

**A Chocolate Christmas Carol**

a play with music

written by

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Based off Charles Dickens and James Hutchison's "A Christmas Carol"

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[www.1989dreams.com](http://www.1989dreams.com)

ACT 1

SCENE 1

*As the lights rise, we're outside the office of Marley and Scrooge Investments. A group of CAROLERS are singing "Carol of the Bells".*

CAROLERS

(Singing)

DING DONG DING DONG DING DING DONG DING DONG DING  
HARK HOW THE BELLS SWEET SILVER BELLS ALL SEEM TO SAY  
THROW CARES AWAY CHRISTMAS IS HERE BRINGING GOOD CHEER  
TO YOUNG AND OLD MEEK AND THE BOLD  
DING, DONG, DING, DONG THAT IS THEIR SONG WITH JOYFUL RING  
ALL CAROLING ONE SEEMS TO HEAR WORDS OF GOOD CHEER  
FROM EV'RYWHERE FILLING THE AIR  
DING DONG DING DONG DING

*FREDDIE, the sweet and humble niece of Scrooge enters. She walks by the singers and places money in their bucket.*

*These lines are read while the carolers are still singing.*

FREDDIE

Don't you just love the Christmas season honey? I know I do. It's a time of joy and celebration, of warm feelings and tasty snacks. It's the honoring of the birth of our savior and what could be better than that? Christmas just seems to bring the best out in people.

CAROLERS

(Singing)

OH HOW THEY POUND  
RAISING THE SOUND O'ER HILL AND DALE TELLING THEIR TALE  
GAILY THEY RING WHILE PEOPLE SING SONGS OF GOOD CHEER  
CHRISTMAS IS HERE  
MERRY, MERRY, MERRY, MERRY CHRISTMAS  
MERRY, MERRY, MERRY, MERRY CHRISTMAS  
DING DONG DI-

*E.B. SCROOGE, a grumpy old man, who is the owner of Marley and Scrooge Investments, angrily approaches the Carolers, interrupting them.*

E.B. SCROOGE

Get out of here! Scram!!!

*The carolers take off running as Scrooge chases after them.*

FREDDIE

Well almost everyone. Don't tell anybody but that was my uncle, E.B. Scrooge, from my daddy's side of the family of course. He's what you would call "touched". At least that's what I call him. Now don't get me wrong, Uncle E isn't a horrible person.

*Carolers come running in, still trying to get away from Scrooge.*

CAROLER 1

We're sorry, we're sorry.

CAROLER 2

We won't do it again.

CAROLER 3

Leave us alone!

E.B. SCROOGE

You're gonna learn this time.

*Scrooge continues to chase them off as they exit.*

FREDDIE

Okay, so maybe he is horrible but he wasn't always this way. He use to be... ummm... he was... what's the word... uhhh.. digestible! Yeah, that's the word. He was digestible but now, now my uncle is -

*The carolers come running back in, still being chased by Scrooge. Caroler 1 is on the phone with the police.*

CAROLER 1

A crazy old man! A crazy old man is chasing us.

CAROLER 2

He's not just crazy, he's heartless! Tell them he's heartless.

CAROLER 3

And drunk! This man is for sure drunk.

E.B. SCROOGE

I'm gonna get you!

*Scrooge continues to chase them off as they exit.*

FREDDIE

Their words, not mine. Now I know my uncle can be grumpy but he gets especially grumpy around this time of year. We don't talk about it much but it's been 7 years now since my uncle Jacob Marley died.

Now before you go getting confused, uncle E is my dad's brother and uncle Jacob is just that family friend you grew up around your whole life and never knew wasn't your real family until you read the obituary and seen there ain't no kin. You know what I'm talking about. But anyways Uncle Jacob and Uncle E were the best of friends and business partners. Marley and Scrooge Investments, building dreams and securing futures. At least that was the motto until Uncle Jacob died. He was the face of the company and Uncle E was the brains but you already know that a brain without a face is just a monster. Every year I try and show Uncle E the joy of the holidays but every year he just tells me -

*Scrooge enters in, gathering himself.*

E.B. SCROOGE

Christmas is stupid! Dumb, pointless, a bad excuse for people not to invest their money. They just want to give it all away to charity and spend it on rotten children. I hate this time of year.

*Scrooge storms into his office.*

FREDDIE

That! But I won't give up on him. I think I'm breaking him down. Usually he's working on Christmas Eve so we're already off to a good start.

*Scrooge peaks back outside.*

E.B. SCROOGE

Hurry up Freddie, I have work to do. And who are you talking to? I hope you're not on that TikTok talking to the internet again. Hurry up and get inside, time is money and money is time.

*Scrooge goes back inside.*

FREDDIE

Yall pray for me, I'm clearly gonna need it.

*Freddie follows Scrooge inside.*

## SCENE 2

*Freddie enters into the office of Marley and Scrooge Investments. MS. JACKSON, the bubbly office secretary is working along with MR. WHITE, the more soft spoken assistant.*

MS. JACKSON

Hey Freddie.

FREDDIE  
Hey Ms. Jackson. Hey Mr. White.

MS. JACKSON  
Merry Christmas to you.

FREDDIE  
Merry Christmas to you too and Merry Christmas to you too  
Uncle E.

E.B. SCROOGE  
Bah! Humbug.

FREDDIE  
Humbug? What in the Charles Dickens does that mean?

MS. JACKSON  
I don't know either but every time someone's said Merry  
Christmas to him, that's been his response.

E.B. SCROOGE  
What is there to be so merry about? Look at the both of you,  
you're poor, black, and ug-

MS. JACKSON  
(Cutting him off)  
I dare you to say it.

E.B. SCROOGE  
Struggling. I couldn't imagine feeling merry, knowing I'm  
struggling.

FREDDIE  
And you're rich, yet you still can't find a reason to be  
merry.

E.B. SCROOGE  
How can I be merry, when I'm in a world of fools. And  
speaking of, I told you if those hooligans were outside  
singing again that you were to call the cops.

MS. JACKSON  
And tell them what?

E.B. SCROOGE  
That hoodlums were outside of our establishment running off  
business and loitering.

MR. WHITE  
They're singing for a cause. They're collecting money for  
charity Mr. Scrooge.

E.B. SCROOGE  
They're running off potential clients with their nonsense.

MS. JACKSON

(Under breath)

The only person running off clients is yo ass.

E.B. SCROOGE

Excuse me?

MS. JACKSON

I said girrrlllll I finally met my Boaz.

FREDDIE

So the guy you met online turned out to be real?

MS. JACKSON

Not just real but handsome, sweet, and really sensitive. I'm thinking about introducing him to Tim.

*Freddie and Ms. Jackson celebrate together.*

E.B. SCROOGE

Sounds like a loser to me. Are you finished with your work yet? I don't pay you to sit on the clock and gossip with my niece. You ought to be more like Mr. White.

MS. JACKSON

I'm just about finished Mr. Scrooge.

*Ms. Jackson goes back to working.*

FREDDIE

So tell me more about him, is he tall? Does he have children? Does he like traveling? Is he rich?

E.B. SCROOGE

Less talking, more working Ms. Jackson.

FREDDIE

Uncle E is just jealous because here's another holiday and he's alone... again.

E.B. SCROOGE

I have no reason to be jealous, I'm perfectly content with the life I live. Especially when the opposite is the one you live.

FREDDIE

I'm blessed and highly favored.

E.B. SCROOGE

Said every man who had nothing and hoped for everything.

FREDDIE

I really am. As long as I got King Jesus I don't need nothing else.

E.B. SCROOGE

Is that what that preacher husband of yours told you to say since he can't afford to give you a luxurious life?

FREDDIE

To me, family is luxury. Even you.

E.B. SCROOGE

Why did you marry him Freddie? You could've done much better for yourself.

FREDDIE

Because I love him.

E.B. SCROOGE

The only smart thing Tina Turner ever asked was, what's love got to do with it? Love doesn't pay your bills. A man's first priority should be to secure his financial future. Don't you agree Mr. White?

MR. WHITE

That's all I'm trying to do, secure my future.

MS. JACKSON

Kiss ass.

FREDDIE

You ever been in love before Uncle E? Like with a human and not money.

E.B. SCROOGE

Not interested.

FREDDIE

What about that lady who use to live across the street from Big Mama, you seemed a little sweet on her.

E.B. SCROOGE

Not even a little bit.

MS. JACKSON

There's this lady who reminds me of Meryl Streep that comes in here all the time. I see you how you be lookin at.

E.B. SCROOGE

I wish you could see your work as well as you do these made up fantasies.

FREDDIE

What about-

E.B. SCROOGE

(Cutting her off)

What about nothing!

Did you come here with the sole purpose of getting on my nerves and keeping me from my work? Because if so, bravo! Mission accomplished.

FREDDIE

Don't get riled up. I just stopped by because while going through some of daddy's old stuff my mom gave me, I found something that belonged to you.

E.B. SCROOGE

What is it?

*Freddie pulls out some letters.*

FREDDIE

Letters you wrote. They must be at least 30 or 40 years old cause I've never met the E.B. Scrooge in these letters.

E.B. SCROOGE

You read them?!

FREDDIE

I mean..... yeah.

E.B. SCROOGE

How dare you? You had no right to do that. Those were private between your father and I. Hand them over to me now.

FREDDIE

Only if you say you'll come over tomorrow and enjoy Christmas dinner with my family and me. I'm making ham, black eyed peas, yams, mashed potatoes, turnip AND collard greens plus my famous broccoli and cheese casserole.

E.B. SCROOGE

Sounds like a congested heart on a paper plate.

MS. JACKSON

You got room for me and Timmy?

FREDDIE

You and Tim are always welcomed over Ms. Jackson.... You too Mr. White, I'd be honored to have you.

MR. WHITE

Thank you for the invite but I already have plans.

FREDDIE

So uncle,... will you?

E.B. SCROOGE

No way Jose.

MS. JACKSON

Seen that coming. So what time do we need to be there? And should I bring anything? I hate showing up places empty handed but this isn't a pay week so I'll just bring two empty stomachs and a plenty of Tupperware to go.

FREDDIE

That is more than fine with me.

E.B. SCROOGE

They'll be no need for that, you won't be going either.

MS. JACKSON

I hear words coming out of your mouth but my brain is not comprehending.

E.B. SCROOGE

We're working tomorrow. I need you here.

MR. WHITE

On Christmas day?

E.B. SCROOGE

Yes on Christmas day. The world doesn't stop because it's Christmas. We still have business to handle.

MR. WHITE

Mr. Scrooge, we're always closed on Christmas.

E.B. SCROOGE

We WERE always closed on Christmas.

MS. JACKSON

I'm a single mom. Can't work wait a day?

E.B. SCROOGE

If you spent less time sitting around here talking and more time working maybe we could be off but since you don't we have plenty of work to do.

FREDDIE

You can't be serious uncle E. You've been open on every holiday from MLK to Labor Day.

E.B. SCROOGE

Of course we are. Martin went to the mountaintop so that we could labor. You're supposed to work on both of those days and every day for that matter.

FREDDIE

Christmas is different! It's special. You can be closed for at least this ONE holiday.

MS. JACKSON

Oh please Mr. Scrooge. I'll even stay late tonight and finish up my work.

MR. WHITE

Please sir.

E.B. SCROOGE

You're giving me a headache.

MS. JACKSON

And imagine the one I'll give you tomorrow if it's just us here working. So pleeaassee!

E.B. SCROOGE

Begging isn't ladylike and you're making my head hurt.

MS. JACKSON

Pretty, pretty, pretty pleeeasssee!

E.B. SCROOGE

Fine! Just stop talking and hand me those pills over there.

*Mr. White hands Scrooge a bottle of pills.*

MR. WHITE

Oh thank you sir.

MS. JACKSON

Chile, let me go finish this work before the old man changes his mind. I'll see you tomorrow Freddie.

*Ms. Jackson exits to go do some work as Scrooge begins pouring a glass of liquor.*

E.B. SCROOGE

Ahhh, nothing like Taaka vodka. Not the best but cost the less.

FREDDIE

Now since you're gonna be closed tomorrow, you might as well come over and eat with us.

