

# TIM AND SCROOGE ©

## A Carol for a Later Christmas

Music by Neil Berg

Book and Lyrics by Nick Meglin

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**CAST of CHARACTERS**

EBENEZER SCROOGE (a ghost).....Male, Age 75  
TIM CRATCHIT (Tiny Tim; college student)....Male, Age 21  
ALLISON DRAKE (his girlfriend).....Female, Age 21  
BOB CRATCHIT (Tim's father).....Male, Age 60  
ANN CRATCHIT (Tim's mother).....Female, Age 60  
PETER CRATCHIT (Tim's eldest brother).....Male, Age 32  
MARTHA CRATCHIT (Tim's sister).....Female, Age 30  
GERALD CRATCHIT (Tim's brother).....Male, Age 26  
VANESSA DORSET (Allison's friend).....Female, Age 22  
HENRY HASTINGS (a devious businessman).....Male, Age 50  
HAROLD HALL (Hastings' business partner)....Male, Age 47  
JACOB MARLEY (a ghost).....Male, Age 77  
WALTON (clerk).....Male, Age 25  
SANFORD BILLINGS (visitor).....Male, Age 34

**SETTING**

England. Winter.

**TIME**

1885

## MUSICAL NUMBERS

### ACT I

1 )	HUMBUG! .....	1-P-1
2 )	PAGES ARE TURNING .....	1-2-5
3 )	SURPRISE .....	1-2-7
4 )	THE WAY IT WAS THEN .....	1-2-15
5 )	I CAN'T HELP IT .....	1-2-20
6 )	PAGES ARE TURNING (Reprise).....	1-2-23
7 )	HE DOESN'T WANT IT .....	1-3-24
8 )	THE BUSINESS OF BUSINESS .....	1-4-30
9 )	EBENEZER SCROOGE .....	1-4-39
10)	THE WAY IT WAS THEN (Reprise).....	1-4-40
11)	A WOMAN'S PLACE .....	1-5-43
12)	A WOMAN'S PLACE (Reprise).....	1-5-46
13)	AN AGREEMENT .....	1-6-50
14)	SEPARATE PATHS .....	1-6-53

### ACT II

15)	HE DOESN'T OWN IT .....	2-P-56
16)	YOUR HOST.....	2-2-61
17)	NOTHING MORE.....	2-2-64
18)	WORDS.....	2-2-68
19)	HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS.....	2-2-71
20)	ONE SMALL FACT.....	2-2-83
21)	THINK WITH YOUR HEART.....	2-2-86
22)	THERE'S EARNING IN LEARNING.....	2-2-88
23)	SEPARATE PATHS (Reprise).....	2-2-98
24)	HUMBUG (Reprise).....	2-2-99

ACT I

PROLOGUE:

A CELESTIAL ENVIRONMENT

As the overture concludes, an eerie light reveals the ghost of an excited SCROOGE pacing about. His smile and demeanor tell us he's still very much the transformed miser we learned to love at the close of the Dickens' classic.

SCROOGE

Jacob? Jacob Marley!

(Then to HIMSELF)

What's taking him so long? It's not like I'm asking for the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Yet To Come to journey back down! Just me! Not like when they all came to pay me a visit...

**1. HUMBUG!**

WHAT A NIGHT THAT WAS! WHAT A NIGHT!  
FIRST JACOB CAME, THEN CHRISTMAS PAST  
WITH FLOWING HAIR OF WHITE

THE GHOST OF PRESENT NEXT,  
ALTHOUGH I WAS PERPLEXED  
THEY JUDGED ME, "NOT CONTRITE!"  
THEN CHRISTMAS YET TO COME  
SAID, "HERE'S YOUR TOMBSTONE, CHUM!"  
'T WAS NOT A MERRY SIGHT!

WHAT I ONCE BELIEVED WAS HUMBUG  
WASN'T HUMBUG IN THE LEAST  
AND MY LIFE OF DEPRIVATION?  
THAT WAS ENDED! FINISHED! CEASED!  
WHAT WAS ONCE AN EMPTY TABLE  
HAD BECOME A KINGLY FEAST  
ONCE I LEARNED THAT LIFE IS LOVING  
ONCE I LEARNED THAT LOVE IS GIVING  
LOVE IS WHAT MAKES LIFE WORTH LIVING  
EVERYTHING ELSE -- IS HUMBUG!

SCROOGE (Continued)

I certainly didn't make it easy for the four of them! I used to be quite impossible before I became, well, less impossible...

WHAT A NIGHT THAT WAS! WHAT A NIGHT!  
MY FORMER LIFE OF MISERY  
WAS HELD UP TO THE LIGHT

AND THEN A FAIRLY CLOSE  
TO RATHER LETHAL DOSE  
OF UNMITIGATED FRIGHT  
WAS ALL, AT LAST, IT TOOK  
TO MAKE ME TAKE A LOOK  
AND FINALLY SET THINGS RIGHT

ALL THAT PENNY-PINCHING NONSENSE  
WASN'T WISE AND WASN'T SOUND  
THERE'S NO GREATER SATISFACTION  
THAN THE ONE I LATER FOUND  
JUST INVEST YOUR LOVE IN PEOPLE  
YOUR INVESTMENT WILL COMPOUND  
ONCE YOU LEARN THAT LIFE IS LOVING  
ONCE YOU LEARN THAT LOVE IS GIVING  
LOVE IS WHAT MAKES LIFE WORTH LIVING  
EVERYTHING ELSE -- IS HUMBUG!

JACOB  
(Offstage, in a serious tone)  
Ebenezer Scrooge!

(JACOB enters. Being a senior ghost, HE is loving but cautious towards the impish SCROOGE)

SCROOGE  
Will they let me go, Jacob? Can I look upon Tim's face as he learns about the provisions in my will? For more than anyone else on earth, the lad brought so much meaning to my life.

