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# DICKENS' STORIES

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**It never fails!  
It's your theatre**

## DICKENS' STORIES

### Scene 1

track 11 ©

**Inspector:** Attention everybody! I want to introduce you to your new colleague. From now on, he will be in charge of area 3. Oliver! You will be responsible for explaining everything to him! In a few days he must be ready, and know everything about the factory. Is that clear? (*Pulling Oliver by the ears*) And I don't want you messing around or you will see where my belt will be! (*Pulling Charles by the ears and pointing to the belt on his pants*) And you, little boy, behave, because this belt likes to land on everyone's bottom, do you understand me?

**Charles:** Yes sir, I will behave!

**Inspector:** You'd better! And now, get out of my sight, you bunch of brats!

**Oliver:** Stupid Inspector! I swear when I am big enough I will take him by the ears and hit him back with his belt, smack, smack. I hate him! And you (*imitating him*) "Yes sir, I will behave"... What is your name?

**Charles:** Charles.

**Oliver:** Last name?

**Charles:** Dickens.

**Oliver:** All right, Charles Dickens, let's get to work! (*Giving him a bucket and a broom*) From now on these will be your main tools. You have to clean the floor, the windows, including those at the top (*they look at the ceiling, terrified*).

**Charles:** Including those at the top? How do I get there?

**Oliver:** Do you see the ladder over there, the one that looks broken?

**Charles:** But it is not broken, right?


**Oliver:** Yes.

**Charles:** And I will be secured to something, right?

**Oliver:** (*voices*) Hey, guys. He asked if we have safety measures. (*We hear a lot of voices laughing*) That is the answer.

**Charles:** But I might fall and die.

**Oliver:** Look kid, we are not here to play. If we do not work and do what he says,



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he will hit us, and believe me, it hurts... a lot. So if you do not want to get hurt, get up there and clean the damn glass.

**Charles:** But why does a child have to do this type of work, aren't there any adults who could do it?

**Oliver:** Of course there are, but there is great difficulty in the kingdom of England and the children come a lot cheaper. They just have to feed us and we have to do the dirty work. That's the reality.

**Charles:** This is unfair. It's horrible.


**Oliver:** You will get used to it. And now, go to work before the inspector comes back. *(He starts working and Charles starts crying, Oliver tries to talk to him)* Hey, are you OK?

### Song

I want to be free,  
I want to play under the rainbow.  
It's so unfair that a child like me  
has no horizon to see.  
Mom, Dad, where are you?  
Please take me away from here,  
I am so afraid  
What does the future holds for me...?

**Charles:** Leave me alone!

**Oliver:** As you wish *(makes the gesture of leaving but stays)*.



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**Charles:** Don't go! Why are you here?

**Oliver:** My parents died when I was very young. I am an orphan, like all of us here. I have no place to go. The same as you, I guess...

**Charles:** I do have a father.

**Oliver:** And why did he leave you here?

**Charles:** He's in jail. He owes money to many important people.... He left me here thinking that this was a good orphanage.

**Oliver (*ironic*):** Yes, a wonderful orphanage. The only things missing here are a swimming pool and a gym. (*Charles starts to cry again*) Come on, don't be sad. At least you have somebody. Surely your father will come for you someday.

**Charles:** But if he cannot pay his debts, he will never leave prison.

**Oliver:** And why don't you pay?

**Charles:** Me? How? I don't have any money.

**Oliver:** I know someone who can get you some money.

**Charles:** Who?

**Oliver:** He is not here. He is outside. He is a free person. He's called Truhan.

**Charles:** I know his name.

**Oliver:** The whole world knows that name. He is the most famous thief of Portsmouth, even though no one can recognize him. He knows how to hide and act precisely.

**Charles:** And would he give me money?

**Oliver:** No, you would work for him.

**Charles:** No, for that I prefer to stay here. (*Starts working*)

**Oliver:** I do not understand. Don't you want to help your father?

**Charles:** Sure, but I do not want to steal. I don't want to take money from innocent people. I do not want to end up in jail like my father. I'll work until I can pay the bill and get my father out of prison.

**Oliver:** Well, you're an honest guy.

**Charles:** I try...

**Oliver:** (*back to work*) You know, I think I like you, Charles Dickens.

**Charles:** I like you too, Oliver...

**Oliver:** Twist.

**Charles:** Thank you for trying to help me, Oliver Twist (*both smile*).


## Scene 2

track 12 ©

**Voice:** FIVE YEARS LATER...

**Charles:** (*counting money*) 98.99 and 100. 100 pounds and pence.

**Voice of Inspector:** Charles Dickens, you have a visitor.



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**Charles:** A visitor? Who can it be? (*His father appears*) Daaadd! (*Hug*) I've missed you so much!

