

A Dickens of A Christmas

By

Nicholas Conti

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Cast of Characters: Total 20 (9 M, 7 F, 4 m/f---multi racial.) Extras Galore!

Nick Nickleby: Bright, articulate, young man in late Teens –30’s. (Nicholas Nickleby)

Kate Nickleby: His lovable, sweet Sister. Teens.

Tiny Tim Cratchit: Young, warmhearted, healthy lad, was a disabled child. [A Christmas Carol]

Ebenezer Scrooge: Was a Crotchety old miser. Now reformed. [A Christmas Carol]

Jacob Marley (Ghost): Dour, mournful, repentant but scary; Scrooge’s old business partner, back briefly from the netherworld.

Fred: Scrooge’s pleasantly, happy, goodhearted, loyal Nephew, 20’s-40’s.

Oliver Twist: Good natured lad; toughened up living the hard life; young Teens.

Fan: Scrooge’s good natured, loving sister. Late Teens

Auntie (Anti) Christmas: (Evil Version of Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come): M/F with brass! Dressed in black with a black cape. Sallow, ashen complexion, eye sockets darkened, some blackened teeth, ageless. A commanding voice. Carries an Evil Wand!

Mrs. Cratchit: Bob Cratchit’s sweet, loving wife. 30-50’s. [A Christmas Carol]

Martha Cratchit: Perky, young energetic Daughter of the Cratchits.

Belinda Cratchit: Young and energetic Daughter to the Cratchits.

Peter Cratchit: Pleasant, serious and oldest, Teen son of the Cratchits.

Smike: A bright and sensitive, young man with a great soul but a feeble, twisted body. Late Teens. [Nicholas Nickleby]

Belle: An attractive sweetheart from Scrooges early days. Late-Teens-40’s.

Nancy: Good hearted mistress to the wicked Sikes. Late Teens. [Oliver]

Sikes: Mean villain was Nancy’s boy-friend, (what done her in.)

Midge: Acrobatic/tumbler, ? age, Small, Evil, *Mute* Dwarf M/F; Casts spell on Scrooge & Belle to have them fall in love, in an attempt to destroy the Dickens’ Legacy.

First Cop: M/F 20-50 rough accent, comic/friendly. [Contemporary]

Second Cop: M/F 20-50 rough accent, comic/friendly. [Contemporary]

Costumes: “A Dickens of a Christmas,” Contemporary or Period Dress (is Better!) If Contemporary have the women/girls favor long dresses (velvets). A bit of color with silk scarves, sashes and the like. Men be creative dark suits, shoes, bow ties or

bold colored ones. Midge a dwarf Acrobat, colorfully dressed like a Gnome carries Evil Moon Glow Dust in a pouch. **Auntie (Anti) Christmas, (The Evil Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come,) M/F**, is dressed all in black and a **black cape** for effect...his/her makeup, harsh---ashen-gray face and hands, with darkened eye sockets and some teeth blackened and a fright wig, And carries a wand or cane. **Jacob Marley's** makeup is ashen, face/hands; and wears a black suit, shirt and shoes.

Two Cops: M/F, for best visual and dramatic effect, wear uniforms, and night sticks.

(If you want to save on costumes, change the program & references to allow for making them Plain Clothes Officers and have them show their badges. *No* night sticks.)

Props: On stage throughout: Plates snacks, punch bowl with punch, dipper, cups, small plates. **Marley** enters with chains/shackles/cashbox-attached with Christmas Bow.

Midge; pouch with Moon Dust.

Charles Dickens walks on with a cane. End of play Tiny Tim has a crutch (uses it as a wand to ward off Evil Auntie). Tambourines for young cast members at the end!

The cops: have night Sticks and badges. {If you opt for Plain Clothes Officers as stated: wallets with Badges.)

Stage Left: A number of wooden chairs and a few small (optional) stuffed chairs, a fashionable coffee and snack table large enough to hold punch and snacks etc.

Stage Right: a couple of chairs. A few potted plants on floor for decoration, a few Christmas wreaths.