E.B. SCROOGE

No thank you. Those two may be off but I'll still be working. The dollar doesn't rest only the lazy man.

*Freddie, defeated, lets out a sigh.*

FREDDIE

I tried. Merry Christmas Uncle E. I love you.

*Freddie hands Scrooge the letters and exits. He places them down.*

*Scrooge opens the pill bottle and takes one with a nice gulp of liquor then returns to his work.*

MARLEY (O.S)  
(Ghostly whisper)

Scrooge.

*At first startled, Scrooge looks around trying to figure out what he just heard but then soon dismisses it.*

E.B. SCROOGE  
Did you say something Mr. White?

MR. WHITE  
Uh, no sir.

MARLEY (O.S)  
(Ghostly whisper)  
Scrooge.

E.B. SCROOGE  
Are you sure?

MR. WHITE  
Positive. I'm done with my day's work Mr. Scrooge. I'll be heading out now. I won't say Merry Christmas but I hope you have a good day sir.

E.B. SCROOGE  
Yeah whatever.

MR. WHITE  
Uh, could I ask you a question sir?

E.B. SCROOGE  
What is it now?

MR. WHITE  
I would never ask and I do only because I really really need it. Do you think it would be possible to get paid early this week? It's Christmas and I'd love to be able to get my family a decent meal and a few gifts maybe even a-

E.B. SCROOGE  
Stop yourself right there Mr. White. You've worked here for years now and you've been diligent in both your work and commitment. It makes no sense that you don't have enough money saved but you want to take tomorrow off.

MR. WHITE  
It's just that -

E.B. SCROOGE

It's nothing, frankly it's kind of embarrassing. There's gonna come a day when you start to put yourself and your responsibilities first. You should really be going now. I'll see you when you return.

MR. WHITE

Yes sir.

*Mr. White exits as Scrooge tends back to his work.*

MARLEY (O.S)

(Ghostly whisper

Scrooge.

*Scrooge now becomes concerned.*

MARLEY (O.S) (CONT'D)

(Ghostly whisper

Scrooge.

E.B. SCROOGE

Ms. Jackson?.... Is that you?!

*Ms. Jackson enters.*

MS. JACKSON

You called me?

E.B. SCROOGE

You called me.

MS. JACKSON

No you called me.

E.B. SCROOGE

No you called me.

MS. JACKSON

I just heard you call me.

E.B. SCROOGE

I just heard you call me.

MS. JACKSON

Are you okay?

E.B. SCROOGE

Are you okay?

MS. JACKSON

I'm fine.

I'm fine. E.B. SCROOGE

Well fine. MS. JACKSON

Fine! E.B. SCROOGE

I'll be in here finishing my work if that's okay with you. MS. JACKSON

*Ms. Jackson exits as Scrooge, a little disturbed, goes and pours another drink.*

*He drinks it.*

Scrooge. MARLEY (O.S)  
(Ghostly whisper)

*He spills the drink.*

*He panickily begins to clean it as Ms. Jackson enters in.*

MARLEY (O.S) (CONT'D)  
(Ghostly whisper)

MS. JACKSON  
Okay Mr. Scrooge, I'm all finished. Do you need anything else from me before I - are you okay sir?

Uh... yes, yes, yes. Just fine. Ummm I'm just, uh feeling, a little funny. E.B. SCROOGE

And you're acting funny too. Are you gonna be okay? MS. JACKSON

Of course I'll be fine. Now if you're done hurry up and leave. E.B. SCROOGE

Ain't gotta tell me twice. Now remember the Turner files are in the cabinet, the Shepherd documents are on the cloud, and I'll take care of the Patterson paperwork when I get back. MS. JACKSON

Fine, fine. Just hurry up before I change my mind. E.B. SCROOGE

Are you kicking me out Mr. Scrooge? Cause believe me when I say I've been kicked out of better. MS. JACKSON

E.B. SCROOGE

You're free to stay and get a jumpstart on the Patterson work.

MS. JACKSON

You know what? Getting kicked out of here isn't that bad after all. Merry Christmas Mr. Scrooge. Don't work too hard.

*Ms. Jackson exits as Scrooge pours another glass full and downs it.*

*He see's the letters and walks over to them. He picks them up and begins to open as a church clock begins to chime seven times.*

MARLEY (O.S)

(Ghostly whisper but louder)

Scrooge.

*Scrooge now becomes concerned.*

E.B. SCROOGE

Okay! I know somebody's in here. Show yourself, show yourself right now.

MARLEY (O.S)

(Ghostly and loud)

Scrooge!

E.B. SCROOGE

(Scared)

Jesus?! Is that you?! I'm not ready to die.

MARLEY (O.S)

(Ghostly but louder)

Scrooge!

E.B. SCROOGE

I got a Glock and I'm licensed to carry! So you better leave here before I shoot you.

*Panicked, Scrooge grabs his stuff, leaving behind the letters, and heads for the door.*

E.B. SCROOGE (CONT'D)

The pills. It's the pills and the liquor. I gotta quit drinking the cheap stuff.

*He stops by the mirror and gives himself a pep talk.*

E.B. SCROOGE (CONT'D)

Okay, you're just drunk old man. There's nobody here. You're just hearing things. If somebody was here you would see them.

*Suddenly the reflection of Scrooge in the mirror disappears and is replaced with the image of MARLEY, Scrooge's former best friend and deceased business partner. Marley is covered in chains.*

MARLEY

Boo!

*Scrooge screams as the lights flash.*

*As the lights rise, the mirror is returned to normal.*

*Scrooge moves slowly to the mirror to make sure what he saw wasn't real.*

*Suddenly the sounds of chains being dragged are heard as Marley appears behind him.*

MARLEY (CONT'D)

I said boo!

*Scrooge screams again and passes out.*

MARLEY (CONT'D)

Well that wasn't the greeting I was expecting.

E.B. SCROOGE

Marley, is that really you?

MARLEY

Live and in living color. Well not so much emphasis on the living part but yes it's me.

*Scrooge screams again and passes out.*

MARLEY (CONT'D)

Get up man. I never really took you for the screaming type.

E.B. SCROOGE

And I didn't take you for the living type anymore. Am I dead too? Is this hell?

MARLEY

Heavens no, not unless OJ's here.

E.B. SCROOGE

So I'm still alive?

MARLEY

Yes Ebenezer. You're still alive and I'm dead.

E.B. SCROOGE

But how are you here... With me?

MARLEY

It is required of every man that the spirit within him should walk among his fellow men and if that spirit does not do so in life - it is doomed to do so after death.

E.B. SCROOGE

But why the chains? Who did this to you?

MARLEY

I have done it to myself. I wear the chain I forged in life. I made it link by link and yard by yard. The weight and length of the chain you bear yourself was as heavy and as long as this, seven Christmas Eves ago. You have labored on it since. Yours is a monstrous chain!

E.B. SCROOGE

This can't be real, it's not real. You're simply a figment of my imagination.

MARLEY

Well imagine this!

*Marley let's out a loud cry as his chains begin to wrap themselves around Scrooge.*

E.B. SCROOGE

No! No! No! Ok, ok, ok I know you're real. But how is this so? You were always a good man Jacob. Much better man than me.

MARLEY

And yet look at me. Bound to the mistakes of my past but you have a chance of escaping my fate Ebenezer. Just don't ruin it.

E.B. SCROOGE

Anything, anything you say I'll do.

MARLEY

Good. You'll be visited by three spirits?

E.B. SCROOGE

Spirits?! Are you sure I'm not drunk? I gotta be drunk.

MARLEY

Think what you may but without their visits you'll be doomed and destined to the path I have taken. Expect the first when the bell tolls one.

E.B. SCROOGE

What kinda spirits are these? Are they holy spirits, evil, dark, friendly? You know me Jacob I need details.

MARLEY

The second will arrive when the bell tolls two.

E.B. SCROOGE

And secondly are they just going to barge in here like you did or will they at least walk in the front door like a decent human being? No pun intended.

MARLEY

The third and final will come when the bell tolls three.

E.B. SCROOGE

Can you at least tell me what they're gonna do to me? And I don't have to pay for this do I? And I will not be subscribing to anything they try and sell me.

MARLEY

You have the instructions and the rest is up to you E.B. I can say no more and stay no longer. I wish you the best of luck and remember, for your own sake, what has passed between us.

*The lights flash as Marley exits.*

E.B. SCROOGE

No, no, no, no no. No, no, no, no. This is all nonsense - nonsense - a nightmare - nothing more than a bad dream. Yes, of course. That explains it. I'm having a dream. Ha, ha, ha a nightmare. There are no such things as ghosts and spirits. It is all in your mind; do you hear me Ebenezer? All in your mind. You will not be haunted. Humbug!

*A distant clock begins to chime as the lights flash again. Suddenly GHOST OF PAST, the first of the three spirits arrives.*

GHOST OF PAST

Why do you keep saying that word? It's so unoriginal.

E.B. SCROOGE

Well all be damned. This is really happening.

GHOST OF PAST

And happening it is. Nice to meet you Ebenezer.. In the flesh that is.

E.B. SCROOGE

We've met before?

GHOST OF PAST

Well I've met you but that's history. Speaking of, I'm Past-on but everyone calls me Past. Ghost of Christmas Past that is.

E.B. SCROOGE

How far we talking back? Jefferson, Lincoln, Coolidge?

GHOST OF PAST

Now look at me and look at you, if anything you would be the - you know what I already got two write ups and Gabriel said if I got another I was done. So let me try this again.... I'm Past-on but everyone calls me Past. Ghost of Christmas Past, YOUR PAST that is. Now hurry up and come with me before I lose this job.

*The sound of magic is heard as the lights flash. Ghost of Past and Scrooge disappear.*

SCENE 3

*As the lights rise, Carolers enter and begin singing "Deck the Halls".*

CAROLERS

(Singing)

DECK THE HALLS WITH BOUGHS OF HOLLY  
 FA LA LA LA LA, LA LA LA LA (FA LA LA LA LA, LA LA LA LA)  
 'TIS THE SEASON TO BE JOLLY  
 FA LA LA LA LA, LA LA LA LA (FA LA LA LA LA, LA LA LA LA)

*Ghost of Past and Scrooge enter.*

GHOST OF PAST

Anything look familiar?

E.B. SCROOGE

Hey, I know this area. This is where I grew up.

GHOST OF PAST

(Sarcastically)

Really?? Shocker.

E.B. SCROOGE

I never thought I'd come back to this place again. I was raised by my grandmother and believe it or not she really hated this song.

GHOST OF PAST

Trust me, I know.

*LITTLE SCROOGE and BIG MAMA, Scrooge's grandmother who isn't the loving and caring kind, enter.*

E.B. SCROOGE

There she goes. Big Mama, Big Mama it's me, it's your little Ebenezer, it's me.

## GHOST OF PAST

She can't hear you Scrooge. These are the shadows of things that have been. They cannot see us, nor can we change or influence them.

## CAROLERS

(Singing)

DON WE NOW OUR GAY APPAREL  
 FA LA LA LA LA, LA LA LA LA (FA LA LA LA LA, LA LA LA LA)  
 TROLL THE ANCIENT YULETIDE CAROL  
 FA LA LA LA LA, LA LA LA LA  
 FA LA LA LA LA, LA LA LA LA LA LA  
 FA LA LA LA LA, FA LA LA LA  
 FA LA LA LA LA, LA LA LA LA LA LA  
 FA LA LA L-

## BIG MAMA

Get out of here! Scram!!!

*The carolers take off running and exit.*

## LITTLE SCROOGE

Why'd you do that Big Mama?

## BIG MAMA

Because I wanted too. Now when we go in this store

## BIG MAMA/E.B. SCROOGE (CONT'D)

don't touch nothin, don't steal nothin, and most importantly don't ask me for nothin.

## E.B. SCROOGE (CONT'D)

She'd tell me that every time we left the house.

## BIG MAMA

Am I understood?

## LITTLE SCROOGE

Yes ma'am.

## BIG MAMA

Now ya daddy only sent enough money for you to get a new coat so that's all we're getting.

## LITTLE SCROOGE

Yes ma'am.

## BIG MAMA

I'm gonna let you pick it out but you gotta act surprised tomorrow when you open it for Christmas.