**Father:** Me too, my little boy. How are you?

**Charles:** OK, and you? How did you get out of prison?

**Father:** Charles, your grandmother died last Saturday and left a large sum of money. Enough to pay all my debts, I am sorry that you had to live alone all this time, but now I will never leave you again. Come on, give me another hug. (*Hug*)

**Charles:** And then can we get out of here?

**Father:** Son, it is not so easy. I've paid my debts, but I spent all the money. So you and I will have to work in this factory a little while longer and make some money to rent a house.

**Charles:** I do not think that will be needed (*showing the bag with money*) 100 pounds and pennies. With that I thought I could take you out of jail. (*Oliver appears and observes the conversation*)

**Father:** I can't believe it! Ha, ha, ha... Son, you're the best in the world. I love you.


**Charles:** I love you too, Dad.

**Father:** So let's go! We will find a new house and start over again.

**Charles:** You see... dad, I...

**Father:** What's wrong? Don't you want to leave here?

**Charles:** No, no, it is not that. It's only that ... I'm getting older and ...



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**Father:** And...?

**Charles:** I would really like to study.

**Father:** Study?

**Charles:** Yes, you know. Go to a good school, learn how to read and write. Latin, Greek, mathematics, science...

**Father:** Son, this is not going to put food on our table.

**Charles:** It might not... but I want to be a writer or actor, or doctor, or architect...

### **Song**

**Charles:** Daddy! Writers play with words,  
economists throw numbers around,  
scientists discover new medications  
and doctors cure hearts!

I want to be an actor, a writer, an architect,  
make people laugh and cry,  
I want to learn languages and travel the world.  
Dad, let, let, let me please!  
Let me read and write!

**Dad:** But school won't feed us!

**Charles:** But it will feed my soul!


And I promise, dad, one day I will be... on the top of the world!

on the top of the world!

**Father:** Wait a minute... Are you sure of that?

**Charles:** Absolutely.

**Father:** So who am I to stop you then? The money you've earned we will use as



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you want. Where would you like to study? I don't know the Portsmouth schools very well.

**Charles:** I want to study in London.

**Father:** In London? Are you crazy? In London everything is very expensive.

**Charles:** But there are better schools. Registration costs 50 pounds.

**Father:** Just half of what we have.

**Charles:** Please, Daddy ...

**Father:** OK. My little Charles is going to study in London. You've always been the smartest of all the family, so take advantage of it.

**Charles:** Thanks, Dad.

**Father:** Come on, let's go. The trip to London is long.

**Charles:** *(looking at Oliver)* One moment, Dad. *(Going towards him)* Hey!

**Oliver:** *(sad)* Hey! Are you leaving?


**Charles:** Yes.

**Oliver:** That's good, right?

**Charles:** Yes. I am going to study in London.

**Oliver:** I suppose that you will never return, right?

**Charles:** Of course I will come back.

A horizontal banner with a dark teal rounded rectangle on the left and a light green rounded rectangle on the right. The light green section contains contact information and three vertical white lines of varying heights on the far right.

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**Oliver:** That's what you say now, but I am sure that you'll forget about me.

**Charles:** Oliver, I will never forget you. During all this time you have been my friend and you have helped me so much. Thank you.

**Oliver:** No problem. We are friends, right?

**Charles:** You're my best friend. Wait. (Goes to get some money from the bag) Here, for you. Make good use of it! Get out of here. Find yourself a good life, and especially do not get in trouble.

**Oliver:** 10 pounds? That's a lot of money. I cannot accept it.

**Charles:** No, you aren't stealing. This money is clean and it's a gift.

**Oliver:** Thank you (*hug*). You're right.

**Charles:** About what?

**Oliver:** You're my best friend.

**Charles:** You know what, when I'm a grownup, I will write a book about you.

**Oliver:** Then you better learn how to read.

**Charles:** Yes, I should do that.

**Oliver:** I will miss you very much.

**Charles:** Me too. I wish you luck, Oliver Twist.

**Oliver:** I will miss you, Charles Dickens. (*Charles takes his father's hand and leaves*) Charles, you've turned me into a free person. I will never forget you.