Lighting: Simple, indoor lighting. One exception: When Auntie Christmas arrives lights flicker (**SFX**) and sounds of thunder! Check script for Door knocks/ or chimes; loud at times!

Music: Recorded: "We Wish You a Merry Christmas," and traditional Christmas and dance Music.

Set: A simple backdrop, Chairs and tables left stage, 2-R.S. A few potted floor plants around and out of the way, and some Christmas wreaths. Keep it **Simple** and **Merry**.

A couple of Suggestions: Picture a party with people coming and going that haven't seen each other in awhile. Guests are mostly clustered about S.L. except when dancing. When guests are engaged in conversation, bring them D.S., it will keep the focus on them. People who are close at hand or in some way involved

might want to listen to the conversation and **react**. Keep ad libs and volume of music modulated and in the background so as not to distract from the dialogue.

Aged Character Parts: can be done by young character actors, wishing to be crotchety; with makeup, hair spray, cornstarch or wig. And by laying on the makeup, aged walk, gravely voice and attitude; and voila a **Character Actor is Born!**

A Dickens of a Christmas

Act One: (One Scene)

Time: Present ---Christmas Day in the Evening.

Event: A Christmas Reunion Banquet Given by the Author, Mr. Charles Dickens.

Place: Mansion in a U.S. City; London or other English City.

Setting:

Simple one unit set. Entrance S.R. in one; C.S. is either kept clear for dancing (Waltzes) or networking. Characters gather Stage left, mostly standing...or sometimes seated on wooden or small stuffed chairs. There's a coffee table nearby and a medium sized table is against the wall U.S.L. with a large bowl of fruit punch and plates with finger foods/cakes, cups for punch and plates for snacks for the guests. There's a Banquet Room, off, D.S.L., which all exit to at the end... U.S.R. a few wooden chairs and simple drop or curtain will do for the backdrop, with potted floor plants and Christmas Wreaths to dress the set.

At Rise:

The lights and sound come up gradually as we eavesdrop on the festivities. The Charles Dickens' – Christmas-Reunion-Banquet is in progress with these guests onstage as lights come up. Scrooge, Fred; Nick Nickleby and sister Kate, Smike, Belle, And most of the Cratchits: Mrs. Cratchit, Tiny Tim, Peter, daughters Belinda and Martha... Oliver Twist, Nancy, and Mr. Charles Dickens (seated) quietly observing; with fancy cane; all others are S.L. standing and freely mingling, engaged in conversation. Most have punch & snacks. There's Christmas Music in the background from off stage. The mood is Festive!

(With Nicholas Nickleby nearby, his sister Kate is humming, singing, swirling, twirling around doing her own solo dance; wildly happy to be invited to the Dickens' Event.)

Kate Nickleby: Nick, oh Nick I'm having such a ***(drags it out as she twirls,)*** wonderful tiime!...I'm so happy to be invited to Mr.

Dickens' Christmas Banquet! As round and round I Goood! Like a whirling TOP I Goood! (*Gets dizzy now.*) *Whoops!*

Nick Nickleby (*Catches her before she falls to the floor.*) You are a lovely but silly goose Kate!

Kate: (*He's holding her up still.*) Oh Nick don't call me a silly goose!... *Lovely* is good though! I'm just having a little fun dancing around (*Makes a circular motion with her hand, she's dizzy*) after working in that sweaty old Mrs. Mantalini's dress shop all--- day--- long! Like a slave! Oh, but I'm having such a wonnnderful time here!

Nick: I'm happy for you Kate! (*Stands her upright and mimics.*) I really am, and I don't blaame you for unwinding, but try not to faaall downnnn doing it!

Kate: Nicholas loosen up, let your hair down and have a little fun!

Nick: Thanks for the advice Sis!... (*Exuberantly!*) Will you just *look* at Tiny Tim! What a marvelous sight he is! Why Tim you're a picture of glowing health, and high spirits!

Kate: Look at him! So vibrant and strong; and above all... happy!

Tiny Tim: (*Leaps into the air or does a cartwheel and bows.*) Ta da!

