

SCENE NINE

SCROOGE

Let me see some tenderness connected with a death or that dark chamber will be forever present to me.

(The Cratchit home is revealed. Mrs. Cratchit, Martha, and Belinda are sewing a burial shroud. Peter reads from the Bible.)

PETER

And he called a little child, and sat him in the midst of them and said, verily I say unto you, except ye become as little children or ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. What's wrong mother?

MRS. CRATCHIT

The color hurts my eyes. They're better now. The candlelight makes them weak and I wouldn't show weak eyes to your father when he comes home for the world. It must be near his time.

PETER

Past it rather. But I think he has walked a little slower than he used to these last few evenings, mother.

MRS. CRATCHIT

I have know him to walk with—I have know him to walk with Tiny Tim upon his shoulder, very fast indeed.

MARTHA

As so have I, often.

BELINDA

And so have I.

PETER

And I.

MRS. CRATCHIT

But he was very light to carry and his father loved him so, that it was no trouble, no trouble. And there is your father at the door!

MARTHA

Hello father, we've have your tea ready for you.