

Christmas Carol

A story by Charles Dickens
In simple English
The Stories First Foundation

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By Charles Dickens
Adapted by Claire Walter



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Original story by Charles Dickens
Adapted by Claire Walter
Edited by Zackary Soudani
Illustrations by Arthur Rackham



I

Ebenezer Scrooge was in his office everyday, even on December 24th. He counted his money. He loved money--and only money.

Suddenly, two men entered the office. They smiled. They said "Hello Mr. Scrooge." Scrooge did not smile back. He continued counting his money.

"We are from the Christmas Charity Association. We are collecting donations. Would you--"

"No! Go away!" cried Scrooge.



The men were surprised and said, “But sir, many families have no food for Christmas.”

“Christmas is a just an excuse to take and take!” cried Scrooge. “Now, get out of my office!” The two men left the office.

All the workers were nervous. They started to whisper. They did not want to make Scrooge mad.

Finally, one worker, Bob, said something. He said, “Sir...tomorrow is Christmas.”

“And?” said Mr. Scrooge. He was annoyed.

“Sir, with respect, the workers...they wanted to take the day off,” said Bob.

“A day off? Ridiculous! We will lose business!” cried Scrooge. He was obsessed with money.



Nervously, Bob said, “But Sir, all businesses close on Christmas. The banks close too. You will have no one to do business with.”

Scrooge cried, “CHRISTMAS IS A JOKE! It is a just an excuse to take my money!” He hated Christmas, even more than he loved money.

Scrooge had to accept, but he was furious. He said, “Take the day off, I suppose.”

Scrooge walked in the street. There were Christmas decorations. There was Christmas music. Everyone was happy, except Scrooge. “Christmas is a joke!” he repeated. Finally, he arrived at his door. Suddenly, a strange face appeared.



It was the face of Jacob Marley. It was his old business partner. The face cried:
SCROOOOGE!

Scrooge was horrified. He cried, “Jacob? No, impossible!”

Jacob Marley had died 10 years before.

Then, the face disappeared. Scrooge was terrified, but he slowly calmed down. Finally, he said to himself “It was just my imagination.” Scrooge went in the door.



Nervously, he went to his room. He looked all around the room. “Ghosts do not exist. It's just my imagination,” he repeated. Still, Scrooge was terrified.

Scrooge prepared for bed. He looked for his robe. When he saw the robe, he cried, “A ghost!” Then, he looked and realized it was not a ghost. “I'm so nervous. I must relax and calm down,” he said. Then, he went to bed.



Scrooge relaxed by the fire. Suddenly, there was a horrible cry: *SCROOOOGE!*

Jacob's ghost appeared like smoke. The ghost said, "Scrooge, your heart is cold. You do not respect charity, love, and the spirit of Christmas."

Scrooge trembled and said, "Jacob? Is it you? But, you died!"

The ghost said, "I was Jacob Marley. In life, I was cruel and greedy. Now, I am a ghost. I am condemned. Scrooge, you must learn my lesson. You must change."

Scrooge asked, "What do I do?"

The ghost looked directly at Scrooge. There was a long silence. Then, he said, "Ebenezer Scrooge, you will learn a lesson. Tonight, three ghosts will visit you. They will show you the past, present, and future. You must learn from these ghosts. You must change."

Then, Jacob's ghost started to disappear.

"Three ghosts? Jacob, please, no!" said Scrooge. He was white and trembling.

"Expect the first ghost when the clock strikes 1:00," said the ghost. Then, he disappeared.



II

At 1:00, Scrooge was in his room. Then, there was a flash. Scrooge saw a brilliant light!

A little girl appeared. She was delicate and small. She had a white dress. Calmly, she said, "Ebenezer Scrooge, I'm the ghost of the past. Come with me. We will see memories from your past."

Scrooge was very surprised, but he went with the Little Ghost. Suddenly, Scrooge flew up in the air. He was shocked! He said, "I'm flying! It's amazing! "

Then there was another flash and suddenly Scrooge was in a big room. There were many men and women there. It was a Christmas party. Everyone was dancing and smiling.

"Ah, look! It's Mister Fezziwig! Look, he is dancing," said Scrooge. He was happy to see his old friend. "I loved Fezziwig. He was a very good employer."





Scrooge saw a very familiar man: it was himself. He was 25 years old. He was smiling and dancing.

The Little Ghost said, "This is a vision of you in the past. You were happy. In fact, Ebenezer Scrooge, you were in love. " Then, Scrooge saw a beautiful woman, Stella.

Thirty years ago, Scrooge and Stella were in love. Suddenly there was another flash and the party disappeared. Scrooge and Stella were not dancing. In fact, Stella was crying. "Scrooge, you don't want to marry me?" said Stella.

"Stop," said Scrooge. "Do not say that. I love you. I want to marry you. The problem is money. When I'm rich, I will buy a big house. Then, we can marry."

