



CHRISTMAS EVE! Bob Cratchit, the father of crippled Tiny Tim, joined celebrating children. A clerk for Scrooge, mean old miser, Bob was much overworked and much underpaid.



THE ghost of Jacob Marley, seven years dead, doing tortured penance for greed—his old partner, appearing to herald the coming of three Spirits, to warn Scrooge to forsake heartless ways.

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A CHRISTMAS CAROL

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THE window opened itself; Marley's ghost floated into the night. Such phantoms filled the air, wandering, wailing. They would have relieved human misery, but had lost the power forever.



THE Ghost of Christmas Past, first of the three Spirits, took Scrooge back into his youth. Fezziwig, his employer, made Christmas eve merry... stood out to dance with Mrs. Fezziwig.



AND then the Spirit took Scrooge into the home of the girl he might have married, had he not loved gold more; a mother now, happy children about her on Christmas eve; and...



THE father, bearing gifts to the home that might have been the miser's, is stormed by the shouting troop of youngsters. ("Remove me!" Scrooge cried to the Spirit; "I cannot bear it!")



NEXT, in the Cratchit's, all past, he gave him a view to Christmas with the Ghost of Christmas Present; and there Scrooge heard Tiny Tim's Christmas wish: "God bless every one!"



THIRD and last, the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come, black-draped, stopped the miser beside acquaintances. Said one: "Old Scratch has got his own, hey?"... Scrooge?... Dead?



IN a fitful doze the miser found himself and the Ghost. "But certain!" cried Scrooge, "you look 'em down with the lying dead?" "Said the woman?" He isn't likely to take hold!



SURPRISED, after all this, to awake and find himself alive, Scrooge set about making generous amends for a misspent life. He found a welcome on Christmas at Nephew Fred's. He...



RAISED Cratchit's salary, became a second father to Tiny Tim. "He knew how to keep Christmas well, if any man alive possessed the knowledge. May that truly be said about us!"