**Voice:** The years went by, and Charles began to study at university. He had finally achieved what he wanted. And there was also a great friend named David Copperfield.

### Scene 3

### track 13

*London 1830, in college...*

**Ellen:** Where have those two gone? We always have to wait for them.

**Mary:** Yes, they should be ahead of us. England is not what it used to be. (*David and Charles come running*) ©

**Charles:** Sorry for the delay, Ellen, but I did not know if the jacket matched the pants and I couldn't find my shoes and today is an important day because we are going to the opera and I know it is important to you to make a good impression...

**Ellen:** OK, Charles. You are very handsome.

**Charles:** (*pleased*) Really?

**Ellen:** Yes.

**David:** You see, my advice worked. But mind you, I'll kill you if you damage the suit.

**Charles:** Don't worry! I'll take care of it as if it were mine.

**Mary:** Are we going or what? If we're late they won't let us in and the tickets are very expensive.

**David:** Miss... (*offers his arm and they leave.*)

**Charles:** (*imit*) Miss...

**Ellen:** Ha, ha, ha, ha. David is a lot better.

**Charles:** I'm sorry.

**Ellen:** But you are not so bad either! (*She grabs his arm*) Shall we?

**Charles:** We shall.

#### Scene 4

#### track 14

*They sit in a balcony of the opera and listen to music. All excited applause.*

**Ellen:** Someday I'd like to sing like them. Working in a big theater and receiving all the applause...

**Charles:** I'm sure you'll get there, I believe in you. (*Ellen smiles*) Ellen, you see... I wanted to tell you something...

**Mary:** Ellen, would you come with me for a moment? I want to see if we can talk to the actors before they begin the second part.


**Ellen:** Yes, that would be great. Excuse me, Charles, I'll return shortly.

**Charles:** I cannot, I do not dare. I don't know how to say it.

**David:** Charles, you have to be brave. Try.

**Charles:** And you, what are you going to do with Mary?

**David:** Me? I do not know... I think she likes me, but...



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**Charles:** But...?

**David:** But I am afraid.

**Charles:** Afraid? But she is totally in love with you.

**David:** Do you think so?

**Charles:** I'm convinced. You haven't noticed how she looks at you, how she listens to you as you speak, how she talks to you ...

**David:** It's the same with you and Ellen and you don't dare to say anything.

**Charles:** In my case it is different.

**David:** Different? Why?

**Charles:** I don't know...

*On the other side of the stage.*


**Mary:** David is so handsome...

**Ellen:** Yes, and what about Charles? Super handsome ... But I don't know why he doesn't dare to say anything to me...

**Mary:** David hasn't said anything to me either. I think he is very shy.

**Ellen:** Wow, how lucky we are! We are in love with the shyest guys in the university.

**Mary:** Let's do something, Ellen. We will give them a last chance, but if they don't confess their love to us, we will immediately start looking for others.



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**Ellen:** But I cannot do that to Charles. I like Charles.

**Mary:** But we won't! We'll just make them think so, and they will come to us for sure, you will see!

**Ellen:** Mary, you're a devil.

**Mary:** But wearing such a beautiful dress... *(both laugh and go with the guys)*

**David:** And? Have you been talking with the actors?

**Mary:** Yes, yes, they were very nice...

**David:** What did they say? *(The girls don't know what to say.)*

**Mary:** They asked if we were... single...

**Charles:** And what did you answer?

**Mary:** Yes, of course, absolutely single! Both of us!

**Ellen:** *(quietly)* Mary, do not be so cruel.



**Mary:** Look, the second part is starting.


## Scene 5

track 15

*Now the four are at the gate of the university.*

**Ellen:** Well... It was a wonderful evening.

**Charles:** Yeah, it was fine.



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**Mary:** Well kids, it has been a pleasure, but if it ends here, I'm going to sleep.

**David:** Mary, may I accompany you up to the door of your room? I want to tell you something.

**Mary:** Finally. I thought it would never happen. (*He holds out his hand and she grabs it. They leave talking*).

**David:** You see, Mary, I've liked you for a long time and... (*gestures made to Charles for him do the same*)

**Ellen:** Well, it seems that David has finally decided to tell her how he feels about her.

**Charles:** Yes, that's good, right?

**Ellen:** Yes, yes, very good.

**Charles:** Well, well.

**Ellen:** Well... well done! (*They both start to speak at once and laugh nervously*)  
You first.


**Charles:** No, you.

**Ellen:** No, you.

**Charles:** Let's see... where should I start? Ellen, well, I have noticed that... that when I'm with you, I feel something special. It is as if a power... (*you hear a voice*)

**Voice:** Letter to Mr. Charles Dickens.

**Charles:** A letter for me at this hour? Who can it be? Hey! Here!



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**Ellen:** That's strange... (*The letter comes flying down to the stage*) Who is it?