## LITTLE SCROOGE

Yes ma'am.

*Big Mama and Little Scrooge continue towards the store.*

LITTLE SCROOGE (CONT'D)

I hope Santa brings me some new trousers and a shirt to match the jacket. Then I can step out lookin' dy-no-mite.

*Big Mama pauses.*

BIG MAMA

Listen to me grandson, Santa doesn't come to our neighborhood. Never has and never will.

LITTLE SCROOGE

Does he go to daddy's neighborhood?

BIG MAMA

Your daddy is working hard to get you Ebenezer. He's gonna come back and get you very soon okay.

LITTLE SCROOGE

So why does he have Fred and not me?

BIG MAMA

Those are grown folk questions and as long as you're a child you just gotta accept what's before you and trust that the adults are working it out. You hear me?

LITTLE SCROOGE

Yes ma'am.

BIG MAMA

I know we don't have much , but you at least have a roof over your head and food. There are many in this world with far less than that. If you want more than this, then I suggest you put your nose to the grindstone, boy.

LITTLE SCROOGE

I am Big Mama, I promise you I am. I'm gonna work so hard that I'll be able to buy you a big ol' house.

BIG MAMA/E.B. SCROOGE

With a swimming pool.

BIG MAMA (CONT'D)

You know Big Mama always wanted a swimming pool.

LITTLE SCROOGE

But you don't know to swim.

BIG MAMA

Well I'll learn but not one of those deep ones cause I can't be getting my hair wet.

LITTLE SCROOGE

You got it!

*They share a laugh.*

BIG MAMA

I know I'm hard on you Ebenezer but it's cause I know you're special. You can do whatever you put your mind to. You just gotta work for it, because what?

LITTLE SCROOGE/BIG MAMA (CONT'D)

Faith without work is dead.

BIG MAMA (CONT'D)

Exactly. Now come on in this store with me and remember what I said.

LITTLE SCROOGE/BIG MAMA (CONT'D)

Don't touch nothin, don't steal nothin, and most importantly don't ask me for nothin.

*Scrooge wipes a tear from his eye as he watches Big Mama and Little Scrooge exit.*

GHOST OF PAST

I know you not crying already.

E.B. SCROOGE

No, no, not at all. I just got something in my eye.

GHOST OF PAST

In your eye? Really? Come on, we have another Christmas Eve to visit.

*The sound of magic is heard as the lights flash. Ghost of Past and Scrooge disappear.*

SCENE 4

*As the lights rise the Carolers, now dressed in all black, are singing at the memorial service of Big Mama. YOUNG SCROOGE, is seen sitting and crying.*

CAROLERS

(Singing)

AMAZING GRACE! HOW SWEET THE SOUND,  
THAT SAVED A WRETCH; LIKE ME!  
I ONCE WAS LOST, BUT NOW AM FOUND,  
WAS BLIND, BUT NOW I SEE.

*Ghost of Past and Scrooge enter.*

GHOST OF PAST

This is a tough one isn't it?

E.B. SCROOGE

It's not as bad as it looks. I knew this day was coming.

GHOST OF PAST

Doesn't mean you were ready for it though.

CAROLERS

(Singing)

'T WAS GRACE THAT TAUGHT MY HEART TO FEAR,  
AND GRACE MY FEARS RELIEVED;  
HOW PRECIOUS DID THAT GRACE APPEAR  
THE HOUR I FIRST BELIEVED!

*PASTOR, a minister, enters.*

PASTOR

How you doing youngin'?

YOUNG SCROOGE

My grandma just died, how do you think I'm doing?

PASTOR

You're right but just remember to be absent from the body means to be present with the Lord. God will take care of you.

YOUNG SCROOGE

I hear you.

PASTOR

It's Christmas Eve, would you like to come home with me and my family for dinner? I'd hate for you to be alone.

YOUNG SCROOGE

No, I'll be fine.

PASTOR

We may not have much but if you need anything, and I do mean anything at all, remember the church is here for you.

YOUNG SCROOGE

Thanks.

*Pastor and Carolers exits as Young Scrooge pulls out a piece of paper and begins to write.*

GHOST OF PAST

What were you writing?

E.B. SCROOGE

A letter to my dad.

YOUNG SCROOGE

Dear Father, no, To Johnathan Scrooge. I know you and Big Mama haven't talked in years but the least you could've done was shown up to her funeral. If not for her, then for me. She wanted you to be here! I needed you here! I needed you here! I needed you here!

*Young Scrooge begins to cry.*

*E.B. Scrooge attempts to run over and hug him.*

GHOST OF PAST

He can't see or feel you Ebenezer. He's there alone.

E.B. SCROOGE

It isn't right. It wasn't right then and it's not right now. Why did God have to take her away from me, she was the only one I had, the only one.

GHOST OF PAST

People are just travelers on Earth, there for a moment, until their time comes to return home, where every soul finds its rest.

E.B. SCROOGE

I went back there every Christmas Eve to be with her.

GHOST OF PAST

As if I don't remember. Once, your brother Fred came too.

*FRED, the brother of Scrooge and father of Freddie, enters.*

E.B. SCROOGE

That's him, that's my brother Fred. Hey Fred, hey brother!

GHOST OF PAST

Look, I'm not gonna keep explaining this to you. They can't hear you! Okay?!

FRED

I knew I'd find you here.

YOUNG SCROOGE

Fred?! How long has it been brother? I miss you.

FRED

I can't tell, come over here and hug your brother.

*Fred and Young Scrooge hug.*

YOUNG SCROOGE

Did he come with you?

FRED

Who? Dad? Yeah right. You're not the only orphan kid now brother, dad kicked me out.

YOUNG SCROOGE

For what? He can't do that.

FRED

Well he did but I'm not worried about it, I'm gonna go stay with my girlfriend's family. They're taking me in, all of us in.

YOUNG SCROOGE

Who's all of us?

FRED

I been needing to tell you something.

*Fred hands Young Scrooge an ultrasound.*

YOUNG SCROOGE

What's this?

FRED

It's your niece. You're gonna be an uncle and I'm gonna be a dad!

YOUNG SCROOGE

What?!

*Young Scrooge and Fred hug and celebrate.*

YOUNG SCROOGE (CONT'D)

You're kidding right? You?! You're gonna be a dad?

FRED

I am man, I really am and I promise I'm gonna be a better dad than he ever was.

YOUNG SCROOGE

I know you will Fred, I know it. This is amazing.

E.B. SCROOGE

He was so happy, so full of joy. I never should've let him leave me that day.

FRED

I want to celebrate with you later tonight E but first I got to go tell my boys, I'm about to be a dad!

*Fred takes off running and exits.*

E.B. SCROOGE

So much life, so much joy. He was so happy and excited.

GHOST OF PAST

You didn't know Ebenezer and even if you did, you couldn't stop it. It was his time.

E.B. SCROOGE

Big Mama was old but Fred was young. Too young to die that day. What kind of God allows that to happen?

GHOST OF PAST

Every life, regardless of its length, fulfills a divine purpose. Even short lives can leave a lasting impact on others, teaching lessons of love, compassion, and the fleeting nature of existence. Just look at Freddie.

E.B. SCROOGE

For her to never have met him, she sure reminds me a whole bunch of him. But that's why I try and tell her to wise up. To not get so caught up in the family life that she loses her focus. I've tried so many times to make her understand the importance of hard work and industry, but my advice seems to have little effect. It goes in one ear and out the other. I am sorry to say this, but she's a fool, and will always be so if she doesn't learn from her father's mistakes. I know I learned from mine.

GHOST OF PAST

But did you? Cause one of you seems happy and the other is... well, here with me. Come on I got a few hours left on my shift, I guess I can show you another one.

*The sound of magic is heard as the lights flash. Ghost of Past and Scrooge disappear.*

SCENE 5

*Young Scrooge, carrying a briefcase, and whistling an upbeat tune is walking as E.B. Scrooge and Ghost of Past enter.*

GHOST OF PAST

Well look at him.

E.B. SCROOGE

Not bad looking if you ask me.

GHOST OF PAST

Good thing I didn't.

E.B. SCROOGE

What?!

GHOST OF PAST

I said good thing I didn't.

E.B. SCROOGE

Well that was rude.

GHOST OF PAST

Sorry, I'm kind of bound to tell the truth or else the big man gets on me. Anyways, you know where he's headed right?

E.B. SCROOGE

Of course I do. I didn't have a car and had to walk every day to my job at Montgomery Capital.

*MR. MONTGOMERY, the owner of Montgomery Capital and boss of Scrooge, enters with an alive and well Marley.*

MR. MONTGOMERY

There he is. My star pupil.

YOUNG SCROOGE

Good morning Mr. Montgomery.

MR. MONTGOMERY

I'd like you to meet a business associate of mine. His name is Jacob Marley.

YOUNG SCROOGE

Nice to meet you Mr. Marley.

MARLEY

Please call me Jacob. I've heard so much about you.

YOUNG SCROOGE

Good things I hope.

MR. MONTGOMERY

Not just good, excellent. E.B., that's what we call him now, is the best thing to happen to Montgomery Capital. Believe it or not, he is single handily the reason why we've doubled our profits.

MARLEY

That's quite impressive.

*The phone rings in a distance.*

MR. MONTGOMERY

It's Christmas Eve and the phone is still ringing off the hook. Excuse me gentlemen, I'll be right back.

*Mr. Montgomery exits.*

MARLEY

So you're the reason Montgomery Capital is finally out of the red?

YOUNG SCROOGE

Mr. Montgomery is just flattering me.

MARLEY

No, I know Jim and I know Jim's business. He was in the red and now he's not and the only thing that changed around here is you. But the real question is, is he making as much money as he could be?

YOUNG SCROOGE

I'm in no position to discuss Mr. Montgomery's finances with you.

MARLEY

I'm not asking you as an employee, I'm asking you as a business man. Is Jim really making all the money he could be?

YOUNG SCROOGE

(Hesitant)

Mr. Montgomery has a a good heart.

MARLEY

I don't give a damn about his heart, I want to know about the profits.

YOUNG SCROOGE

No.

MARLEY

I knew it! I was just about to buy him out and then all of the sudden he's swimming in cash. I'm quite impressed, you're way more of an asset than he's giving you credit for.

YOUNG SCROOGE

Thank you Mr. ... Jacob. That means a lot coming from you.

MARLEY

It means nothing if it's not the truth and I only speak the truth. Take it from me, never let your heart get involved in your business. If so, you'll end up a fool like Montgomery.

YOUNG SCROOGE

Mr. Montgomery's a really generous guy and he's happy.

MARLEY

Happiness is for the poor, power is for the rich. And you, you look like you like power. I want to make you an offer. Come work at my firm, come make real money and come find your power.

YOUNG SCROOGE

You want me?

MARLEY

Yes! I've been looking for someone just like you to mentor and groom into the perfect partner for me.

YOUNG SCROOGE

But why me?

MARLEY

Look what you've done here. If you hadn't come along Montgomery would be spending the holidays stressing and working instead of celebrating. Why not come work for me and really make some money, first as a junior partner then as a full equal.

YOUNG SCROOGE

I don't know Mr. Jacob. Mr. Montgomery gave me a chance and took me in when I had nothing. I owe it to him to be here.

MARLEY

You owe it to yourself to be successful. No need to make a decision right now but think about it. You have a great future ahead of you, if you take it.

*Mr. Montgomery reenters.*

MR. MONTGOMERY

Hope I didn't keep you waiting too long Marley.

MARLEY

Not at all, just getting to know your young apprentice here.

MR. MONTGOMERY

Before I forget, that was Mr. Redding on the phone. Make note that the payment for the lumber we shipped to him last month will be moved to the beginning of March.

MARLEY

March?! Why in the world do you business with him still Jim?

MR. MONTGOMERY

He's been a client of mine for years and stuck with me when times were hard, so it's only fair that I stick with him during his hard times. Now write it down E.B. so we don't forget.

YOUNG SCROOGE

Yes sir.

MR. MONTGOMERY

Christmas party starting soon Jacob, stay and have a drink with us.

MARLEY

No can do. I have a couple of things at the office I gotta finish tying up.

MR. MONTGOMERY

It's Christmas Eve.

