

SCENE SIX

SCHOOLMASTER

(Ring s the school bell.) Bring down Master Scrooge's box, there!

BOY SCROOGE

Fan!

SCROOGE

My little sister!

FAN

I have come to bring you home, dear brother! To bring you home, home, home!

BOY SCROOGE

Home, little Fan?

FAN

Yes! Home, for good and all. Home, for ever and ever. Father is so much kinder than he used to be, that home's like Heaven! He spoke so gently to me one dear night, that I was not afraid to ask him once more if you might come home; and he said Yes, you should; and sent me in a coach to bring you. And you're to be a man! And are never to come back here; but first, we're to be together all the Christmas long, and have the merriest time in all the world.

BOY SCROOGE

Thank you, Fan!

(Young Scrooge and Fan run off laughing together.)

GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PAST

Always a delicate creature, whom a breath might have withered. But she had a large heart!

SCROOGE

So she had. You're right, I will not deny it, Spirit. God forbid!

GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PAST

She died a woman and had, as I think, children.

SCROOGE

One child.