**Charles:** It doesn't say. But I see that it is postmarked from Portsmouth.

**Ellen:** So it is your dad.

**Charles:** It's from a law firm... (*reads*) "Dear sir, we regret to inform you of the death of John Dickens ..."

**Ellen:** God, Charles. Who was it? Your...?

**Charles:** My father.

**Ellen:** Oh, I am so sorry, Charles. What can I do for you?

**Charles (*sits on the floor, sad*):** I do not know... My father was a good person.

**Ellen:** Do you want me to leave you alone?

**Charles:** No. Stay.

**Ellen (*sits on the floor*):** Thanks.

**Charles:** Thank you? Why?


**Ellen:** For letting me share this moment with you.

**Charles:** It is not a good time ...

**Ellen:** But it is a moment with you.

**Charles:** Thank you.

**Ellen:** Thank you? Why?



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**Charles:** For sharing this moment with me. (*Ellen puts her head on his shoulder*). My father did a lot of wrong things, but I always loved him. I remember one day when we were fishing in the lake and I fell into the lake. My father jumped into the water to save me, but he didn't know how to swim. He tried to get to me, splashing water all over the place, but only managed to sink more. Then a fisherman came and pulled both of us out of the lake.

**Charles:** Ellen Thompson Hogarth (*pause*) Will you marry me?

**Ellen:** Yes, Charles Dickens, yes! (*They kiss*)

## Scene 6

track 16<sup>©</sup>

**Voice:** Ooooooh! Love, isn't it beautiful? Charles was very sad about the death of his father, but Ellen had found someone to be happy with. They had some very romantic months until the last day of college...

**David:** I cannot believe we have finished our studies. Now I feel ready for anything. I could take on the world. I want to do something important.

**Charles:** I am convinced that you will get anything you want.

**David:** What are you going to do?

**Charles:** I will try to find a job at a newspaper. I would like to write.

**David:** That has always been your dream. And now you have Ellen too.

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**Charles:** I'm sure Mary will also support you.

**David:** She's been so nervous these days with the wedding plans.

**Charles:** Ellen, too. There is one thing I have to do now.

**David:** What is it?

**Charles:** A long time ago I said farewell to a great friend, named Oliver, and I promised him that when I became a writer, I would write a novel inspired by him, with his name as the title. And you know I always keep my promises. Tomorrow I will start writing "Oliver Twist," and the following...

**David:** If it is not called "David Copperfield" I'll kill you.

**Charles:** I promise. (*Hug*)

## Scene 7

## track 17

**Voice:** Charles kept his promise. He wrote Oliver Twist and it was a great success. He lived in a house with his inseparable Ellen and worked at a small local newspaper. Until one day his life started to change...


**Ellen:** Charles, I have to tell you something.

**Charles:** What?

**Ellen:** I'm pregnant.

**Charles:** (*very happy*) Really? That's my love! I love you, I love you, I love you...

**Ellen:** I thought that the baby could be named John, after your father, if it is a boy, and Anne, after my mother, but spelled with an "e" at the end, it looks more chic, if



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it is a little girl.

**Charles:** As you like, honey.

**Voice:** And after a year...

**Ellen:** (*With a baby in arms*) Charles, I have to tell you something.

**Charles:** Is anything wrong with little John?

**Ellen:** No, he is okay. But I am pregnant again.

**Charles:** Ha, ha, ha, ha... We are fortunate. Don't you think?

**Ellen:** Yes.

**Voice:** And a couple of years later...

**Ellen:** (*with two babies in her arms*) Charles, I have to tell you something.

**Charles:** Is it something about little John and little Anne?

**Ellen:** No. They are fine. But... I'm pregnant again.


**Charles:** Really?

**Ellen:** Yes.

**Charles:** Ha, ha, ha, ha...

**Voice:** And a year later...

**Ellen:** (*With three babies in her arms*) Charles, I have to tell you something.



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**Charles:** Don't tell me that you are pregnant again?