Kate: Very impressive Tim!

Nick: An amazing recovery!

Tiny Tim: Thank you Mr. Nickleby! And Mam! Are you Nick's sister then?

Kate: Yes! I'm Kate and you're perceptive!

Tiny Tim: Thanks!... It's a pleasure meeting you! As fer *me*, I'll take all the compliments I can get, Miss Kate!

Kate: My but you're so formal Tim!

Tiny Tim: No fault'a mine Mam! I've just had the best up bringin' a lad could ask fer and the best of lovin' families! We Cratchits are!

Kate: You'll save me a dance now won't you!?

Tiny Tim: You bet! I'd be honored!

\ **Kate:** You do have fine manners especially for a young lad that's been through so much!

Tiny Tim: Thank you Kate! For which I'm not only grateful to my loving family but to Mr. Scrooge who was the generous gentleman of the hour, (*proudly & loudly*) who came through with a raise for me dad! A goose for the pot! And good health care for this ailing tot!

Kate: Indeed!... Nick why don't we head for the punch bowl! I'm dry as a bone after all that whirlin' and twirlin'! See you all later! (*They cross U.S.L. to Punch.*)

Scrooge (Ebenezer): (*Standing near, steps in and cheerfully joins Tim.*)

Tim m'lad you'd be a goner!...If it wasn't for those awful nightmares of death and hell, and old, wrinkled Marley in chains. (*Marley, overhears, at this moment lets himself in D.S.R., carrying shackles, & attached cashbox with Christmas bow,*) and those scary Christmas Ghosts of Past, Present, and Christmas Yet to Come. And *Ooooh!* The horrific sight of starving souls; and gravestones with my name emblazoned on *one!*

Marley (Jacob): (*His entrance startles Scrooge. Marley kibitzes!*) What me in chains? And how dare you call me old and wrinkled! Have some respect! For after all, I am *dead!* Hahaha!... And so are you!

Scrooge: Good Old Marley, what a surprise! But not to fret! Dickens' Characters are never dead but live on in the *imagination*s of our readers and viewers!

Marley: Sorry Ebenezer...It seems I lost my ghostly head! You're right of course!

Scrooge: You certainly have! Lost your head that is! Hahaha!...And yes I am!...Right, as always!

Marley: Ebenezer I must warn you and Mr. Dickens that I've heard rumors there's an ill wind rising from the netherworld!... With *Demons* afoot that wish to blemish Mr. Dickens' very *soul*, and literary *Legacy!* With cries of 'Down with Dickens' and 'The Dickens with Dickens' being chanted in low, vile places!

Mr. Dickens: (*Seated, rises quickly to this and joins Marley and Scrooge.*) What's this you say Marley, 'Down with Dickens!?' Wherever did you hear such nonsense?

Marley: Sir I tell you I've heard it from the darkest of sources; the *lowest* Authority!

Mr. Dickens: Impossible! My being and Legacy are chiseled in the Granite of Time itself!... What prompted this, do you suppose?

Marley: The *Evil-One* can't stand The Spirit of Christmas that you've engendered over these many years! Wanting to *crumble* this feeling of compassion for others you demonstrate in your stories, regardless of the character's station in life! And the kindly, wealthy people you depict sharing their wealth with those in need to improve the Human condition! They see you as a *do-gooder* who spreads *goodwill* and *Love* in the *world*! You must therefore be made to suffer for this! So they mean to destroy the very fabric of your stories Sir! Your wonderful *characters*, and will do so by sending out denizens from *Hell* itself, to bring you down! Their motto 'Goodwill, Will Do Us *Ill*'!

Scrooge : Are you quite sure of this ridiculous *Rumor* conjured up no doubt by disreputable souls, unhappy with their torment in the afterlife?!

Marley: Of one thing I *am* assured, it's that this source is diabolically reliable! And now Sirs hear me on this! ...I overheard them preparing to send out creatures! Masquerading in familiar clothes and manner who are so disguised, you may not recognize them for what they are!... One of whom tis said, is a distant cousin of Scrooge, damned to hell's fires many years ago; and still spreading an evil bile over the earth! You could be tricked! Then it would be too late! ... Beware Gentlemen!

