

# A Christmas Carol

by Charles Dickens

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# A Christmas Carol

by Charles Dickens

*Directed by Christian Flint and Paul Stebbings*

*Music by Tom Johnson*

*Produced by Grantly Marshall*

"Marley was dead". Marley was the partner of Scrooge, a mean, bad-tempered merchant who strikes fear and discomfort in the hearts of all he meets; not least his poor clerk, Bob Cratchit, who on Christmas Eve is working late in a freezing cold office for a miserly wage. Reluctantly Scrooge lets him go home to celebrate Christmas with his family, but refuses to accept his Christmas wishes. "Humbug!" he replies. Likewise he turns away carol singers, his nephew Fred, who invites him to dinner, and a gentleman collecting money for the poor. Cynically Scrooge asks him "Is there no Poor Law, are there no Workhouses?" "Many can't go there; and many would rather die." "If they would rather die, they had better do it and decrease the surplus population," replies Scrooge.

But Scrooge notices none of this as he walks back to his huge and desolate house. As he opens the door he thinks he sees in the door-knocker the face of his dead partner, Marley. Humbug, he decides - but sees it again in the fire-place. Three ghosts will come to visit Scrooge: the Ghost of Christmas Past, the Ghost of Christmas Present and the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come. These three ghosts in turn take Scrooge through life: back to his own unhappy childhood when he still had feelings for others; to families and homes celebrating Christmas with love and joy, even the poorest of them like the Cratchits with their crippled son, Tiny Tim; and finally into the future, where he sees a body lying on his bed, hears people discussing his death, is shown his own gravestone and visits a den of thieves where his belongings, even his own clothes, are being sold.

After these shattering revelations Scrooge realises how much happiness he has missed in his life and how much unhappiness he has caused. He repents and decides to change his ways - which he does with gusto! He visits his nephew Fred with Christmas greetings, he gives a large sum of money to the poor, he sends the biggest turkey in the town to the Cratchits, and gives Bob a rise in pay - in short he becomes a true - and happy Christian gentleman. "And it was said of him that he knew how to keep Christmas well, if any man alive possessed the knowledge. May that be truly said of us, and all of us. And so, as Tiny Tim observed, God bless Us Every One!"

**Duration: 90 min. | Study Material: free of charge**

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