**Ellen:** Yes.

**Charles:** I'll have to find another job to maintain everyone. I love you, dear.

**Voice:** And a couple of years later...

**Ellen (4 babies with her):** Charles, I have to tell you something ...

**Charles:** You're pregnant!

**Ellen:** Yes.

**Charles:** Ha, ha, ha, ha...

**Voice:** And a year later...

**Ellen (5 babies with her):** Charles, I have to tell you something...

**Charles:** Ha, ha, ha, ha...

**Voice:** And a couple of years later...

**Ellen (6 babies with her):** Charles...

**Charles:** ha, ha, ha, ha...

**Voice:** And a year later...

**Ellen (with an undetermined number of infants in their arms, they look at each other and laugh more and more, turning into a frenetic laughter):** Ha, ha, ha, ha...

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**Voice:** And do you know what happened a couple of years later?

**Charles (*all with babies in their arms*):** Ellen, I have to tell you something...

**Ellen:** You're pregnant!

**Charles:** Yes.

**Ellen:** Look, what a coincidence, me too.

**Both:** Ha, ha, ha, ha...

**Voice:** And finally came the tenth and final... Yes, yes, the tenth.

**Ellen (*we hear an unbearable noise of children, crying, singing, playing...*):**  
Charles, can you stop writing and help with your nine children?

**Charles:** I am coming, my love.

**Ellen:** (*she closes the book in which he is writing*) Now!

**Charles:** OK. (*He takes over three or four children*) By the way, tomorrow is my interview with the newspaper. I think after the great success of my latest novel, I will get the job.

**Ellen:** And is it well paid?

**Charles:** Very well.

**Ellen:** So, I hope you get that job (*kissing him*) By the way... I am pregnant again.

**Charles:** God, I must get this job!

**Scene 8**

**track 18**

**Voice:** After the success of his latest novels, Charles went to seek work at the most prestigious newspaper in London. ©

**Charles (*in the newspaper*):** Hello, I have an interview with the director, Mr. Scrooge.

**Secretary:** Are you Mr. Clifford?

**Charles:** No.

**Secretary:** Mr. Montgomery?

**Charles:** No.

**Secretary:** Mr. Dickens?

**Charles:** That's me.

**Secretary:** Well, Mr. Scrooge is waiting. Follow me, Mr. Clifford.


**Charles:** No, no. My name is Dickens.

**Secretary:** Yes, of course. (*Speaking on the phone*) Mr. Scrooge, Mr. Montgomery is here.

**Charles:** Dickens. My name is Dickens.

**Secretary:** That's what I said, Mr. Clifford is here.

**Charles:** No, you said Mr. Montgomery is here.



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**Secretary:** And aren't you Mr. Montgomery?

**Charles:** No. I am Mr. Dickens.

**Secretary:** Well, as you prefer, Mr. Clifford. You can enter now. (*Charles enters the office*)

**Charles:** Good morning, Mr. Scrooge. My name is Charles Dickens.

**Scrooge:** And where is Mr. Montgomery?

**Charles:** It's a complicated story. I think that he went with Mr. Clifford to...  
Australia.

**Scrooge:** To Australia? People are stupid. What the hell is there in Australia? There are only a bunch of stupid, stupid kangaroos and koalas down there. And you, what the hell do you want?


**Charles:** I came for the job.

**Scrooge:** Well... so you are a journalist.

**Charles:** More or less, I'm a writer. Haven't you read my novels? They were sent by mail. Didn't they arrive?

**Scrooge:** A novelist? And why do I want a bloody novelist? All novelists have their heads full of fantasies and live in an unrealistic world. I do not need a novelist. I need an aggressive journalist, who can sell newspapers, and not a crazy novelist with his head full of birds. Get out of my office!

**Charles:** But... Look, Mr. Scrooge, if you read my novels, you'll see that my writing style is very critical and reveals realities that have so far remained hidden. Give me a chance.



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**Scrooge:** A chance? Look, stupid. If I gave an opportunity to everyone who entered my office, my company would be full of incompetents. Out!

**Charles:** How can you judge me like that if you don't even know me?

**Scrooge:** Because I have a good eye for people.

**Charles:** No one would say that looking at your secretary.

**Scrooge:** You think you are really smart, right? Coming into my office, pretending you are Mr. Montgomery...

**Charles:** That is not...

**Scrooge:** Shut up. And then you give me advice on how to run my newspaper?  
Useless devil...

**Charles:** Look Mr. Scrooge, in other circumstances, I would not be here holding this conversation. But I am desperate. Tomorrow is Christmas Day and I have a wife and ten children to feed. I am asking for an opportunity, let me write for your paper for a little while, and if it does not work out, you can fire me and that's it. I beg you, Mr. Scrooge. If not for me, do it for my children.

