

SCENE FIVE

GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT

Come Scrooge.

SCROOGE

But the party?

GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT

The night has grown long...and I am now much older now.

SCROOGE

Are Spirits' lives so short?

GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT

My life upon this globe, is very brief. It ends tonight.

SCROOGE

Tonight!

GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT

Tonight at midnight. Hark! That time is drawing near.

SCROOGE

Forgive me if I am not justified in what I ask but I see something strange, and not belonging to yourself, protruding from your skirts. Is it a foot or a claw?

GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT

It might be a claw, for there is very little flesh upon it. Look here! Oh Man! Look here! (Ignorance and Want appear from under her robe.)

SCROOGE

Spirit, are they yours?

GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT

They are Man's. They cling to me. This boy is Ignorance. The girl is Want. Beware them both, and all of their degree, but most of all beware this boy, for on his brow I see that written which is Doom, unless the writing be erased.

SCROOGE

Have they no refuge?

GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT

Are there no prisons? Are there no workhouses? Are there no prisons? Are there no workhouses? Are there no prisons? Are there no workhouses?

(The ghost disappears and Scrooge is alone. The bell tolls three. A solemn Phantom appears through the mist.)