Mr. Dickens: Thank you Marley for your heartfelt warning. I shall be on my guard!

Scrooge: Indeed my good friend Marley, I shall keep my guard up too!
But will still have a Merry Time, for *Nothing* will thwart *my*
Christmas!... Demon or Cousin!

Mr. Dickens: Indeed! *I* and my works have survived this long; and will
survive for all Eternity; and like Scrooge, I shall have a Merry Time
at this Gathering! Demons be damned!

Marley: Some things never change! Evil persists and stalks us all! But
we shall overcome! ... Heh!... I propose we start over from the top
shall we? And wish each other Merry Christmas Greetings! And so
Ebenezer my old friend how are you? It's good to see you after all
these years! (*Crosses to him*) And here's a very special Christmas
present to you, here are my very own chains, shackles and cashbox!
(*Hands them to him.*) which Mr. Dickens and you, released me from,
by changing your miserly ways!... If you recall?

Scrooge: Indeed I do!...And I am gloriously fine! (*Takes them*). Thank
you Jacob! This is one of the finest presents I've ever had; and shall
treasure it always; (*holds them high, then puts it under the chair and*
gives Marley a warm hug. Both sit.)

Fred: (*Fred his nephew, crosses to greet Ebenezer.*) I say uncle
Scrooge you are a *happy* sight for these bloodshot eyes!

Scrooge: Thank's nephew! It's a wonderful surprise to see you!
Bloodshot eyes or not!

Fred: We've all missed you, all these years. Please join us later uncle.

Scrooge: And I too! (*Fred crosses back*)

(*Tiny Tim and Peter Cratchit move closer to Scrooge.*)

Peter (Cratchit): Excuse me Sir! I 'm a person of few words but I gotta
say how much I appreciated your help in getting me a job, and your
unselfish assistance to my family...And so Merry Christmas!

Scrooge: You're welcome *Peter!* I understand you're quite the man of
the house now that you're a clerk... That's just marvelous; I see
great things in store for you!

Peter: I hope so Sir, thanks! (*Stays nearby with friends.*)

(Suddenly uninvited and unannounced Midge, an Evil Dwarf-Like-Mute, and acrobat, enters D.S.R. Shows a sign by turning in a complete circle, in place, inscribed thus: “Midge the Mute;” Then places sign near entrance and tumbles, handstands and cartwheels his way to Scrooge; indicating with sign language that he is mute, then holding out his hand waiting for a tip.)

Scrooge: Very good indeed! It would appear that you cannot speak; well here’s a small reward for your effort! *(Hands him a coin,)*
Merry Christmas!

Midge: *(The Mute Evil Dwarf! Grandly bows, then sprinkles Evil spellbinding Moon-Glow Dust on Ebenezer, later causing him to fall in forbidden love with his old girlfriend Belle, in an attempt to ruin The Dickens’ Legacy, by changing their literary fate!)*

Scrooge: How good of you, to sprinkle me with marvelous Stardust!
Thank you!

Midge: *(Shakes his head No! Then pantomimes a Moon with dust floating down!)*

Scrooge: Why of course Silvery Moon-Glow Dust for good luck and to wish me well!...How wonderful friend! And that makes me even more benevolent than I already am, *(to audience,)* and you all know what that means! I just can’t help myself! *(Gives him a more generous tip.)* Heh heh heh!

Midge: *(Smiles, Bows again {Smirks to audience} and tumbles/cartwheels, to Belle.)*

Oliver Twist: *(Crosses to Tiny Tim, and Peter as he watches Midge. Addresses Tim & Peter.)* He’s quite the acrobat!...

Tiny Tim: *Fantastic!* ...I’m beginning to believe that I can do some of those moves m’self, now that I’m better!

Oliver (Twist): That’s great news Tim!...Great!... Guys what do you say to getting reacquainted!... It’s time we young bucks got to know each other better!

Peter: I’m fer that!