MARLEY

It's a day that ends in y, which means *why am I not working?*

MR. MONTGOMERY

It's okay to rest sometimes.

MARLEY

We'll rest when were dead Jim.

MR. MONTGOMERY

Merry Christmas Marley.

MARLEY

Back at ya.

*Marley exits.*

MR. MONTGOMERY

It's time to forget about work and have some fun. Come on E.B.

*Young Scrooge and Mr. Montgomery exit as the Carolers enter.*

*Some Day at Christmas by Stevie Wonder begins to play.*

E.B. SCROOGE

I remember this like it was yesterday.

CAROLERS

(Singing)

SOMEDAY AT CHRISTMAS MEN WON'T BE BOYS  
PLAYING WITH BOMBS LIKE KIDS PLAY WITH TOYS  
ONE WARM DECEMBER OUR HEARTS WILL SEE  
A WORLD WHERE MEN ARE FREE  
SOMEDAY AT CHRISTMAS THERE'LL BE NO WARS  
WHEN WE HAVE LEARNED WHAT CHRISTMAS IS FOR  
WHEN WE HAVE FOUND WHAT LIFE'S REALLY WORTH  
THERE'LL BE PEACE ON EARTH  
SOMEDAY ALL OUR DREAMS WILL COME TO BE  
SOMEDAY IN A WORLD WHERE MEN ARE FREE  
MAYBE NOT IN TIME FOR YOU AND ME  
BUT SOMEDAY AT CHRISTMASTIME

*Young Scrooge, Mr. Montgomery, Mrs. Montgomery and Lily enter.*

E.B. SCROOGE

There goes Lily.

GHOST OF PAST

Well isn't she pretty?

E.B. SCROOGE

Gorgeous. I was absolutely smitten by her. Could you bend the rules just this one time and let me go speak to her.

GHOST OF PAST

You're really trying me today Ebenezer.

*Lily and Young Scrooge dance as Mr. and Mrs. Montgomery watch.*

CAROLERS

SOMEDAY AT CHRISTMAS WE'LL SEE A LAND  
 WITH NO HUNGRY CHILDREN, NO EMPTY HAND  
 ONE HAPPY MORNING PEOPLE WILL SHARE  
 OUR WORLD WHERE PEOPLE CARE  
 WHOA, SOMEDAY AT CHRISTMAS THERE'LL BE NO TEARS  
 WHEN ALL MEN ARE EQUAL AND NO MAN HAS FEARS  
 ONE SHINNING MOMENT ONE PRAYER AWAY  
 FROM OUR WORLD TODAY  
 SOMEDAY ALL OUR DREAMS WILL COME TO BE  
 SOMEDAY IN A WORLD WHERE MEN ARE FREE  
 MAYBE NOT IN TIME FOR YOU AND ME  
 BUT SOMEDAY AT CHRISTMASTIME  
 SOMEDAY AT CHRISTMAS MAN WILL NOT FAIL  
 HATE WILL BE GONE AND LOVE WILL PREVAIL  
 SOMEDAY A NEW WORLD THAT WE CAN START  
 WITH HOPE IN EVERY HEART, YEAH  
 WHOA, YEAH  
 (SOMEDAY IN A WORLD WHERE MEN ARE FREE)  
 MAYBE NOT IN TIME FOR YOU AND ME  
 BUT SOMEDAY AT CHRISTMASTIME  
 SOMEDAY AT CHRISTMASTIME

MR. MONTGOMERY

I knew you were smart E.B. but I didn't know you had moves on you like that. What more could you ask for in a husband Lily?

MRS. MONTGOMERY

Stop it dear, you're making them blush. I think I need your help checking the ham.

MR. MONTGOMERY

I don't know how to cook.

MRS. MONTGOMERY

Well come learn!

*Mr. and Mrs. Montgomery exit.*

LILY

Don't listen to daddy, he's always trying to find me a husband and you have been at the top of his list lately.

YOUNG SCROOGE

Trust me, I'm always thinking about you Lily, about us, about marriage and to be honest I just need more time.

LILY

I'm not rushing you E.B.

YOUNG SCROOGE

But I don't know how long I'ma gonna need. I got goals I gotta reach in order to give you the life you deserve, the one our family deserves.

*Lily leans in and calmly kisses Young Scrooge on the forehead.*

LILY

I love you Ebenezer, and I'm willing to wait however long it takes if it means being with you for the rest of my life.

YOUNG SCROOGE

I know you heard that new song, "What's Love got to do with it?" Were gonna have bills, and a mortgage, and a car note, and insurance, and daycare, and groceries, and vacations. Do you know how much vacations cost?!

LILY

Calm down. Don't worry about tomorrow's problems when today has it's own.

YOUNG SCROOGE

Sounds like something my Big Mama would've said... I just don't want to end up like my dad Lily. He couldn't afford to take care of both me and my brother so he left me, dropped me off, and never came back. I refuse to be him, I'm gonna do better. That's why I think I better take this job offer Mr. Marley gave me.

LILY

And leave daddy? What's wrong you don't like it here anymore?

YOUNG SCROOGE

I love it here and I love Mr. Montgomery but this is an opportunity to improve my life, our life.

LILY

Mr. Marley seems sketchy E.B. I don't know if that's the kind of person you should be working for.

YOUNG SCROOGE

Nonsense. He's successful and rich and if he takes an interest in my future then I should at least consider his offer.

LILY

Money isn't everything Ebenezer.

YOUNG SCROOGE

But it isn't nothing either.

*Mr. and Mrs. Montgomery enter.*

MR. MONTGOMERY

And what are you two love birds discussing?

MRS. MONTGOMERY

It's none of your business dear.

MR. MONTGOMERY

That's why I'm trying to make it my business.

YOUNG SCROOGE

We were just talking plans for the future and how I plan to marry Lily one day.

MR. MONTGOMERY

My boy! Always looking forward. That's the kind of husband you need Lily.

LILY

Daddy!

MRS. MONTGOMERY

Your father isn't wrong daughter. A good, loyal, honest, and hardworking man like young Scrooge here is exactly what you need. Look how lucky I got with your father.

MR. MONTGOMERY

I'm the one who got lucky.

MRS. MONTGOMERY

When you're right, you're right.

MR. MONTGOMERY

Speaking of being lucky, E.B., I guess you'll be the first to get your Christmas bonus.

*Mr. Montgomery pulls out an envelope and hands it to Young Scrooge.*

YOUNG SCROOGE

What's this for?

MR. MONTGOMERY

For you. For everyone. Just a small way to show my appreciation for all everyone does around here. There would be no Montgomery Capital without this team.

YOUNG SCROOGE

I can't take this Mr. Montgomery.

MRS. MONTGOMERY

You can and you will.

YOUNG SCROOGE

It's not in the budget. We're doing good but not good enough to give everyone a bonus.

MR. MONTGOMERY

You're worried about the wrong thing E.B. Money flows, it comes and goes. Pour into people and watch how they pour back into you.

E.B. SCROOGE

I forgot how generous and kind Mr. Montgomery was.

GHOST OF PAST

They don't make em' like that anymore.

E.B. SCROOGE

I learned so much about leadership, generosity, and just mankind from him. He made every single employee no matter what your position was feel seen and appreciated. He was a better man, a better boss than I ever was.

GHOST OF PAST

Duh!!! I mean, something bothering you?

E.B. SCROOGE

I have an employee, Ms. Jackson. Man she would've loved working for someone like Montgomery. That's all.

*Santa Baby in the style of Eartha Kitt plays.*

CAROLERS

(Singing)

SANTA BABY, JUST SLIP A SABLE UNDER THE TREE FOR ME  
BEEN AN AWFUL GOOD GIRL  
SANTA BABY, SO HURRY DOWN THE CHIMNEY TONIGHT  
SANTA BABY, A '54 CONVERTIBLE TOO, LIGHT BLUE  
I'LL WAIT UP FOR YOU, DEAR  
SANTA BABY, SO HURRY DOWN THE CHIMNEY TONIGHT

LILY

Oh I love this song! Come on E.B. let's dance.

E.B. SCROOGE/YOUNG SCROOGE

I can't dance.

LILY

Oh please, please, please.

YOUNG SCROOGE

Fine, fine. Just hurry up before I change my mind.

*Lily grabs Young Scrooge and then begin dancing.*

CAROLERS

(Singing)

THINK OF ALL THE FUN I'VE MISSED  
 THINK OF ALL THE FELLA'S THAT I HAVEN'T KISSED  
 NEXT YEAR I COULD BE JUST AS GOOD  
 IF YOU CHECK OFF MY CHRISTMAS LIST  
 SANTA BABY, I WANT A YACHT AND REALLY THAT'S NOT A LOT  
 BEEN AN ANGEL ALL YEAR  
 SANTA BABY, SO HURRY DOWN THE CHIMNEY TONIGHT  
 SANTA HONEY, ONE LITTLE THING I REALLY NEED  
 THE DEED TO A PLATINUM MINE  
 SANTA BABY, SO HURRY DOWN THE CHIMNEY TONIGHT  
 SANTA CUTIE, AND FILL MY STOCKING WITH THE DUPLEX AND  
 CHECKS  
 SIGN YOUR 'X' ON THE LINE  
 SANTA CUTIE, AND HURRY DOWN THE CHIMNEY TONIGHT  
 COME AND TRIM MY CHRISTMAS TREE  
 WITH SOME DECORATIONS BOUGHT AT TIFFANY'S  
 I REALLY DO BELIEVE IN YOU  
 LET'S SEE IF YOU BELIEVE IN ME

GHOST OF PAST

We can't sit here and watch all night lover boy, come on.

*Scrooge and Ghost Past exit.*

CAROLERS

(Singing)

SANTA BABY, FORGOT TO MENTION ONE LITTLE THING  
 A RING, I DON'T MEAN ON THE PHONE  
 SANTA BABY, SO HURRY DOWN THE CHIMNEY TONIGHT  
 HURRY DOWN THE CHIMNEY TONIGHT  
 HURRY, TONIGHT

*The sound of magic is heard as the lights flash.*

SCENE 6

*As the lights rise, Marley and Mr. Montgomery are in Marley and Scrooge's office.*

MARLEY

Had you had a chance to review everything?

MR. MONTGOMERY

I did and I'm confused Marley. Five years ago you were willing to give me almost triple this amount. I'm not understanding what this is about.

MARLEY

That was five years ago Montgomery. Things have changed now. Business isn't what it was then. I guarantee you you won't get a better offer than that. By all means, go out and try.

MR. MONTGOMERY

If you say it, I believe it Marley.

MARLEY

Don't just take my word for it, ask Scrooge. Scrooge get in here.

*Young Scrooge enters into the office.*

*E.B. Scrooge and Ghost of Past enter and observe.*

MARLEY (CONT'D)

Scrooge, tell Mr. Montgomery what you think of his offer.

YOUNG SCROOGE

You need to take the deal Mr. Montgomery. If you wait any longer your holdings may end up being worthless.

MARLEY

And to be quite frank, I'm giving you the amount I am because we've been business associates for so long but the honest truth is, you really don't have any other choice but to take the deal.

MR. MONTGOMERY

I guess you're right. Thank you, thank you both.

*Young Scrooge hands Mr. Montgomery a document.*

*He takes it and signs in.*

MARLEY

Glad I could do this for you Montgomery.

MR. MONTGOMERY

Yeah me too. You've been more than just a business associate Jacob, you've proven to be a friend.

MARLEY

And because we're friends I'll give you 7 days to vacate the premises.

YOUNG SCROOGE

You're free to take whatever personal items you like, but remember, anything in the company name now belongs to us.

MARLEY

Let me know if you need recommendations on movers.

*Mr. Montgomery exits.*

MARLEY (CONT'D)

That's what I'm talkin about baby! I would've gladly paid the dummy two even three times that amount.

E.B. SCROOGE/MARLEY (CONT'D)

You never take the first offer.

MARLEY (CONT'D)

It's no wonder his business was failing.

*Young Scrooge is silent.*

MARLEY (CONT'D)

What's the matter? Feeling bad for the old man?

MR. MONTGOMERY

Just wondering what's next for him.