**Scrooge:** Do you think you're going to convince me with this Christmas tale? If your 10 children haven't got anything to eat, it is not my problem! Go steal money from another idiot! Get out of my office! Out!

**Charles:** Mr. Scrooge, you are a bad person. I came over here with all my enthusiasm and eager to work, but...

**Scrooge:** But what? Hum?

**Charles (very sad):** Mr. Scrooge Nothing, nothing. Well, yes, merry Christmas.

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## Song

**Scrooge:** Merry Christmas?

I hate their joyful faces, hoping for some miracle from heaven (3).  
I work hard but they love a fat guy, stupid Santa Claus never pays taxes!  
So that children don't have anything to eat... Well, they can eat their nails!

**Secretary:** Mr. Scrooge, can I go home?

**Scrooge:** Home? It's still half an hour until the end of your work day.

**Secretary:** I know, but tomorrow is Christmas and I would like to see my children tonight before they go to bed. See their excited faces waiting for their Christmas gifts.

**Scrooge:** Again DAMN Christmas. Finish your shift and then you can go, right? One moment, I am going to say it a bit clearer. (*Shouting*) You're paid to work, not to see your kids! GO WORK!!!


**Secretary:** Mr. Scrooge, you are a monster.

**Scrooge:** A monster ... Bah, nonsense. (*There is a set of lights*) Eh? What is going on? (*Lighting set changes*) Well, I think the bulb is out there (*talking on the telephone*) Margaret, send me the maintenance men.

**Voice of the secretary:** There is nobody in the office, Mr. Scrooge, only you and me.

**Scrooge:** And where the hell has everybody gone?

**Voice of the secretary:** They will be having dinner with their families, I guess.



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## Scene 9

## track 19

**Scrooge:** Damn! Everyone turns into idiots with this Christmas thing. OK. Well, I'll have to fix it myself. (He steps on a chair and falls. There is another change in the set of lights and he wakes up dazed.) What happened? Where am I?

**Phantom 1 (*a very sensual woman*):** Hello, Ebenezer Scrooge.

**Scrooge:** Who are you? How do you know my name?

**Phantom 1:** It says it on the door.

**Scrooge:** You're right. But who are you?

**Phantom 1:** I am the ghost of Christmas Past.

**Scrooge:** What? You do not look like a ghost. (*He is going to touch it and the ghost quickly moves away from his hand*) Wowwww! How do you do that?

**Ghost 1:** That does not matter now. What is important is why I am here.


**Scrooge:** And why are you here?

**Phantom 1:** To make you realize what you've lost.

**Scrooge:** Lost? I have not lost anything.

**Phantom 1:** You've lost something. But it is not something material. Do not look in your pocket or in your drawers. Search in your heart.

**Scrooge:** In my heart? And how do you do that?

A horizontal banner with a dark teal rounded rectangle on the left and a light green area on the right. The light green area contains contact information and three vertical white lines of varying heights on the far right.

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**Phantom 1:** I will help you. Look (*lighting*). Remember that?

**Scrooge:** That's my sister and I, when we were small... ha, ha, ha, ha. We were very excited opening Christmas gifts. Those moments were so happy.

**Phantom 1:** Those moments were very happy, weren't they? But what happened to make them stop being so? Let's go a little further. (*Lights*) Recognize that?

**Scrooge:** Of course I recognize that! My lovely wife. She was the love of my life. But I cannot remember why I left...

**Phantom 1:** Are you sure you can't remember that? Pay attention, Ebenezer Scrooge, look in your heart.

**Scrooge:** Yes, I remember now... She was a very loving and generous person, but she got tired of me. She always said to me that I was only interested in money and never showed any interest in people.

**Phantom 1:** And do you remember the day you left?


**Scrooge:** Yes...it was December 25<sup>th</sup> ... Christmas Day... (*the ghost disappears with another set of lights*) Hey, where are you? Come back! Don't you hear me? (*Another ghost appears dressed as a king*) Aaaaaaah! Who are you?

