenezer: Can you go to the shop at the corner and buy the biggest turkey for me. I want to send it to Bob Cratchit and his family. And then I will go to church. I am so happy that I am alive and I can still become a better man. (*Singing of Christmas Carols in the background*)