MARLEY

He's only in this situation because of his own doing. How many times have I told you Ebenezer, business is business and if you let your emotions and personal feelings interfere it clouds your judgement?

GHOST OF PAST

So do gummies which is why I had to stop those.

MARLEY

And the only thing that matters in business is what?

E.B. SCROOGE

Profit.

GHOST OF PAST

People.

GHOST OF PAST (CONT'D)

You still don't get it do you?

MARLEY

Let's go have a drink to celebrate.

*As they get ready to exit, Lily enters.*

LILY

Mr. Marley.

MARLEY

Miss Lily.... I'll give you two a few minutes.

*Marley exits.*

YOUNG SCROOGE

Hey babe.

LILY

Don't hey babe me. What's this I hear about you buying daddy out?

YOUNG SCROOGE

Signed, sealed, and delivered. You only missed him by a couple of minutes. We just finished up the deal.

LILY

You never told me anything about this.

YOUNG SCROOGE

We never talk about business deals I'm working on.

LILY

But this is my father and the people that work there are like family. What's this about you cutting everyone's wages in half?

YOUNG SCROOGE

It's only temporary Lily. Your dad had to sell because he wasn't making good financial decisions. Me and Jacob are going to turn the company around. We're gonna get it back on it's feet. Trust me, this is going to be good for us.

LILY

Us?... Is there even really still an "us"?

YOUNG SCROOGE

What's that supposed to mean? Of course there's an us.

LILY

The only thing you've had time for lately is Jacob Marley and your work. It's Christmas Eve and I had to come here to find you.

YOUNG SCROOGE

So now it's a problem that I'm working and saving to build a future for us?

LILY

I didn't say it was a problem, I'm just asking when are you gonna make time for me?

YOUNG SCROOGE

Every day I come up here I'm making time for you.

LILY

Ohhh so now you're coming here for me?

YOUNG SCROOGE

This job makes time for you to get your hair done, time for you to get your nails done, time for you to go and have a \$40 salad for lunch every day.

LILY

Eating healthy is expensive.

YOUNG SCROOGE

A \$40 salad?!

LILY

I don't need those things Ebenezer. I'd be perfectly fine if I never had any of that. All I need is you.

YOUNG SCROOGE

That sounds nice in a Hallmark card but I'm never going back to being broke again. How can you be mad at that?

LILY

Who are you Ebenezer? You weren't like this when I first met you.

YOUNG SCROOGE

So I want to be rich. Hell, I want to be wealthy. I want to roll around in money like Bill Gates what's wrong with that? As long as my love for you hasn't changed.

LILY

But hasn't it?

YOUNG SCROOGE

Everything I'm doing is for us.

LILY

1,917 days.

YOUNG SCROOGE

Huh?

LILY

1,917 days is how long we've been together and you still haven't asked me to marry you.

GHOST OF PAST

I know that's right girl. Get on him!

LILY

That's 5 years Ebenezer. 5 years of watching you build, watching you grow, and still seeing you not be satisfied with everything you have.

YOUNG SCROOGE

One bad deal, one bad choice and I can lose everything in a blink of an eye. You think I want to end up like your dad?

LILY

You could never be my father Scrooge.

YOUNG SCROOGE

I didn't mean it like that. Look Lily, I'm going to marry you still, I just need more time to make sure we're good.

LILY

It's not even so much about when you're gonna marry me as it is do you really want to marry me.

YOUNG SCROOGE

Of course I do. Why would you think I don't? Is it something I said?

LILY

In words, no. In actions, yes. I'm proud of you Ebenezer, I really am. You've chosen to put your happiness above everything and everybody. I think it's time for me to do the same. I just hope you're happy with the choice you've made.

*Lily exits.*

E.B. SCROOGE

Go after her fool. Go get your woman, tell her you're sorry! Go get her! What's wrong with him?!

*Marley enters.*

MARLEY

She's gone?

YOUNG SCROOGE

I think so.

MARLEY

Don't worry, she'll be back. They always come back. Especially when she hears that you are officially a partner.

YOUNG SCROOGE

Partner?!

MARLEY

You heard it right partner. How does Marley and Scrooge Investments sounds?

YOUNG SCROOGE

It's got a ring to it.

MARLEY

It's got a ca-ching to it.

YOUNG SCROOGE

I gotta tell Lily.

MARLEY

There'll be time for that later. We're going to celebrate.

E.B. SCROOGE

Don't listen to him, go get your girl. Go tell her the good news!

MARLEY

First round on you since you're a partner now.

*Marley and Young Scrooge exit.*

E.B. SCROOGE

Stupid, just stupid. Why do you have me here in the past?

GHOST OF PAST

Because it's my job, duh.

E.B. SCROOGE

But why bring me here and torture me with these visions if I can't do anything to change them?

GHOST OF PAST

So that maybe, just maybe you'll consider them on your path ahead. And speaking of moving ahead come on, I have one more Christmas of Past to show you.

E.B. SCROOGE

I can't take anymore, I'm not going.

GHOST OF PAST

Look here, my shift's almost over and up there we may not come when you want but were always on time. So get up and let's go.

*The sound of magic is heard as the lights flash. Ghost of Past and Scrooge disappear.*

SCENE 7

*Mr. and Mrs. Montgomery, dressed formally enter.*

MR. MONTGOMERY

How's she feeling? Is she ready?

MRS. MONTGOMERY

Calm down dear, you're making everyone nervous.

MR. MONTGOMERY

Why aren't you nervous? This is big, this is huge, this is our baby.

MRS. MONTGOMERY

Because nerves aren't going to do anything but stress everyone out.

MR. MONTGOMERY

Okay, let me breathe.

MRS. MONTGOMERY

Thank you. Everything really turned out beautifully didn't it?

MR. MONTGOMERY

Only the best for my Lily.

*Ghost of Past and Scrooge enter.*

E.B. SCROOGE

Where are we? I don't remember this day.

GHOST OF PAST

Just give it a second.

MRS. MONTGOMERY

I couldn't be more proud of the woman we've raised.

MR. MONTGOMERY

She reminds me of her mother.

MRS. MONTGOMERY

And a fine mother she has.

MR. MONTGOMERY

Yes, a very fine mother she has. I want to thank you dear for standing by me through it all. We may not have all we once did

MRS. MONTGOMERY

But we have each other.

MR. MONTGOMERY

And that's more than enough for me.

MRS. MONTGOMERY

And now we'll have a son-in-law.

*Lily enters wearing a wedding dress.*

LILY

How do I look?

Like 2 million bucks. E.B. SCROOGE/MR. MONTGOMERY

No three, no four. MR. MONTGOMERY (CONT'D)

You look wonderful. MRS. MONTGOMERY

Is this Lily's wedding? E.B. SCROOGE

No it's a costume party. Of course it's her wedding. GHOST OF PAST

So why are we here? I didn't attend this God awful event, I didn't even know about it. I mean I heard about it but I wasn't invited. E.B. SCROOGE

That doesn't mean it wasn't a part of your past Ebenezer. The past affects the present even without being aware of it. GHOST OF PAST

I believe I'm ready to go home now. E.B. SCROOGE

Oh trust, you about to. I only got a couple minutes left. GHOST OF PAST

Have you calmed down enough daddy to walk me down the aisle? LILY

I'm getting there. MR. MONTGOMERY

He'll be fine. MRS. MONTGOMERY

*The Prayer by Donnie McClurkin and Yolanda Adams begins.*

It's time? LILY

It's time. MR. MONTGOMERY

It's time. I'm going to my seat. MRS. MONTGOMERY

*Carolers, Pastor, and GROOM enter.*

LILY

I'm nervous daddy.

MR. MONTGOMERY

No need to be nervous when you're following your heart.

LILY

I think I'm ready.

CAROLERS

(Singing)

I PRAY YOU'LL BE OUR EYES AND WATCH US WHERE WE GO  
 AND HELP US TO BE WISE IN TIMES WHEN WE DON'T KNOW  
 LET THIS BE OUR PRAYER WHEN WE LOSE OUR WAY  
 LEAD US TO A PLACE GUIDE US WITH YOUR GRACE  
 TO A PLACE WHERE WE'LL BE SAFE

*Groom comes and meets with Lily.*

CAROLERS (CONT'D)

(Singing)

I PRAY WE'LL FIND YOUR LIGHT  
 I PRAY WE'LL FIND YOUR LIGHT  
 AND HOLD IT IN OUR HEARTS  
 AND HOLD IT IN OUR HEARTS  
 WHEN STARS GO OUT EACH NIGHT  
 STARS GO OUT EACH NIGHT

CAROLERS (CONT'D)

(Singing)

REMIND US WHERE YOU ARE  
 REMIND US WHERE YOU ARE  
 LET THIS BE OUR PRAYER  
 LET THIS BE OUR PRAYER

CAROLERS (CONT'D)

(Singing)

WHEN SHADOWS FILL OUR DAY  
 WHEN SHADOWS FILL OUR DAY

CAROLERS (CONT'D)

OH, LORD, LEAD US TO A PLACE  
 GUIDE US WITH YOUR GRACE  
 GUIDE US WITH YOUR GRACE  
 GIVE US FAITH SO WE'LL BE  
 SAFE

PASTOR

Into this union may these two  
 now be joined. If any of you  
 can show just cause why they  
 may not be lawfully wed,  
 speak now or forever hold  
 your peace.

E.B. SCROOGE

I have something to say!!  
 Don't do it Lily, marry me,  
 Marry me. I'm sorry, I'm  
 sorry. I was dumb, I love  
 you.

GHOST OF PAST

She can't hear you Ebenezer.

PASTOR

I charge you both, here in  
 the presence of God and the  
 witness of this company, that  
 if either of you know any  
 reason why you may not be  
 married lawfully and in  
 accordance with God's Word,  
 do now confess it.

E.B. SCROOGE

Don't do it Lily.

GHOST OF PAST

Look at her, she's happy.

E.B. SCROOGE

I could've made her happy.

CAROLERS

(Singing)  
 A WORLD WHERE PAIN AND SORROW  
 WILL BE ENDED  
 AND EVERY HEART THAT'S BROKEN  
 WILL BE MENDED  
 AND WE'LL REMEMBER WE ARE ALL  
 GOD'S CHILDREN  
 REACHING OUT TO TOUCH YOU  
 REACHING TO THE SKY

PASTOR

Do you promise to live  
 together in the covenant of  
 marriage? To love each other,  
 comfort, honor and keep, in  
 sickness and in health; in  
 richer and poorer, and,  
 forsaking all others, be  
 faithful as long as you both  
 shall live?

LILY/GROOM

I do.

PASTOR

By the power invested in me, in the presence of God and all  
 these witnesses here today, I now pronounce you husband and  
 wife.

CAROLERS

(Singing)  
 WE ASK THAT LIFE BE KIND (WE  
 ASK THAT LIFE BE KIND)  
 AND WATCH US FROM ABOVE (AND  
 WATCH US FROM ABOVE)  
 WE HOPE EACH SOUL WILL FIND  
 (WE HOPE EACH SOUL WILL FIND)

E.B. SCROOGE

No Lily! Nooooo!!! Noo!!!

CAROLERS (CONT'D)

(Singing)  
 ANOTHER SOUL TO LOVE (ANOTHER  
 SOUL TO LOVE)  
 LET THIS BE OUR PRAYER (LET  
 THIS BE OUR PRAYER)  
 JUST LIKE EVERY CHILD (JUST  
 LIKE EVERY CHILD)  
 NEEDS TO FIND A PLACE

GHOST OF PAST

It's too late Ebenezer.

E.B. SCROOGE

No it's not, it's not too late.

*Scrooge begins tearing a part the wedding. He's doing  
 his best to stop it and destroy it but it's unseen by  
 the attendees.*

CAROLERS

(Singing)

GUIDE US WITH YOUR GRACE GIVE US FAITH SO WE'LL BE SAFE  
NEEDS TO FIND A PLACE

GUIDE US WITH YOUR GRACE GIVE US FAITH SO WE'LL BE SAFE

*Scrooge is completely undone and an emotional wreck as  
the happy married couple stands there.*

GHOST OF PAST

Oh you trying make me lose my job.

BLACK OUT.