**Phantom2:** I am the ghost of Christmas Present. I have come to show you what you have. Look at the screen. (*lights*)

**Scrooge:** Hey, that's my home. My treasures... my safe... my artwork... All my money, my fortune!

**Phantom 2:** I see what you recognize. And here are your loved ones. (*They look, but there is no light.*)

**Scrooge:** I see nothing. Is it broken?



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**Phantom 2:** No, Ebenezer Scrooge. It is not.

**Scrooge:** Well, I can't see anything.

**Phantom 2:** And doesn't that make you think?... Ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha.  
(*Disappears into another set of lights*)

**Scrooge:** Oh. Is there nobody who I love? Or no one who loves me? Or both? (*A ghost-like figure of death appears.*) And I suppose that you will be the ghost of Christmas Future. (*The figure does not speak, just nods.*) And what do you want to show me this time? (*Scrooge's tomb with an epitaph that says: Ebenezer Scrooge, nobody will miss you.*) No! That I do not want to see! Out! Out of here! Go! Disappear! Get out! (*The figure disappears on the last play of light*) God! What am I doing with my life? I must do something. I do not want to die and be forgotten. (*Goes looking for his secretary*) Margaret! Margaret!

**Margaret:** What is it, Mr. Scrooge? Are you upset? Are you OK?

**Scrooge:** Am I OK? I'm better than ever. What are you still doing here? Go, go home. I am sure your family is waiting for you.

**Margaret:** Are you serious?

**Scrooge:** Yes! And here, take this! (*Gives her money*) Buy some beautiful gifts for your children.

**Margaret:** Thank you, Mr. Scrooge. I don't know what happened, but I am sure it is a blessing. (*He kisses her cheek.*) Merry Christmas, Mr. Scrooge.

**Scrooge:** Merry Christmas, Margaret. (*He kisses her cheek and she leaves quickly.*) And now I'll do something very important. (*Leaves the stage and goes to the house of Charles*)

**Scene 10**

**track 20**

**Ellen:** How are we going to feed our children tonight, Charles?

**Charles:** I suppose that we will have to settle for the leftovers from yesterday.

**Ellen:** This is the saddest Christmas of our lives.

**Charles:** Ellen, the important thing is that we love each other. You'll see as time passes, we will be better. I promise you that! (*The doorbell rings.*) Who is it at this time? (*Opens*) Mr. Scrooge! What are you doing here?

**Scrooge (*proffering food and a bottle of champagne*):** I am sorry to come so unexpectedly, but today I have had a revelation and I could not let you have such a sad Christmas, so... (*gives them food and tries to leave*) By the way, come by my office Monday and we'll talk more calmly about giving you the job. Sorry about this morning. Merry Christmas to you, Dickens family.

**Charles:** Does that mean you will give me the job?

**Scrooge:** Of course. Your novels are very good, they are excellent! But now enjoy your family and let's talk about work on Monday. Bye.


**Charles:** Wait a minute. And where will you have dinner tonight?

**Scrooge:** At home.

**Charles:** Alone?

**Scrooge:** Yes, as usual.

**Charles:** And why don't you stay and have dinner with us? Where twelve can eat, so can thirteen.



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**Scrooge:** Really?

**Ellen:** Yes. Today it is better not to dine alone. Don't you think?

**Scrooge (*touched*):** Thank you.

**Ellen:** I will prepare dinner.

**Scrooge:** I don't know how to thank you for that.

**Charles:** Do not worry. You don't have to thank me, you have done enough for this family, don't you think?

**Scrooge:** Well, then let's go to the kitchen and prepare dinner together. It will be fun.


**Charles:** Sure. Come on.

**Scrooge:** Get ready, everybody, make way for Super Chef Scrooge. (*He goes into the kitchen laughing and jumping like a child*)

**Charles (*about to leave*):** Wait a second, I have an idea for a novel. (*Takes a piece of paper and a pencil*) "The Fantastic Story of Mr. Scrooge"... No. "Christmas Dinner"... No. I've got it! This novel will be called... "The Christmas Tale of...", no, no, "A Christmas Carol." (*The light goes down while Charles writes without stopping.*)

**Voice:** And so this story ends. It may not be the best in the world, but is the story of Charles Dickens, one of the best people in the world, humble, friendly, hardworking and absolutely brilliant.

**Scrooge:** Charles are you not going to help me with dinner? Now let's stuff the turkey. It will be fun. Ha, ha, ha, ha!



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**Charles:** Yes, I'm coming. This can wait until tomorrow. I am ready!

**The end**

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