

SCENE SIX

SCROOGE

I am in the presence of the Ghost of Christmas Yet To Come?

You are about to show me shadows of the things that have not happened, but will happen in the time before us. Is that not so, Spirit?

Ghost of the Future! I fear you more than any spectre I have seen. But as I know your purpose is to do me good, and as I hope to live to be another man from what I was, I am prepared to bear you company, and do it with a thankful heart. Will you not speak to me?

Lead on! Lead on! The night is waning fast, and it is precious to me, I know. Lead on, Spirit!

SOLICITOR #1

How are you?

SOLICITOR #2

Well! How are you?

SOLICITOR #1

Cold, isn't it?

SOLICITOR #2

Seasonable for Christmas time.

SOLICITOR #1

Old Scratch has got his own at last.

SOLICITOR #2

So I am told. I don't know much about it. I only know he's dead. When did he die?

SOLICITOR #1

Last night, I believe.

SOLICITOR #2

Why, what was the matter with him? I thought he'd never die.

SOLICITOR #1

God knows.

SOLICITOR #2

What has he done with his money?

SOLICITOR #1

As of 9/6/13

I haven't heard. Left it to his company, perhaps. He hasn't left it to me. That's all I know.

SOLICITOR #1

It's likely to be a very cheap funeral for upon my life I don't know of anybody to go to it. Suppose we make up a party and volunteer?

SOLICITOR #2

I don't mind going if a lunch is provided, but I must be fed if I'm to go.

SOLICITOR #1

Well, I never wear black gloves and I never eat lunch. But I'll offer to go, if you will.

SOLICITOR #2

When I come to think of it, I'm not at all sure that I wasn't his best friend; for we used to stop and speak whenever we met!

SCROOGE

I know these men. But their conversation seems trivial. They can't be speaking of Jacob Marley for that was in the past and I don't know anyone immediately to whom this would apply. But Spirit, I will resolve to treasure up every word I hear and everything I see. Lead on!