ACT 2

## SCENE 1

## CAROLERS

(Singing)

SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT. ALL IS CALM, ALL IS BRIGHT  
 ROUND YON VIRGIN, MOTHER AND CHILD  
 HOLY INFANT SO TENDER AND MILD  
 SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE, SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE.

*The stage is dark and in the blackness a distant clock begins to chime as the lights flash again.*

*A dim light falls upon Scrooge. He is alone in the dark and exhausted from his encounter with Ghost of Past.*

*He rises to his feet and looks around uncertain of what to expect next.*

*Suddenly GHOST OF PRESENT, the second of the three spirits arrives.*

## GHOST OF PRESENT

Merry Christmas!!

*Scrooge screams.*

*Ghost of Present screams back.*

*Scrooge screams again.*

*Ghost of Present screams back.*

## E.B. SCROOGE

Why are you screaming at me?

## GHOST OF PRESENT

Because you screamed at me. I thought it was a fun game.

## E.B. SCROOGE

Let me guess you're the second spirit.

## GHOST OF PRESENT

That would be me. I'm Ghost of Present not to be confused with presents like under a tree or presents like I'm presenting you something even though I've been told my presence is like a present when I present the present to people. You see what I did there.

E.B. SCROOGE

Oh this is gonna be long. Look, I just have to be honest with you. I don't want to seem ungrateful but Ghost of Past really took a lot out of me. I don't think I have the energy for another round.

GHOST OF PRESENT

Isn't it funny how the past can weigh so heavy on you if you let it. Stand up and do this with me. Come on. I want you to take a deep breath in, now slowly exhale it out.

*Scrooge does the breathing technique with Ghost of Present a few times.*

GHOST OF PRESENT (CONT'D)

Do it again. Keep going. Keep going.

*Scrooge continues.*

GHOST OF PRESENT (CONT'D)

You're doing good. Just close your eyes exhale. Sometimes you'll laugh, sometimes you'll cry. Life never tells us, the when's or why's. When you've got friends, to wish you well. You'll find your point when you will exhale

(Singing)

SHOOP, SHOOP, SHOOP SHOOP BE DOOP

SHOOP, SHOOP, SHOOP BE DOOP

E.B. SCROOGE

Oh my goodness.

GHOST OF PRESENT

Sorry, you exhaled right into that one. But how do you feel now?

E.B. SCROOGE

I hate to say it worked.

GHOST OF PRESENT

Good, cause it's Christmas day Ebenezer. We need to go check in on some people.

E.B. SCROOGE

I truly wish not to.

GHOST OF PRESENT

What's wrong with you? You know there was a time when you enjoyed a Christmas day or two.

E.B. SCROOGE

That was many moons ago.

GHOST OF PRESENT

Well then you know the joy of giving and fun of receiving.  
It's not dead in you.

E.B. SCROOGE

You sure about that?

GHOST OF PRESENT

You can awaken these feelings of generosity and kindness. The choice is yours my friend; live as you have, or change.

E.B. SCROOGE

I'm too old, too stuck in my ways to change.

GHOST OF PRESENT

That's not true. In any given moment we have two options: to step forward in growth or step backwards into safety. Aren't you tired of playing it safe?

E.B. SCROOGE

Safety has made me a very rich and successful man. More people need to be like me and play it safe.

GHOST OF PRESENT

The most dangerous place a man can live is in a house that never grows. Change knows no class boundaries. It knows no age. It is shared by all regardless of race, gender, or wealth. Come with me and we shall see how even the poor have much to celebrate on Christmas Day.

*The sound of magic is heard as the lights flash. Ghost of Present and Scrooge disappear.*

## SCENE 2

*As the lights rise, Carolers, Pastor, TINY TIM, and Ms. Jackson are at a church service.*

*Oh What a Wonderful Child in the style of Mariah Carey starts.*

CAROLERS

(Singing)

JESUS, JESUS OH, WHAT A WONDERFUL CHILD  
JESUS, JESUS SO LOWLY MEEK AND MILD  
NEW LIFE, NEW HOPE, NEW JOY HE BRINGS  
WON'T YOU LISTEN TO THE ANGELS SING?  
GLORY, GLORY, GLORY TO THE NEWBORN KING  
JESUS, JESUS OH, WHAT A WONDERFUL CHILD  
JESUS, JESUS SO LOWLY MEEK AND MILD  
NEW LIFE, NEW HOPE, NEW JOY HE BRINGS  
WON'T YOU LISTEN TO THE ANGELS SING?  
GLORY, GLORY, GLORY TO THE NEWBORN KING

HE WAS HERALD BY THE ANGELS BORN IN A LOWLY MANGER  
 THE VIRGIN MARY WAS HIS MOTHER  
 AND JOSEPH WAS HIS EARTHLY FATHER, OH  
 THREE WISE MEN CAME FROM AFAR  
 THEY WERE GUIDED BY A SHINING STAR  
 TO SEE KING JESUS WHERE HE LAY  
 IN A MANGER FILLED WITH HAY, OH  
 JESUS, JESUS OH, WHAT A WONDERFUL CHILD  
 JESUS, JESUS SO LOWLY MEEK AND MILD  
 NEW LIFE, NEW HOPE, NEW JOY HE BRINGS  
 WON'T YOU LISTEN TO THE ANGELS SING?  
 GLORY, GLORY, GLORY TO THE NEWBORN KING OH, JESUS

*Ghost of Present and Scrooge enter.*

CAROLERS (CONT'D)

(Singing)

Jesus. Jesus. Jesus. Jesus. Jesus. Jesus. Jesus. Jesus. Jesus

PASTOR

We're gathered here today on the chosen day to honor the  
 birth of our savior.

CHURCH

Amen.

PASTOR

And what better way to start this day of family, love,  
 giving, receiving, and joy than with the ultimate joy of the  
 world.

CHURCH

Amen.

E.B. SCROOGE

Can we go back home? I don't want to hear this.

GHOST OF PRESENT

You oughta be grateful the place didn't burn down when you  
 walked in so let's stay a little while and hear the word.

PASTOR

It's testimony time church.

CHURCH

Amen!

PASTOR

Who wants to be the first to share about the goodness of  
 Jesus in their life?

*Ms. Jackson raises her hand.*

E.B. SCROOGE

That's Ms. Jackson. She works for me. I gave her today off.

PASTOR

Come on up Sis. Jackson.

MS. JACKSON

Praise the Lord church.

CHURCH

Praise the Lord.

MS. JACKSON

I won't be before you long but I do want to just say how grateful I am.

CHURCH

Amen.

MS. JACKSON

Many of you know my son Timmy has faced medical issues back to back to back but God has kept us. Even this morning I was gonna let him sleep in and rest but he told me "no mommy, we gotta go to church."

CHURCH

Amen.

MS. JACKSON

I worked really late last night and I was kinda tired so I tried again to tell him we could stay home today and he said, "No mommy. I need to be at church because I'm a cripple and what better day than Christmas for people to remember who made lame beggars walk and blind men see."

CHURCH

Amen!!

MS. JACKSON

I often wish I had his courage and his strength because it was hard for me to get out of bed today knowing I didn't have enough money to give my son the Christmas he deserves. I know you all see Timmy here at church and he looks well but family keep praying for us. The doctors may say one thing but I know the ultimate doctor.

CHURCH

Amen.

MS. JACKSON

Every day isn't easy and we're barely making it but I have faith to believe it's turning around.

PASTOR

Thank you so much Sis. Jackson for sharing. If you really believe turn to your neighbor and say I believe.

CHURCH

I believe.

PASTOR

Someone help Tiny Tim up here and let's pray for him church.

*Tiny Tim is escorted to the Pastor and everyone circles him for prayer.*

E.B. SCROOGE

I heard Ms. Jackson's son was sick but I never knew to what extent.

GHOST OF PRESENT

Did you ever ask?

E.B. SCROOGE

Well I guess not. What's the matter with him? Prayer is fine but why don't they get to him the best hospital, to see the best surgeons? What's the matter with her, does she not love her child? Does God not love her? Why is he punishing her?

GHOST OF PRESENT

Sometimes the answers to prayers don't come in the package their sought in.

E.B. SCROOGE

What does that mean?

GHOST OF PRESENT

If these shadows remain unaltered by the future, the child will die.

E.B. SCROOGE

Die? No. No, no, no - the Ghost of Christmas Past had no power to change things but surely you have that power. You're here in the present. Surely you can provide for the boy.

GHOST OF PRESENT

The power to change the world lies not with me but among the living.

PASTOR

So we speak life and not death. Full healing and restoration. Open up the windows of Heaven and pour out so much that he has room not to receive. In the mighty name of Jesus we pray and all God's people said

CHURCH

Amen.

MS. JACKSON  
God bless you church.

TINY TIM  
God bless us all!

CHURCH  
Amen.

TINY TIM  
God bless mommy, God bless Pastor, and God bless Mr. Scrooge.

CHURCH  
(Flabbergasted)  
MR. SCROOGE?!

TINY TIM  
Christmas is about loving everyone.

PASTOR  
This kid is truly something special. You're right Tiny Tim.  
God bless Bro. Scrooge.

CHURCH  
Bro. Scrooge.

CAROLERS  
(Singing)  
O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL, JOYFUL AND TRIUMPHANT  
O COME YE, O COME YE TO BETHLEHEM  
O COME AND BEHOLD HIM, BORN THE KING OF ANGELS  
O COME, LET US ADORE HIM O COME, LET US ADORE HIM  
O COME, LET US ADORE HIM CHRIST THE LORD

GHOST OF PRESENT  
Come let's go check on Freddie.

*Ghost of Present and Scrooge exit.*

CAROLERS  
(Singing)  
O COME, LET US ADORE HIM O COME, LET US ADORE HIM  
O COME, LET US ADORE HIM CHRIST THE LORD

*The sound of magic is heard as the lights flash.*

### SCENE 3

*As the lights rise Freddie is entertaining friends  
DARCY, MARCY, and GARCY.*

*Ghost of Present and Scrooge enter.*

GARCY  
Okay my turn. Is it living or dead.

FREDDIE  
Yes or no questions only Garcy.

GARCY  
Is it still alive?

FREDDIE  
Yes.

MARCY  
Is it animal.

FREDDIE  
Definitely.

DARCY  
An elephant?

FREDDIE  
No.

DARCY  
A hippo?

FREDDIE  
No and smaller.

GARCY  
Could it be a snake?

FREDDIE  
Kinda but not really. It's bigger.

DARCY  
A dog?

FREDDIE  
Yes.

DARCY  
Are you describing my second husband?

FREDDIE  
Okay let's not say it's a dog then.

GARCY  
It's alive and an animal but not a dog but is a dog.

MARCY  
Is it a jackass?

FREDDIE

Yes and no!

GARCY

Oooo I got it. It's your Uncle Scrooge!

FREDDIE

Ding, ding, ding.

*The women laugh.*

E.B. SCROOGE

Well that wasn't very funny.

GHOST OF PRESENT

I kind of thought so.

MARCY

Is he coming over today?

FREDDIE

Of course not.

DARCY

Why does he insist on being the Grinch every year?

MARCY

If I had his money, I'd never be mad.

GARCY

Girl, you couldn't pay me to be mad if I had his money.

DARCY

What good is all that money when you're miserable all the time?

FREDDIE

He wasn't always like that. I was going through some stuff my mom gave me that belonged to my dad and I found some old letters from Uncle E. He was a troubled kid but of good intentions. He was even about to marry this girl named Lily.

MARCY

Come on, spill the tea.

E.B. SCROOGE

Do NOT tell them my business and nobody's even drinking tea.

FREDDIE

The letters were beautiful. He was talking about the kind of husband and father he was going to be.

GARCY

I'm sorry but I can't imagine your uncle Scrooge as a father or husband.

E.B. SCROOGE

And why not? I would've been the best.

MARCY

Keep going, what happened?

FREDDIE

I don't know but for whatever reason they called it quits. But reading those letters made me long for the Ebenezer writing them. For the man with a gentle heart.

GARCY

You can't wish him into being the man you want him to be.

FREDDIE

I know, but I just believe that if I keep inviting him and keep showing him love year after year that even if he hates Christmas till the day he dies just maybe my kindness will cause him to be kind to someone else.

