

## SCROOGE

When I looked up to find the spirit gone, I was elated to find that I was back in my own bedroom. I will live in the Past, the Present, and the Future! I repeated this, as I scrambled out of bed. The Spirits of all Three shall strive within me. I don't know what to do! I am as light as a feather, I am as happy as an angel, I am as merry as a schoolboy. I am as giddy as a drunken man. A merry Christmas to everybody! A happy New Year to all the world. Hello here! Whoop! Hello! I don't know what day of the month it is! I don't know how long I've been among the Spirits. I don't know anything. I'm quite a baby. Never mind. I don't care. I'd rather be a baby. What a fool I've been! All these years, wasting away in the cold embrace of greed and selfishness. But no more! The spirits have shown me the error of my ways, and I am reborn this Christmas Day!

Oh, how my heart swells with the joy and spirit of the season! The very air seems crisp with possibility, and every face I see on the street glows with the warmth of fellowship. How could I have been so blind to this beauty for so long?

From this day forward, I vow to keep Christmas in my heart all year round. No more will Ebenezer Scrooge be a name that brings a chill to the bones of honest folk. No, sir! I shall be a beacon of charity and goodwill to all!

First things first – the Cratchits. That poor family has suffered under my miserly ways for far too long. Bob Cratchit, my faithful clerk, deserves so much more than I've given him. I'll start by sending them the largest, plumpest goose that money can buy! Little Tim shall have a feast fit for a king, and I'll not rest until I've seen to it that he receives the best medical care available. That boy will walk without his crutch, mark my words!

And my dear nephew Fred! How patient he's been with his crusty old uncle. Well, no more shall he extend invitations in vain. I look forward to being a regular guest at his table, sharing in the laughter and love that I've denied myself for so long. His lovely wife will surely think me mad at first, but I'll win her over with my newfound cheer. Perhaps I'll even learn to play one of those silly party games they're so fond of!

There's so much joy to be found in this world, and I've been a fool to ignore it. The simple pleasure of a walk in the park, the laughter of children building snowmen, the warmth of a cup of cocoa shared with friends – these are the true riches of life, and I intend to savor every moment.

I'll use my wealth not to isolate myself, but to spread happiness wherever I can. Donations to worthy charities, yes, but more than that – I'll give my time and energy to those in need. Perhaps I'll read stories to the children at the orphanage, or help serve meals at the poorhouse. There's no end to the good that can be done, and I've wasted far too much time already.

This Christmas marks the beginning of a new chapter in the life of Ebenezer Scrooge. Gone is the miserly old skinflint, and in his place stands a man determined to make the most of every precious day. I've been given a second chance, and I intend to make the most of it!

So let the bells ring out, let the carolers sing, and let every heart be merry! For Ebenezer Scrooge has found the true spirit of Christmas, and he'll never let it go again! God bless us, every one!

I dressed myself in my best, and at last got out into the streets. In the afternoon I ventured towards my nephew's house, and passed the door a dozen times, before I had the courage to go up and knock. Something I never would have done before. We laughed and sang and had the most wonderful time. I even joined in on a game of charades and guess what? I won!

(He breaks into a hearty laugh, radiating happiness.)

SCROOGE: (cont.)

Who knew that a simple game could bring so much joy? And that is the true spirit of Christmas, isn't it? To find joy in the simplest of things and to spread love and kindness to those around us.

(He looks at the audience with a sincere expression.)

Ebenezer: (cont.) My dear friends, I may have wasted so many years being bitter and angry, but I have finally learned the true meaning of Christmas. And I promise to keep its spirit alive in my heart all year round.

(With a warm smile, he bids farewell to the audience and heads off to continue his newfound mission of spreading joy and cheer.)

Ebenezer: (cont.) Merry Christmas to all, and may we all be blessed with a second chance at happiness. And so, as Tiny Tim observed, God bless Us, Every One!