Tiny Tim: Me too! I've often wondered how's Mr. Bumble treatin' ya these days at the workhouse?

Oliver: Ain't ya heard? That's ancient history, including Bumble. I been adopted by a kindly old gent, Mr. Brownlow who fancies I may be *family*... after all.

Tiny Tim: Well! That's a lucky break! I'm glad ta hear the good news!

Midge: (*Doing his routine for Belle's benefit, Tumbles, Cartwheels etc.*)

Tiny Tim: (*Envious.*) Take a gander at that Dwarf! What a marvel!

Midge: (*When done holds out his hand for a donation, gets a coin from Belle; Bows.*)

Belle: What a marvelous acrobat!

Midge: (*As if in appreciation sprinkles her with Moon Glow Dust! Bows again.*)

Belle: Ah nothing like a sprinkle of good luck! Aaah, it makes me feel... Oh, I don't know... *romantic!* Thank you my small friend with a rather large heart! And a Merry Holiday to you!

Midge: (*Bows his head to her, then Smirks to audience, for he's cast an Evil, and most fowl, (romantic) Spell on her! And now tumbles off toward D.S.R.*)

Oliver: (*Watching him.*) Wish I could do cartwheels like that!

Peter: Yeah! Me too!... What do ya suppose he was sprinkling?

Midge: (*Temporarily exits D.S.R..*)

Tiny Tim: Dunno! Maybe Stardust! I heard it's good luck!

Oliver: It can't be *real* Stardust!

Peter: Nah! something you buy in a novelty shop!

Tiny Tim: (*Calls to Scrooge who is close by.*) Mr. Scrooge what was he sprinkling?

Scrooge: Moon Dust boys, for good luck!... Wasn't he somethin'!

Tiny Tim: Moon Dust, WOW!... He was great!

Scrooge: *(To his nephew Fred who is nearby.)* Thanks to Mr. Dickens, it's getting to be quite the Reunion; and later we'll all be treated to Food Glorious Food! The first ever, with characters from his many stories.

Fred: I'm really excited Uncle! I can't wait to see my Mother; and the Cratchits.

Fan: *(Lets herself in.)* Merry Christmas everyone...*(Spots Scrooge.)*
Oh! Brother Ebenezer, it's been so long, and you look marvelous!

Scrooge: *(Jumps up from his seat, crosses to her and warmly embraces her.)* Thank you Wonderful Fan but I have never, ever, looked marvelous. And oh, I'm so very glad to see you! The only one that ever loved me with all her heart. *(Still in the embrace but suddenly in a merry, spontaneous dance mode, {the music's in his head} dances her wildly round the room.)*

Fan: *(As she's twirled.)* Hahaha! Ebenezer have you lost your mind? Dancing like a wild man, with no music? Without me even having a chance to greet Freddy!

Scrooge: No I haven't!... Fan the music is in my heart, and head for you've made me so happy; *(wheels her toward Fred.)* Come now here's your Fred! Your successful and wonderful son, and loving like you Fan, with a warm and forgiving heart.

Fan: I'm so happy to be reunited with my family *(they stop dancing.)*
And finally see Fred again!... Son, we never had a chance at getting to know each other.

Fred: *(Excitedly)* I know Mother; and how I've missed your love, growing up. What with you passing on so early in life! *(Hugs and kisses her warmly.)* But now we're together again, for a short, happy moment in time!

Fan: Oh yes son I've always loved you, even if from afar!... Ebenezer and everyone; it's *good* to be back!

(Bob Cratchit, suddenly enters D.S.R. is greeted by his children. With snow on his clothes; seems he was sleigh riding with the kids,

something he likes to do. He smilingly brushes snow off and waves to everyone.)

Bob (Cratchit): *(Hugs and kisses the girls.)* Merry Christmas to All and my lovely family!

All: *(Loud)* Merry Christmas Bob Cratchit!

Peter: *(A beat behind the girls; hugs him.)* Oh thank Heaven, *Da!* We were gettin' concerned about you!

Belinda (Cratchit): Where were you Dad?