DARCY

You're better than me.

GARCY/MARCY

Me too.

DARCY

Let's take a shot to having a heart like Freddie's.

FREDDIE

No. Let's take a shot to Uncle E.

MARCY

Ummm you sure?

FREDDIE

Yes. To a long life, good health, and the discovery of true happiness, peace, and love. To Uncle Scrooge.

ALL

To Uncle Scrooge.

*They toast Scrooge.*

GHOST OF PRESENT

Freddie seems to really love you.

FREDDIE

She's a dreamer, just like her father. She has no head for business.

GHOST OF PRESENT

And yet she seems to be a lot happier than you.

E.B. SCROOGE

She's young and doesn't understand how cruel the world is.

GHOST OF PRESENT

Just because the world can be cruel is no reason for you to be. Come Ebenezer we must hurry.

*The sound of magic is heard as the lights flash. Ghost of Present and Scrooge disappear.*

SCENE 4

*The light is very dim and you can see SCROOGE STAND IN sitting at his desk. He's alone, working, and drinking.*

*Scrooge and Ghost of Present enter.*

E.B. SCROOGE

What are we doing in my office? And whose that at my desk?

GHOST OF PRESENT

You don't recognize him? Take a good look.

*Scrooge moves closer and realizes who it is.*

E.B. SCROOGE

It's.... It's me.

GHOST OF PRESENT

That's right.

E.B. SCROOGE

But why do I look so angry, and why's it so dark? And why am I.... alone? I'm alone on Christmas.

GHOST OF PRESENT

This is a sad reality compared to the hopefulness, joy, and laughter we seen earlier.

E.B. SCROOGE

Very.

GHOST OF PRESENT

Each man travels a road in life that leads him in certain directions. You yourself are on this road - but it need not be so.

E.B. SCROOGE

You really think I can change?

GHOST OF PRESENT

I think if you keep your face to the sun, you'll never have to worry about the shadow.

E.B. SCROOGE

Now call me crazy but I haven't the slightest idea what that means in this context.

*The stage goes dark and in the blackness a distant clock begins to chime as the lights flash again.*

GHOST OF PRESENT

Goodbye Ebenezer.

E.B. SCROOGE

Wait! Don't leave me yet. Don't leave. At least tell me what you meant.

*Scrooge Stand-In and Ghost of Present disappear.*

*Suddenly GHOST OF FUTURE, the third and final of the three spirits arrives.*

GHOST OF FUTURE

Yo what's up, it's ya boy G.O.F. YEET!! My entrance kinda slapped didn't it?

E.B. SCROOGE

Kinda what?

GHOST OF FUTURE

Slapped? Like I kinda ate that entrance.

E.B. SCROOGE

Ate?

GHOST OF FUTURE

Do you not speak English?!

E.B. SCROOGE

I'm very well versed in English and neither slapped nor ate made any sense in that sentence.

GHOST OF FUTURE

Hello good sir, I'm Ghost of Future. I believe I made an intriguing entrance. Wouldn't you agree?

E.B. SCROOGE

That's better.

GHOST OF FUTURE

Yeah, nah. No cap, I could never talk like that on the reg. What's goin' on with you big dawg?

E.B. SCROOGE

Well at first I was afraid to see my future but now I'm just afraid for the future.

GHOST OF FUTURE

I don't know what that means and I'm not gonna try and figure it out.

E.B. SCROOGE

My point exactly.

GHOST OF FUTURE

Look here, I can already tell you yap a lot and I'm not trying to hear all that. So we're gonna make this fast as possible. I'm here to show you the shadows of things that have not happened yet, but will happen in the future.

E.B. SCROOGE

Tonight has already been so much. I don't know how much more I can take.

GHOST OF FUTURE

Yeah, you taking that L at tha wedding was all up and down tha pearly gates timeline.

E.B. SCROOGE

The what? You know what, let's just get this started.

GHOST OF FUTURE

Bet.

*The sound of magic is heard as the lights flash. Ghost of Future and Scrooge disappear.*

SCENE 5

*Garcy, Darcy, and Marcy enter shortly after followed by Scrooge and Ghost of Future.*

MARCY

Garcy did you hear?

GARCY

Of course I heard Marcy but do you know when Darcy?

DARCY

I haven't the slightest idea. I heard it might've been days.

GARCY

I heard that the whole office smelt horribly.

MARCY

What was the matter with him?

DARCY

Besides his attitude?.... I don't know.

MARCY

What do you think he did with his money?

GARCY

I know he didn't leave any to what little family he had.

DARCY

He probably left it all to that stupid company.

MARCY

You really think so?

DARCY

I wouldn't be surprised but what I do know is he didn't leave any to me.

GARCY

You going to the service?

DARCY

Are pigs flying? I wouldn't be caught there.

MARCY

I honestly don't think I can name 5 people going.

GARCY

I'll go if the food's gonna be good at the repass.

DARCY

You really think he's gonna have food? He's too cheap for that.

MARCY

I don't think he ever bought anyone lunch when he was alive. Why would he go to the expense of buying us a lunch now that he's dead?

GARCY

Well if there's no repass I'm definitely not going.

*They start laughing as they exit.*

E.B. SCROOGE

Were those ladies talking about me?

GHOST OF FUTURE

It's giving you're a pretty horrible person.

E.B. SCROOGE

They couldn't have been talking about me.

GHOST OF FUTURE

If that's what you want to believe. Let's go see another.

*The sound of magic is heard as the lights flash. Ghost of Future and Scrooge disappear.*

SCENE 6

*As the lights rise, Mr. White is carrying a bag full of items in a dark and scary alley.*

*He approaches ALLEY MAN, a sketchy looking criminal.*

*Scrooge and Ghost of Future enter.*

GHOST OF FUTURE

Ngl, this place gives me the icks.

E.B. SCROOGE

I'm not sure I know what you said but I do believe I agree. Do I end up homeless, alone, in a dark and terrible alley?

GHOST OF FUTURE

Bro, just watch and see.

ALLEY MAN

You the one from the gram?

MR. WHITE

It's me.

E.B. SCROOGE

That's Mr. White, one of my assistants. Surely, he cares.

ALLEY MAN

Was a little nervous responding to your message. You blue tie types always kinda ify.

MR. WHITE

I'm sorry but how does this work? This is my first time doing this kind of thing.

E.B. SCROOGE

What business could he possibly have here?

ALLEY MAN

I got you man.

MR. WHITE

So where should we start?

ALLEY MAN

Pull it out, let me see what you got.

GHOST OF FUTURE

This is sus.

*Mr. White begins pulling out items from the bag.*

MR. WHITE

I have only a few items, but they're of good quality.

*He first pulls out a suit.*

E.B. SCROOGE

Hey, that's my suit!!

GHOST OF FUTURE

It's kinda bussin.

E.B. SCROOGE

What's he about to do with my stuff?!

ALLEY MAN

Come on man, what can I do with a suit?

MR. WHITE

It's really quite expensive.

E.B. SCROOGE

\$2700 to be exact. Oh, wait till he comes back into work, the police will be there to meet him.

MR. WHITE

Possibly the most costly one he had.

ALLEY MAN

I'll give you \$95 for it.

E.B. SCROOGE

\$95?!

MR. WHITE

Done.

E.B. SCROOGE

\$95?! I'm offended. Mr. White was never a good businessman.

MR. WHITE

This you might like.

*Mr. White pulls an older model iphone out.*

GHOST OF FUTURE

Bro what is that?

E.B. SCROOGE

That's my phone. How did he get that? I need that.

GHOST OF FUTURE

What's that like a 7 or a 8?? No cap bro, you're gonna be lucky if he even buys that.

ALLEY MAN

Now this, I can do something with. I'll give you \$25.

E.B. SCROOGE

\$25?! I paid almost \$600 for that.

GHOST OF FUTURE

Yeah how long ago?

E.B. SCROOGE

I don't know maybe the early 2000's.

GHOST OF FUTURE

DAAAANNNGGGG!! Like when Rosa Parks was alive?

ALLEY MAN

Take it or leave it?

MR. WHITE

I left all the contacts on there. That's sure to get you at least triple the business. I need at least \$100.

E.B. SCROOGE

He's trying to ruin my business isn't he?

GHOST OF FUTURE

There's no way he's getting a benny for that.

ALLEY MAN

I'll take it.

GHOST OF FUTURE

Yooooo!!! That's wild. And to think the suit cost more. This is mad fun.

E.B. SCROOGE

I'm glad you're enjoying yourself and I hope Mr. White is as well. I just might go to his house when we finish here and give him a piece of my mind.

MR. WHITE

Last thing I could get.

*Mr. White pulls out a watch.*

GHOST OF FUTURE

Ooooo that's saucy.

E.B. SCROOGE

No, it's a rolex.

GHOST OF FUTURE

Yeah, I know, it's saucy.

E.B. SCROOGE

No it's a watch.

GHOST OF FUTURE

I know and it's mad saucy and you gotta have the rizz to pull it off.

E.B. SCROOGE

Where did you learn English?

MR. WHITE

It's a little older but I know it's worth a lot.

MR. WHITE (CONT'D)

It's his favorite.

E.B. SCROOGE

It's my favorite.

MR. WHITE (CONT'D)

He wore it every day but it's of no use to him now.

ALLEY MAN

How'd you get it?

MR. WHITE

Took it off his cold body before they took him the morgue.

E.B. SCROOGE

The morgue?

MR. WHITE

To think they we're gonna bury him in it.

E.B. SCROOGE

Bury?.... Am I... Am I?

ALLEY MAN

Didn't take you for the type, Blue Tie.

MR. WHITE

It's more about him and less about me. Had he not scared everybody off while he was living, there might've been someone around to see him take his last breath.

ALLEY MAN

Everyone must've really hated the guy.

MR. WHITE

I didn't but I should've. Frankly it's kinda embarrassing. But there had to come a day when I start to put myself and my responsibilities first. It's what he'd want me to do.

ALLEY MAN

Hey man, you don't have to explain nothin' to me. I'll give you \$300 for the rollie.

MR. WHITE

Thank you.

ALLEY MAN

So that's about what? 420?!

MR. WHITE

To my calculations, yes.

ALLEY MAN

Throw the bag in and make it an even \$500.

E.B. SCROOGE

That's Coach.

ALLEY MAN

What's ya cashapp, I got you right now.

E.B. SCROOGE

This isn't right, I'm ready to go home now. I don't need to see anymore. I get the lesson you're trying to teach me.

GHOST OF FUTURE

Which is?????....

E.B. SCROOGE

It's that.. Well that... Well.. You know.

GHOST OF FUTURE

Yeah, nah, I don't. Let's see another.

*The sound of magic is heard as the lights flash.*

SCENE 7

*As the lights rise, Pastor and Ms. Jackson enter. Ms. Jackson is in mourning.*

PASTOR

My heart aches for you in this unimaginable loss. There are no words to truly ease the pain, but please know that I am here with you, and I will walk alongside you through this difficult journey.

E.B. SCROOGE

That's Ms. Jackson.

PASTOR

Though we may not understand why such pain enters our lives, we hold fast to the belief that your child is now in the arms of our loving God, free from suffering and surrounded by peace and eternal light.

E.B. SCROOGE

Oh no, is something wrong with Timothy?

PASTOR

God is close to the brokenhearted, and though it feels like the world has been shattered, He is with you, offering His comfort. He has promised to wipe away every tear, and we trust in His presence during this painful time.

E.B. SCROOGE

Why did this happen?

PASTOR

Grief is a long road, but God's strength will carry you through. Even in the darkest valleys, His light is with us. He will give you the courage to face each day, and together we will find ways to honor your child's memory.

*Freddie enters.*

FREDDIE

Ms. Jackson! I came as soon as I heard. I'm so sorry. He was such a strong boy.

MS. JACKSON

He fought until the very last minute.

FREDDIE

You know I'm here for you right?

MS. JACKSON

Thank you.

FREDDIE

I've already started collecting money from family and friends and we put up a Gofund me in Tiny Tim's honor. You're gonna be alright Ms. Jackson, we're all here for you.

E.B. SCROOGE

To think she doesn't have the money to bury her son.

