

# Side #1 - Ghost of Christmas Past

24.

SCROOGE

What is this? This is just a dream! All a dream!

*The light stops. A giggle.*

SCROOGE

Who is here? Show yourself, I beg you!

*Out steps the GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PAST, TRICKSTER.*

*She has the face of a child, but the appearance of an old woman. Her whole presence gives of a bright glow.*

SCROOGE

***Start***

Are you the Spirit whose coming was foretold to me?

TRICKSTER

I am.

SCROOGE

Who -- what are you?

TRICKSTER

I am the Ghost of Christmas Past.

*Scrooge makes reference to her appearance.*

SCROOGE

Long past by the looks of it.

TRICKSTER

Oh yes. Your past. So, loooooooooong past. (Beat) Looooooo....

SCROOGE

Yes... Spirit... I understand.

TRICKSTER

... Oooooong. Past. (Beat) You're old.

SCROOGE

What brings you here?

TRICKSTER

Your welfare!

SCROOGE

Would not a night of unbroken rest have been more conducive to that end than... all of this?

TRICKSTER

Your redemption, then! Take heed!

*Trickster presents a music box.  
Scrooge recognizes it instantly.*

SCROOGE

Where --. How --.

TRICKSTER

Place your hand here. It is time to go. Ready?

*She places his hand on the music  
box. Then, her hand on his heart.*

SCROOGE

Good Heaven!

*The room -- London itself --  
vanishes in a series of bright  
lights, wind, and magic.*

*The darkness disappears...*

***End***

FEZZIWIG

Go. Enjoy yourself. (With a smile) That is an order.

*He snatches the ledger and a VERY reluctant Young Ebenezer gets swept into the merriment.*

*Scrooge watches his young self.*

TRICKSTER

(Feeling the spirit)

*Start*

A small matter to make these silly folks so full of gratitude.

SCROOGE

Small!

TRICKSTER

Is it not? He has spent but a few pounds of your mortal money. Is that so much that he deserves this praise?

SCROOGE

It isn't that, Spirit. He was the best man a young apprentice could hope for, patient, but *awful* with the books. Frivolous.

TRICKSTER

But he was happy. And kind.

SCROOGE

Kindness couldn't keep his doors open.

*Entering, unseen by Scrooge, is JACOB MARLEY and his young daughter, BELLE. Fezziwig sees and crosses to them. Belle gives him a warm hug. Marley offers a cold handshake.*

SCROOGE

(Beat) Still, he had the power to render us happy or unhappy; to make our service light or burdensome; a pleasure or a toil.

TRICKSTER

*End*

The happiness he gives, then, is quite as great as if it cost a fortune. (Beat) What is the matter?