

Scene 4

1 *[Christmas music, choral, "Hark the Herald,
Angels Sing," sung by an onstage choir of
2 children, spotlighted, D.C. Above, SCROOGE
in his bed, dead to the world, asleep, in his
darkened room. It should appear that the
choir is singing somewhere outside of the
house, of course, and a use of scrim¹⁴ is
thus suggested. When the singing is ended,
the choir should fade out of view and MAR-
LEY should fade into view, in their place.]*

3 **MARLEY .** *[Directly to audience]* From this
point forth ... I shall be quite visible to you,
but invisible to him. *[Smiles]* He will feel my
presence, nevertheless, for, unless my senses
fail me completely, we are—you and I—wit-
4 nesses to the changing of a miser: that one,
my partner in life, in business, and in eter-
nity: that one: Scrooge. *[Moves to staircase,
below SCROOGE]* See him now. He endeavors
to pierce the darkness with his ferret eyes.¹⁵
[To audience] See him. now. He listens for
the hour.

5 *[The bells toll, SCROOGE is awakened and
quakes as the hour approaches one o'clock,
but the bells stop their sound at the hour of
twelve.]*

6 **SCROOGE .** *[Astonished]* **Midnight!** Why this
isn't possible. It was past two when I went to
bed. An icicle must have gotten into the
clock's works! I couldn't have slept through
the whole day and far into another night. It
isn't possible that anything has happened to
the sun, and this is twelve at noon! *[He runs
to window: unshutters same: it is night.]*
Night, still. Quiet, normal for the season,
cold. It is certainly not noon. I cannot in any
way afford to lose my days. Securities come

14. **scrim** (skrim) n.: A light, semi-transparent curtain.

15. **ferret eyes:** A ferret is a small, weasel-like animal used for hunting rabbits: this expression means to look persistently, the way a ferret hunts.

due, promissory notes,¹⁶ interest on invest-
ments: these are things that happen in the
daylight! *[He returns to his bed.]* **Was this a
7 dream?**

*[MARLEY appears in his room. He speaks to
the audience.]*

8 **MARLEY .** You see? He does not, with faith,
believe in me fully, even still! **Whatever will it
take to turn the faith of a miser from money
to men?**

SCROOGE . Another quarter and it'll be one
and Marley's ghostly friends will come.
[Pauses: listens] Where's the chime for one?
[Ding, dong] A quarter past *[Repeats]* Half-
past! *[Repeats]* A quarter to it! But where's
9 the heavy bell of the hour one? **This is a
game in which I lose my senses!** Perhaps, if
I allowed myself another short doze . . .

MARLEY Doze. Ebenezer, doze.

10 *[A heavy bell thuds its one ring: dull and
definitely one o'clock. There is a flash of
light, SCROOGE sits up, in a sudden. A hand
11 draws back the curtains by his bed. He
sees it]*

SCROOGE. A hand! Who owns it! Hello!

12 *[Ghostly music again, but of a new nature
to the play. A strange figure stands before
SCROOGE—like a child, yet at the same time
13 like an old man: white hair, but unwrin-
kled skin, long, muscular arms, but deli-
cate legs and feet. Wears white tunic: lus-
trous belt cinches waist. Branch of fresh
green holly in its hand, but has its dress
trimmed with fresh summer flowers. Clear
jets of light spring from the crown of its
head. Holds cap in hand. The Spirit is
called PAST.]*

Are you the Spirit, sir, whose coming was
foretold to me?

16. **promissory** (pram' t sbr el **notes:** Written promises to pay someone a certain sum of money.