Martha (Cratchit): We were about to send out two big Saint Bernard Dogs to search, and drag you back!

Bob: Really!... But you know I love to sleigh ride with the kids. I musta gone down Corn Hill twenty times, but somethin' kept remindin' me, that my lovely family and friends were raising the *dickens!* Waiting on me. So *tardy* I am! With nary a farthing in my pocket or pound note in my wallet!

(Tiny Tim quickly crosses to his father who lifts him up and gives him a kiss.)

Tiny Tim: Father I was truly worried, you bein' late and all!

Bob: I'm sorry everybody; but honestly I was havin' such a grand time! *(Kisses Tim and puts him down.)*

Mrs. Cratchit: *(Comes over to him and hugs him tightly and kisses him.)* Look at you Robert! With the snow on ya; just like in the old days, but I guess it keeps ya young darlin! *(Another kiss.)* Leave it to you to be sleigh ridin' with the kids. That's my hardworkin' hard playin' husband!

Bob: That I am And just so happy to be here!... Mr. Scrooge! What a marvelous surprise. My day is complete, and my ledger is balanced! How are ya Sir?

Scrooge: How am I? *(Twirls around happily.)* Why delightfully Happy!... Name a Superlative! And I'm it! And I feel young and romantic again!

Bob: Glad to hear it sir! Glad to hear it! To all ladies present Beware!
For Ebenezer Scrooge feels young and *Romantic* again!

All: (*Everyone comes over and Nick takes over the intro's for those who have never met in Mr. Dickens' novels. With: Ad-Libs and hugs galore!*)

Nick: If you all don't mind... Seeing as I'm familiar with everyone, and though some of you already know one another; why don't I attempt to clarify identities by a gesture, indicating Who's Who, and you take it from there!

(*During this all give a nod or greeting gesture and react in their own way with a quick bow, a nod, wave, ad libs etc.*) Bob Cratchit, and family---Mrs. Cratchit, Tiny Tim, Peter, Belinda, and Martha known for "A Christmas Carol."... I'm *Nick Nickleby*, this is my lovely sister Kate, and good friend *Smite*; heart of a lion, but a crippled body, all from "*Nicholas Nickleby*." (*Playfully*) You may have seen us on **PBS TV!**

All: (*Laugh.*)

Nick: You've met *Oliver*; and this is Nancy, who is mean Sikes', girlfriend... From "*Oliver Twist*." (*Dynamically!*) And a great legend who needs no introduction but gets one anyway, *Ebenezer Scrooge*. You'll love him when you get to know him, and after his Dramatic Epiphany, how can anyone resist him!... And lovely sister *Fan!*..... His early, and vivacious girlfriend, *Belle*. His nephew *Fred*... And Marley his business partner, who came back to haunt him in chains, until Scrooge straightened out his life. (*A bit of hub-bub here as everyone mingles.*)

Scrooge: *Belle* is that really you? Wherever have you been hiding? You are a delightful sight for these old eyes!... How are you my dear?

Belle: I hardly recognized you, you old Scrooge you! (*Hug stiffly.*) Have you been well?

Scrooge: *Well*, is happily what I am! And now after all these years I realize the error of my ways and miss not having you by my side to love and to hold (*reaches out his arm, she backs away.*)

Belle: It's much too late for that now and well past the time to rekindle that troubled romance Ebenezer! Let's just enjoy the present moment!

Scrooge: But my dear, I see you and it's like it was when we first fell in love!

Belle: You forget easily! After all you left me for your love of riches which I could never compete with!

Scrooge: But I was young, now I'm mature, and having gone through an Epiphany am much the wiser! And know that I was a fool for letting you get away!

Belle: It took you this long and an Epiphany to realize that I was in love with you, and would have made you a most loving wife. It's too late now!

Scrooge: It's just that I've finally come to my senses!

Belle: Well!... If I thought you were serious... Perhaps, just perhaps mind you! I might give it a trial! I've never really stopped loving you!

Scrooge: Oh! That's good news to my ears. For my beautiful Belle I couldn't be more serious! You're the only woman I've ever loved!