"Scrooge, you do not need money, just love," said Stella. She cried and walked away. "You do not love me. You love money," said Stella. "Goodbye, Scrooge."



Scrooge was horrified. He cried, "What an idiot! You love Stella! Tell her you love her!" But Scrooge was invisible to people of the past. "It's a just vision. They can not see you," explained the little girl.

Scrooge was devastated. "Please, little ghost. This vision is terrible. I do not want to see the past," he said. He started crying. "I learned my lesson. I will not be obsessed with money anymore."

Immediately, Scrooge flew through the air. Sadly, Scrooge left the past. Then, there was a bright light and Scrooge was at home. He was back in his bed. "Was that real?" said Scrooge. He was confused.

It was 2:00 and Scrooge was sitting in his room. To his surprise, a voice shouted "Merry Christmas! "

A happy man appeared. His face was pink and round. With joy, he said, "Merry Christmas, Ebenezer Scrooge! You do not appreciate Christmas. But Christmas is a happy time. Come with me. Let's go see the happy celebrations! "



There was a flash. Scrooge was in the street. He saw people on the street. They smiled and said, "Merry Christmas! They smiled at everyone, the rich and the poor. And everyone was happy that Christmas was finally here.



Scrooge saw a very familiar man: it was Bob, his employee. He was in the street. He said “Merry Christmas” to the people he passed.

The Happy Ghost said, “This is Bob Cratchit. He works in your office. He loves his family. He loves Christmas because he can be with his family. Look, he has a little boy. His name is Tim.”

Then, Scrooge saw tiny Tim. He was very little and he had a cane. The boy coughed and coughed. “The little boy was sick?” asked Scrooge.

The boy’s father, Bob, panicked. “It’s okay, my boy. Look, we are home.”



Bob and the boy arrived at a small apartment. Bob went in and six children said “PAPA!” “This apartment is too small for six children!” said Scrooge.

A woman said, “Bob and Tim, Merry Christmas!” It was happy moment.

Suddenly, the little boy, Tim, coughed and coughed. He was very sick, and he could not breath. The boy’s mother and father looked nervous.



The apartment had only one room. There was a small table. On the table there was a little chicken. Scrooge was very surprised. "Why are they so happy? This chicken is too small for two adults and six children!" said Scrooge.

"Yes," said the Happy Ghost, who did not look very happy. "Tim has to eat! The boy has a delicate condition."

"Tim is in danger under these conditions! He needs a doctor," said Scrooge.

"Yes, but Bob has no money," said the ghost.

Scrooge was very embarrassed. It was his fault. He did not pay his employees well. "Bob was a good employee. I will pay him more money," said Scrooge.

The family smiled and talked. Then, they went to the table. They loved the dinner. "It is delicious, thank you, Mother," said Tim. But he did not eat much food. He was too sick.

Scrooge was very touched. Immediately, he looked at the ghost. "I do not want to see Tim or Bob. It is too sad!" said Scrooge. "Please, Ghost. I learned my lesson. I will be generous with Bob. I will not be greedy anymore."

The Happy Ghost smiled and said, "Good, then that is a Merry Christmas!" At that moment, there was still bright light. The ghost disappeared.

Scrooge looked up. To his surprise, he was in his room. He was comfortable in his own bed.

III

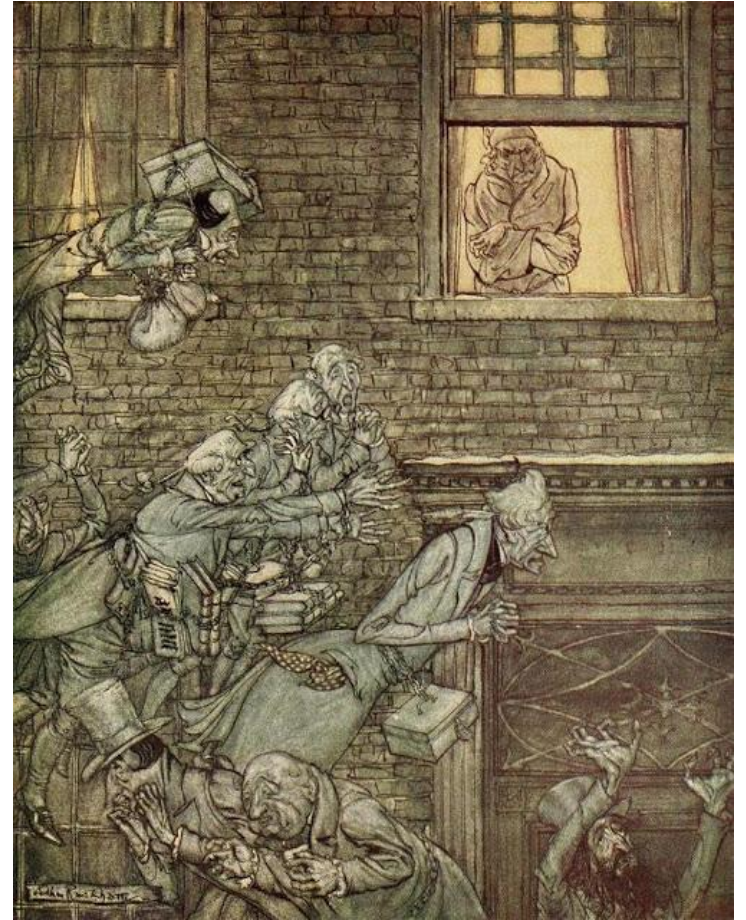
At 3:00, Scrooge was in his room when suddenly there was a breeze. There was a chorus of terrifying cries! Scrooge saw a multitude of ghosts! 100 ghosts passed in front of his room. The ghosts repeated:

We have not learned the lessons of the past!

We did not learn the lessons!

Ghosts wore chains. They had a similar appearance to Scrooge. They were rich men. They were entrepreneurs. And they were tormented people.

Suddenly, a last ghost appeared. He was tall and he was wearing black. He did not say hello. He was silent. It was the ghost of the future. Scrooge was terrified by this ghost, but he approached him.



He said, "You are the ghost of the future. I'm going to see my future? I imagine that my future will be dark and sad. But I accept responsibility for my actions. I want to see my future."

Then there was another flash and a bright light.



Once again, Scrooge was in a strange room. He was in a small, dirty apartment.

The apartment had only one room. There were three people. A woman had objects and a man was looking at them. They had a strange conversation.

The man had a nightgown. He looked at it closely. Immediately, Scrooge identified the nightgown. It was *his* dressing gown!

The woman was very familiar. It was his employee. It was his cleaning lady.

The mysterious man negotiated with the woman. The woman said, "Here is the man's dressing gown. It is a very good quality. He did not wear it to bed much. He was always working."

"Yes, that man was a terrible person!" said the mysterious man. "Finally, he is dead."

The woman agreed. "Yes, everyone hates Ebenezer Scrooge," she said.

Scrooge watched the terrible scene. He was horrified. He thought, "Everybody hates me? After my funeral, people will celebrate?"

Scrooge turned to the ghost. Terrified, he said, "Ghost, ghost, my future is sad. I want to see a little joy. Bob and Tim! It's a happy family. Ghost, I want to see Tim."

Immediately, the ghost transported Scrooge. There was a bright light. Scrooge could not see.

Soon, the light disappeared. It was dark and Scrooge could not see. "Where am I?" said Scrooge. But the Ghost was silent.

Scrooge was terrified. He was trembling with fear.

Scrooge saw big objects. He could not tell what they were because it was difficult to see. Suddenly, Scrooge saw graves! Scrooge was in a graveyard!

Scrooge was devastated. Nervously, Scrooge said, "Ghost, Tim is here? He is in a grave? The ghost showed a grave. Scrooge inspected her. On the grave, he saw *Tim Cratchit*. The little boy was dead!

Scrooge panicked. He shouted, "NO! Ghost, is it possible to change the future? "

The ghost was silent. Then, the ghost showed a second grave. On the grave, he saw *Ebenezer Scrooge*. Scrooge was horrified.



Scrooge shouted NO! and he begged the ghost, "I will change the future. I learned my lesson. I will be generous with Bob and Tim and all my employees. I will save Tim from this miserable future. Scrooge was on his knees. He repeated: "I will change, I will change. "

Suddenly, there was a bright light. One last time, the light transported Scrooge.

Suddenly, Scrooge was in his room. It was 9:00. Scrooge was confused. Quickly, Scrooge went out to the street.

In the street, Scrooge saw a boy. He was very poor. Scrooge told him, "Boy, what day is it?"

The boy was confused. He said, "What day? But sir, it's December 25th. It's Christmas."

Scrooge exclaimed with joy, "Oh how generous! The ghosts gave me a second chance!"



The boy was very, very surprised. Then, Scrooge told the boy, "Go to the restaurant there. Order a dinner for 8 people. Order chicken, pork, delicious beef. Bring the dinner to Bob Cratchit. Then he gave the boy Bob's address. Scrooge paid the boy generously.

The boy was happy, but Scrooge was even happier. Scrooge was a generous person.

Scrooge had no family - with the exception of a nephew. In the past, Scrooge had ignored his nephew. He was not a loving uncle.

Now, Scrooge wanted to say sorry to his nephew. Scrooge wanted to tell his nephew that he loved him. He quickly went to his nephew's house. "Merry Christmas!" he said with a smile.

His nephew was confused. "Uncle Scrooge? Did you say 'Merry Christmas'?" he said.

Scrooge told him, "In the past, I was cold and cruel. I am sorry," said Scrooge. "It's okay. Come in," he said. Then Scrooge joined in the Christmas party.



The years passed. Scrooge was like a member of the family. Bob was not just his employee. It was his friend.

After his past mistakes, Scrooge had changed. Everyone said he was a very, very generous man.

The End