GHOST OF FUTURE

She barely had the money to live with what you paid her. People can't live off minimum wage.

E.B. SCROOGE

Well what about her insurance? I'm sure she has good insurance.

GHOST OF FUTURE

Pre-existing conditions, cost, eligibility. Yeah right. What should be very simple and very accessible is difficult and politized.

FREDDIE

And don't worry, I've already spoken to a few friends and whenever you're ready I have some job interviews lined up for you.

MS. JACKSON

Thank you Freddie, thank you Pastor. I know I have tears but they're not all sad. Timmy brought me so much joy and encouragement. Believe it or not he taught me how to fight. How to keep going and that's what I'll do. I'm gonna keep fighting and keep going.

PASTOR

Tiny Tim was special.

FREDDIE

He was amazing.

MS. JACKSON

He is forever with me.

*They hug Ms. Jackson and comfort her grief.*

E.B. SCROOGE

This is all too much. I can't bear to watch her grieve any longer. I wish to return home.

GHOST OF FUTURE

Okay, okay. Let's get pops back to the crib-o before he crashes.

*The sound of magic is heard as the lights flash.*

SCENE 8

*The lights are dark and dim. There appears to be an empty grave and headstone.*

*The sounds of "Goin Up Yonder" are sung very dark, slow and eerily.*

CAROLERS

(Singing)  
IF YOU WANT TO KNOW WHERE I'M  
GOING, WHERE I'M GOING SOON

E.B. SCROOGE

Wait this isn't my home....  
Is it?

CAROLERS (CONT'D)  
 (Singing)  
 IF ANYBODY ASK YOU WHERE I'M  
 GOING, WHERE I'M GOING SOON

E.B. SCROOGE (CONT'D)  
 Answer me kid. Is this my  
 home?

CAROLERS (CONT'D)  
 (Singing)  
 IF YOU WANT TO KNOW WHERE I'M  
 GOING, WHERE I'M GOING SOON

E.B. SCROOGE (CONT'D)  
 At least tell me, are these  
 the shadows of the things  
 that will be or are they  
 shadows of things that may be  
 only?

CAROLERS (CONT'D)  
 (Singing)  
 IF ANYBODY ASK YOU WHERE I'M  
 GOING, WHERE I'M GOING SOON

E.B. SCROOGE (CONT'D)  
 Why won't you answer me?!!!

CAROLERS (CONT'D)  
 (Singing)  
 IF YOU WANT TO KNOW WHERE I'M  
 GOING, WHERE I'M GOING SOON

E.B. SCROOGE (CONT'D)  
 Yes, men's actions foreshadow  
 certain ends, to which, if  
 persevered, they must lead.  
 But if the courses be  
 departed from, the ends will  
 change. Is this not true?

MARLEY (O.S)  
 (Ghostly whisper  
 Scrooge.

E.B. SCROOGE  
 NO...

MARLEY (O.S)  
 (Ghostly whisper  
 Scrooge.

E.B. SCROOGE  
 NOOO!!!!!!

MARLEY (O.S)  
 (Ghostly whisper  
 Scrooge.

E.B. SCROOGE  
 Please spirit, have mercy on me. I'm not the man I was, I can  
 change, I can change, I can change!!!!

MARLEY (O.S)  
 (Ghostly whisper  
 Scrooge.

E.B. SCROOGE  
 I will honor Christmas in my heart. I will not shut out the  
 lessons of this night.

I will live in the Past, the Present, and the Future. The Spirits of all three shall strive within me.

MARLEY (O.S)  
 (Ghostly whisper  
 It's time now Scrooge.

E.B. SCROOGE  
 Noooooooooooooo!!!!

*It goes completely dark.*

CAROLERS  
 (Singing)  
 I'M GOIN' UP YONDER. I'M GOIN' UP YONDER. I'M GOIN' UP  
 YONDER.

SCENE 9

CAROLERS  
 (Singing)  
 I'M GOIN' UP YONDER. I'M GOIN' UP YONDER. I'M GOIN' UP  
 YONDER.

*As the lights rise Scrooge appears in his office.  
 Tossing and turning.*

E.B. SCROOGE  
 No Spirit, please forgive me. I am a changed man. A changed man. Oh my word, ha, ha, ha, I'm alive! Oh, thank the Lord. Thank the Lord, I am alive! I'm alive!

*Mr. White enters into the office.*

MR. WHITE  
 Good morning Mr. Scrooge. I should've known you'd be here.

E.B. SCROOGE  
 Mr. White?! What are you doing here, I gave you the day off.

MR. WHITE  
 The only gift I got my wife was a Christmas card and of course I left it on my desk.

E.B. SCROOGE  
 Christmas?! It's Christmas morning. Merry Christmas Mr. White!

MR. WHITE  
 I'm sorry sir, what did you say?

E.B. SCROOGE  
 I said Merry Christmas!

MR. WHITE

Ummmm, are you not feeling well sir?

E.B. SCROOGE

Quite the opposite. I feel wonderful. I feel alive.

*Scrooge's cell phone rings.*

E.B. SCROOGE (CONT'D)

My phone?! You haven't stolen my phone.

*Scrooge answers the phone.*

E.B. SCROOGE (CONT'D)

Marley & Scrooge Investments are closed for Christmas call back..... after New Year!

MR. WHITE

Maybe you should sit down sir and drink some vodka, you're acting quite strange.

E.B. SCROOGE

Something quite amazing happened to me last name Mr. White. I saw Jacob and he brought me to these ghost and the first one was kind of sassy, and the second quite funny, and the last one didn't speak English yet made the most sense.

MR. WHITE

Mr. Marley?? Ghost? Sir you might need to go home and lie down.

E.B. SCROOGE

I'm fine, I'm fine, I'm fine. You hurry up and enjoy your family today, tell them all I said Merry Christmas.

*Mr. White grabs his card.*

MR. WHITE

I'm sure they won't believe me. Ummm, get some rest Mr. Scrooge and maybe call me if you need anything.

E.B. SCROOGE

Mr. White.... Thank you for caring. You're a good man, never change that about you.

MR. WHITE

Well thank you.

E.B. SCROOGE

I'm sorry I can't give you your check early.

MR. WHITE

I'm sorry for even asking, I know better.

E.B. SCROOGE

Bah! Humbug. What are you apologizing to me for? It's me who owes you an apology and what better way to apologize on Christmas than with cash.

MR. WHITE

Cash?! For me?! Oh no sir I couldn't.

E.B. SCROOGE

You can and you will. Now how much was that alley man going to give you for my belongings?

MR. WHITE

Alley man? I don't know what you mean.

E.B. SCROOGE

Good! Just checking. Here's \$1000. I'm sorry it's so late but maybe you can still run off and make this a day to remember for your family.

MR. WHITE

Thank you Mr. Scrooge, thank you.

E.B. SCROOGE

No, thank you. Now off you go.

MR. WHITE

Yes sir! Merry Christmas.

E.B. SCROOGE

Merry Christmas to you too.

*A distant clock rings.*

E.B. SCROOGE (CONT'D)

Church! Ebenezer Scrooge is going to church!

*He runs off.*

SCENE 10

*Joy to the World is playing.*

*Everyone including, Pastor, Freddie, Tiny Tim, Ms. Jackson, Darcy, Garcy, Marcy, and Mr. White are at church.*

CAROLERS

(Singing)

JOY TO THE WORLD THE LORD IS COME  
LET EARTH RECEIVE HER KING  
LET EVERY HEART PREPARE HIM ROOM

AND HEAVEN AND NATURE SING AND HEAVEN AND NATURE SING  
AND HEAVEN AND HEAVEN AND NATURE SING

PASTOR  
Praise the Lord saints.

CHURCH  
Praise the Lord.

PASTOR  
God is good.

CHURCH  
All the time.

PASTOR  
And all the time.

CHURCH  
God is good.

PASTOR  
As we celebrate Christmas, let's reflect on the true meaning of this season. The birth of Jesus is a story of hope, love, and peace. It is a reminder that no matter how dark the world may seem, the light of Christ shines brighter. Just as the shepherds rejoiced and shared the good news, we too are called to spread the message of God's love and salvation.

*Scrooge enters into the church.*

E.B. SCROOGE  
Hallelujah!

*The church is confused.*

E.B. SCROOGE (CONT'D)  
I know I haven't been here in a while but isn't that what you say?!

PASTOR  
Bro. Scrooge.... How.... shocking to see you.

E.B. SCROOGE  
Oh yes Pastor, I couldn't stay working on a day like this. I needed to be here with all of you.

GARCY  
He can't be talking about us?

DARCY  
Surely ain't talking about us.

MARCY

You know he ain't talkin about us.

E.B. SCROOGE

I am. All of you and especially you Freddie.

FREDDIE

Are you okay Uncle E?

E.B. SCROOGE

Why does everyone keep asking me that today?

FREDDIE

You're acting pretty

E.B. SCROOGE/FREDDIE (CONT'D)

Strange.

E.B. SCROOGE (CONT'D)

I know. It's just that last night ya Uncle Marley came to visit me and then he sent to me these ghost and the ghost showed me your father, Freddie, I seen your father. And then they reminded me I was in love and then your friends were talking about me, and Tiny Tim was courageous and brave. And Mr. White stole my stuff but he didn't really steal my stuff and the singing oh the beautiful singing but the scary singing and now I'm here. I'm here.

GARCY

He's officially lost it.

DARCY

Dropped it off and can't be found.

MARCY

Nurse he's out again.

E.B. SCROOGE

I know it sounds crazy but it's true, it's all true.

PASTOR

God speaks to us all in mysterious ways. It seems to me Bro. Scrooge that you just needed to be reminded of the fruits of the spirit which are love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

E.B. SCROOGE

You're right. Christmas is a kind, forgiving, and a charitable time. A time when men and women open their hearts and think of their fellow man. A time for mercy, charity, and benevolence. I hope you all can show me that as I will honor Christmas and keep it all the year long.

FREDDIE

I can't believe what I'm hearing.

TINY TIM

I can.

E.B. SCROOGE

Timothy, I couldn't be happier to see you. Come give me a hug.

*Tiny Tim hugs Scrooge.*

TINY TIM

Me and mommy prayed for you this morning.

E.B. SCROOGE

Well thank you but it's me that should be praying for you. My Big Mama use to say that faith without work is dead and you have a lot of faith so I'm going to put in a lot of work. First things first, I'm going to raise your salary Ms. Jackson and make sure you get the best healthcare possible.

MS. JACKSON

I know you lyin.

E.B. SCROOGE

No I'm telling the truth. We have to get Timothy here strong and healthy.

MS. JACKSON

Thank you so much Mr. Scrooge.

E.B. SCROOGE

And Freddie... If you'll have me I'd love to come to dinner today.

FREDDIE

There's always room for you at the table Uncle E.

E.B. SCROOGE

Can I sit next to that Darcy friend of yours?

CHURCH

Ooooooooo.

DARCY

Don't make me blush.

E.B. SCROOGE

I'll take that as a yes. Well what are we waiting for? Let's go!

PASTOR

Hold up, we still gotta take offering.

E.B. SCROOGE

Today Pastor, the offering is on me.

PASTOR

Well God bless you Bro. Scrooge.

CHURCH

God bless Bro. Scrooge.

TINY TIM

Merry Christmas Mr. Scrooge.

E.B. SCROOGE

Merry Christmas Timothy and Merry Christmas to you all!

CAROLERS

(Singing)

WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS

WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS

WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

FREDDIE

(To the audience)

Don't you just love the Christmas season honey? I know I do. It's a time of joy and celebration, of warm feelings and tasty snacks. It's the honoring of the birth of our savior and what could be better than that? Christmas just seems to bring the best out in people both young and old. Even a grumpy old grinch learned how to show compassion and love. So this Christmas I challenge you to let go of that Scrooge. To be joyful, cheerful, and kind to everyone. Because after all, that's why He sent his son. So what better gift to give than to imitate his love?

E.B. SCROOGE

Freddie, are you on that Tiktok again? Seeing ghost, normal. Talking to yourself is what's concerning.

FREDDIE

I'm fine Uncle E.

E.B. SCROOGE

Now can we sing one of those chocolate Christmas songs?! I want to jam.

THE END.