Belle: Then!... If you feel that strongly, let's give it a try Ebenezer!

Scrooge: I suppose we might mention it to Mr. Dickens, but I can see no objection, why he brought us together and what he brought together let no man put asunder!

(He moves towards her and takes her into his arms.)

Belle: Oh Ebenezer your arms feel so good around me! We've missed so much by not being together! I'm sure Mr. Dickens will say yes to our rekindled relationship!

Scrooge: Let's look for him, do the proper thing; and ask his permission!

Belle: Yes! Oh! Yes!

Scrooge: Come let's look! *(They look for him but are waylaid by the music starting up, and decide to dance. But after a few beats!)* Oh! There's Mr. Dickens! Lets dance over to him and overwhelm him with our *Joy* at having rediscovered our Love! And ask him!

Belle: A brilliant idea Ebenezer! *(They dance over to him!)* You certainly *have* turned into quite the Romantic!

Scrooge: *(Happily.)* I have, haven't I !

Scrooge: Good evening Mr. Dickens and thank you for this wonderful party!

Belle: Thank you Sir!

Mr. Dickens: My pleasure and it's nice to see you coming together this way as old friends should!

Scrooge: Isn't it marvelous Mr. Dickens that we have also rediscovered and...

Belle: Rekindled our old friendship...

Scrooge: And Love!

Mr. Dickens: How nice! At least while at the Banquet?

Belle: Oh not just while we're here at the Banquet Sir!

Scrooge: We were thinking of something much more permanent! Right Belle?

Belle: Oh yes Ebenezer!

Mr. Dickens: Things have indeed changed dramatically for you then!

Scrooge: Oh good then you approve of us becoming a permanent fixture?

Belle: A loving couple!

Scrooge: Forever!... *(Messiah-feel to it.)*

Belle: And ever!

Scrooge: Alleluia!

Belle: Alleluia!

Mr. Dickens: Very entertaining and endearing!

Scrooge: Oh, Good! Then you agree?

Mr. Dickens: Entertaining and endearing are good; but not for you two!

Belle: Great Heavens! Why not?

Scrooge: Yes! Why not? We're no different than anyone else, desiring a little love and happiness out of life!

Mr. Dickens: But don't you see you two have been immortalized in my writings! You are *part and parcel* of Literary History. Of my repertoire of writings and as it turns out my Legacy to the World!

Scrooge: But begging your pardon, that's all done with Sir! We still live and go on with our lives, between the pages so to speak, seeking only a few crumbs of happiness from the Dickens' table!

Belle: Just a few crumbs, is that too much to ask?...As for me, I uncomplainingly played a small part in a "Christmas Carol," that I will hardly be missed!

Mr. Dickens: I will forgive your ingratitude, for I'm far above feeling anger and far too successful at this point with my Established Legacy to concern myself with this selfish, self serving demand of yours; furthermore....

Belle: But *Sir!* I feel compelled to say that it demonstrates ingratitude on *your* part!... For *my* fine portrayal of a small role, added much to your story and emphasized the personality quirks of Scrooge!...

Mr. Dickens: Ah! I see contradiction here! You must realize then how important a role you really did have, how necessary you were and how correct you were in your assessment of Mr. Scrooge! *I* therefore had made quite the correct choice in the matter, don't you see!

Scrooge: It could have been different Sir! I could have made her a wonderful husband and provider, Sir!

Belle: I'm beginning once again to have my doubts about you Ebenezer!

Scrooge: Well I don't! ...Sir!

Mr. Dickens: Contemplate this! If we had the power and ability to change the published word, think of the harm to our readers both young and old alike! Not to mention lost revenues... from Book sales, TV, and Movies. (*Anger builds.*) This is not a fantasy! You

can't change published history with the flick of a heartstring! The world would crumble... I won't allow it!... I wish I had the power to re-write *it* and *you* right out of my book!... Then where would you be?

Scrooge: This may sound insolent and vain!... The real truth is, where, would "A Christmas Carol," be?... Without me? Without Scrooge?

