

Ghost of Christmas Present, Scrooge

46

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Act I



GHOST 2. Well, sir—good evening. It's time you made my acquaintance.

SCROOGE (*circles him warily, crouched over; feels the fur on his robe*). Who are you?

GHOST 2. I am the Ghost of Christmas Present. Don't cower so, my good man. Lift up your eyes. Look upon me. (*Fearfully, SCROOGE does so.*) You have never seen the like of me before, eh?

SCROOGE. That's true.

GHOST 2. And never walked forth with any other members of my family? Meaning—for I am very young—my elder brothers born in recent years?

SCROOGE. No, Sir Phantom, I don't think I have. Have you had many brothers?

GHOST 2. More than eighteen hundred.

SCROOGE (*aside*). Quite a family. Think of the cost.

GHOST 2. You know why I am here.

SCROOGE. I do, Spirit. I went forth an hour ago on compulsion, but I learned a lesson, which is working now. This hour, if you have anything to teach, let me profit by it.

GHOST 2. We shall begin with this. (*From his pouch he takes some sparkly dust, scattering it over SCROOGE. This is accompanied by a glittery bell sound.*)

SCROOGE. What is this?

GHOST 2. The blessings of Christmas. Now. Touch my robe and we'll go.

SCROOGE. Where?

GHOST 2. Onward. To Christmas morning.



(*SCROOGE touches his robe. Bright music. Lights fade up on the street—but without SCROOGE's office. PEOPLE pantomime shoveling snow—exchanging greet-*