

SCENE 3.
SCROOGE'S PARLOUR. NIGHT.

(SCROOGE enters his house and changes into a dressing gown. He lights the candles, checks the receipts in a cash box on the mantle.)

SCROOGE

(Sneezes.)

Damn, Cratchit!

(SCROOGE pokes the fire, then sits down with his gruel. Gradually, nodding a bit, he begins to hear voices, reminding him of his day. He shakes them off and returns to his meal. Suddenly, bells begin to ring all over the house. Voices wail, books fall off shelves. Smoke billows out from the fireplace and the GHOST OF MARLEY materializes from within it in a puff of smoke. MARLEY is weighed down with chains, safeboxes and large metal keys and wails piteously.)

SCROOGE

(Terrified, but caustic as ever.)

How now! What do you want of me?

Scrooge & Marley Re-write to replace **page 25**

MARLEY

Much!

SCROOGE

Who are you?

MARLEY

Ask me who I *was*.

SCROOGE

Who *were* you then?

MARLEY

In life I was your partner Jacob Marley.

SCROOGE

(looking at him more closely)

Jacob?

MARLEY

You don't believe in me?

SCROOGE

Why should I?

MARLEY

Why do you doubt your senses?

SCROOGE

Because, a little thing effects them. You may be an undigested bit of beef, a blot of mustard, a crumb of cheese, an underdone potato! There is more of gravy than of grave about you, whatever you are!

(MARLEY Screams horribly and rattles his chains. Along with Marley's screams we hear the screams of other tortured souls)

I believe, I believe! But show me mercy, dear spirit! Show me mercy. Speak comfort to me.

MARLEY

I have none to give, Ebenezer in life nor in death. My spirit never walked beyond our counting house. In life my spirit never roamed beyond the narrow limits of our dark, money changing holes.

SCROOGE

You *were* always a good man of business, Jacob.

MARLEY

Business! Mankind was my business. The common welfare was my business; charity, mercy, forbearance, and benevolence, were, all my business. The dealings of my trade were nothing compared to the true nature of my business.

SCROOGE

But, we built a fine business. We had great success-

MARLEY

Ah, but Ebenezer true success is not measured by what you have but by who you are.

SCROOGE

But Jacob all we are is what we have. We are driven by what we can obtain and measure and weigh-

(MARLEY and the lost souls scream again. SCROOGE cowers)

SCROOGE

Please Jacob torment me no further! Why do you walk the earth. And why do you trouble me?

MARLEY

IT IS REQUIRED OF EVERYMAN
THAT HIS SPIRIT TRAVEL FAR,
LENDING HELP TO THOSE HE CAN
NO MATTER WHO THEY ARE.
BUT IF YOU DON'T GO FORTH IN LIFE
SPREADING JOY AND EASING PAIN.
YOUR SPIRIT WILL GO FORTH IN DEATH,
AND YOU SHALL WEAR A CHAIN!!

(cont. on original page 26)