Mr. Dickens: (*Build it.*) Scrooge, I always knew you'd be trouble! I thought I pleasantly resolved your sordid personality; apparently it's been rejuvenated like Dracula!... This being proof of it!... I will not allow you to destroy Charles Dickens! Why you might as well try to destroy the Spirit of Christmas as well! I knew you'd come back to haunt me and now I wish I could cut you right out of *MY* story, and thus, '*damn you to anonymity!*' A fate far worse than you faced in my story!

Scrooge: Perhaps it was the effect of the Moon Dust, that had me crazy, and is now fading because I'm beginning to see your point! And realize it's too late for change, Mr. Dickens. And suddenly feel embarrassed, because of my ingratitude! And offer you my humblest apology!

Belle: Just *listen* to Ebenezer back off! Even though in his heart, he knows he's right. Well!... for the second time in our lives we part! *Skaahrooge!*.. Mr. Dickens I thank you for the part you gave me, but have been disgruntled all these years, because of its *miniscule* size! ... And as to you Ebenezer, I'm leaving you now! And don't pursue me!... I've had quite enough of you, and will leave *His* story quite alone, seeing as it's done so well, as is ... Goodbye forever *Scrooge!*... Nice try, but a bit tardy! (*Brusquely starts to exit the Banquet!*) Thank you and Goodbye Mr. Dickens!

Mr. Dickens: My dear no need to go off in a huff; stay and enjoy the Party! You're still in my heart! *And my Story!*

Belle: No thank you Sir! As for me it's back between the pages!
(*Exits.*)

Mr. Dickens: Sorry then, Goodbye!... *Apology* accepted Ebenezer!

Please try to be more discreet in the future! Enjoy the Festivities! All be it, without Belle!

(A waltz starts up, Nick dances with Kate , Scrooge with Fan, Bob with Mrs. C., Belinda and Martha dance together and act like circus clowns exaggerating the dance. While Mrs. Cratchit wags her finger at them and shakes her head as if that will make them stop, it doesn't. Oliver dances with Nancy. Have some of your better dancers take the floor with fancier moves to keep it lively but short; {a Christmas waltz?} Those not dancing just watch and ad lib.)
After the dance they breakup but there's this convivial feel, all kinds of cross-talking and enjoying each other with no animosity.)

Nick: Kate do me the honor of dancing with your web-footed brother! But please no whirls; and twirls or I'll get dizzy!

Kate: Nick of course!... I promise! Why I'm still dizzy from the last time. *(Dance off.)*

Oliver: *(Has crossed to Nancy.)* Nancy, finally!... I've been trying to get over and dance with you all night!... Oh goodness it's been so long since I've seen you!... I owe my life to you! ... I wouldn't be alive today if you hadn't helped me escape Sike's clutches! I probably would have met your fate... Which made me feel so bad that rotten Sikes did you in; and you with the biggest heart in all of London! I always wanted to thank you for it.

Nancy: You are a sight for these eyes, and it's good to be see'n you again! I always had a warm spot in me heart for ya! As for Sikes I had to try to do sumpin to save ya lad but got my head bashed in, for it... Your belated thanks is accepted! Though I still get headaches!

Oliver: Sorry for that! And I still have a crush on ya! How about taking a spin around the dance floor?

Midge: *(Who was keeping a low profile off stage has entered from D.S.R. doing his tumbling routine.)*

Nancy: Just a moment Oliver! Let's see what this acrobat is up to, who appeared as if by magic!

Midge: *(Tumbles his way over to Oliver and Nancy and stops before them.)*

Nancy: That was the cat's whiskers whatever your name is?

Midge: *(Bows, smiles then apologetically indicates he's mute.)*

Nancy: Oh, sorry! I didn't know...but anyways very good!

Oliver: Thank you for gracing us with your wonderful tumbling! Lets see if I have a coin...Ah here we are! Thank you my talented friend!

Midge: *(Smilingly takes coin, bows and sprinkles Moon Glow Dust on them.)*

Nancy: What's that stuff?

Midge: *(Pantomimes it again!)*

**Please purchase script to read the
rest.**