JACOB  
Yes, you may witness the moment Tim finally learns of his inheritance.

SCROOGE  
Thank you, Jacob.

JACOB

But remember, your stay on earth is not an official visitation!  
It is limited to observation only. Nothing else.

SCROOGE

Can I at least...

JACOB

You can observe! That is all! Make certain there are no  
relaxations of the rules or you will be recalled immediately and  
we will both suffer dire consequences! Have I made myself  
perfectly clear, Ebenezer?

SCROOGE

Perfectly! Look but don't touch!

(JACOB stops, shrugs, then a warm final plea)

JACOB

Ebenezer, Please. Don't make me sorry that I interceded on your  
behalf.

(As SCROOGE begins to exit, the space starts to  
transition to the next scene)

SCROOGE

I understand, Jacob. Thank you. Thank you...

PERUSAL - DO NOT DUPLICATE

ACT I

SCENE 1

THE POND

TIM and ALLISON sit on a bench near a pond. Academic buildings appear in the distance. It is late fall.

TIM

ALLISON, I LOVE YOU SO  
MORE THAN YOU WILL EVER KNOW

ALLISON

Certainly more than your parents will ever know.

TIM

(Tossing a small stone)

They will learn soon enough. You must wait for the right moment to toss a stone into a pond without fear of creating a few ripples. I must first tell them of my decision to be a teacher.

ALLISON

I don't understand why that would present a problem for any parent. Teaching is among the most important professions someone can choose. Remember, it's what brought us together.

TIM

True, but I believe my father has always believed I would assume some position in the countinghouse he manages. Me! With the least qualified business mind in all of England!

ALLISON

That is because your heart lies elsewhere.

TIM (Adoringly)

Of that you can be sure!

ALLISON

I'm talking about teaching and you know it, Tim Cratchit. Your concern for the welfare of others makes you unfit for the mercenary world of business! After what befell my parents, I could never respect nor trust anyone who seeks to benefit by another's misfortunes. I'm very proud that I will be married to a teacher.

TIM

Have no fear, my love. Remember, all matters of finance assume an understanding of mathematics!

ALLISON

Your favorite subject!

TIM

Exactly! The very mention of it leaves me numb. I believe it is no coincidence the word "numbers" begins with "numb."

ALLISON (Laughs)

Your gift is words, and with your ideals and dedication, you will be a wonderful teacher. I pray that your family will accept me as readily as you have.

TIM

They will adore you as I do. How could they not? "Everyone, I'd like to present -- the future Mrs. Allison Cratchit!"

ALLISON

It will mark the beginning of our life's journey together.

TIM

(Opens imaginary book)

Not so. Our journey began over a year ago. See? I've entered every chapter in this book.

ALLISON

The words are rather faint.

TIM

I see them more clearly every day. Chapter One: They Meet! Chapter Two: They Fall In Love! Chapter Three: He Completes His Studies At The University, She Completes Her Tutoring Obligations At The Orphanage...

ALLISON

The story moves along very quickly.

TIM

Not quickly enough for me...

## 2. PAGES ARE TURNING

PAGES ARE TURNING  
EACH ONE REVEALING  
PASSION AND YEARNING  
MY EVERY FEELING



TIM (Continued)

CHAPTERS ARE ENDING  
NEW ONES BEGINNING  
SEAMLESSLY BLENDING  
THE EVER SPINNING  
STORY OF ONE MAN, ONE DREAM, ONE PLAN  
A BETTER TOMORROW WAS ALL I KNEW  
EACH NIGHT I'D PRAY, WISHING SOMEDAY  
I'D FIND SOMEONE WHO FELT THAT WAY, TOO

NOW THERE'S NOTHING I WANT MORE  
THAN TO KNOW I'LL ALWAYS SHARE  
THE PAGES OF MY LIFE -- WITH YOU

ALLISON

Promise me we will never allow personal gain to lead us from our path, for when dreamers change, so do their dreams.

TIM

That can never happen, for you are the star that lights my sky...

TIM

YOUR HAND IN MY HAND

MY LOVE  
WE'LL STAND TOGETHER AND KNOW  
WE WILL SEE IT THROUGH

PAGES ARE TURNING

FIRES  
BURNING  
WITHIN ME SO EACH DREAM  
COMES TRUE

THERE IS NOTHING I WANT MORE  
THEN TO KNOW I'LL ALWAYS SHARE  
THE PAGES OF MY LIFE WITH YOU

ALLISON

YOUR HAND IN MY HAND

WE'LL STAND TOGETHER AND KNOW  
WE WILL SEE IT THROUGH

PAGES ARE TURNING

BURNING  
WITHIN ME SO EACH DREAM  
COMES TRUE

NOTHING I WANT MORE

KNOW I'LL SHARE  
THE PAGES OF MY LIFE WITH YOU

ALLISON

"The star that lights your sky!" I trust those words have been duly noted in your book?

TIM

Of course. They serve as the dedication. And now we come to my favorite part, Chapters Four and Five: They Marry! They Teach!

ALLISON

You haven't mentioned the chapter concerning the matter of her meeting his parents who don't know she exists!

TIM

Hmmm, I believe that would be before they marry.

ALLISON

I certainly hope so!

TIM

Ah, here it is. Chapter Two and One Half, "The Surprise"

### 3. SURPRISE

TIM

TO INTRODUCE YOU CHRISTMAS DAY  
A MOMENT I WILL TREASURE  
TO BRING SUCH PLEASURE TO MY FAMILY

ALLISON

SO CAREFUL TO DISGUISE IT  
THAT NO ONE COULD SURMISE IT

TIM, ALLISON

WHAT A DELIGHTFUL SURPRISE IT WILL BE!

ALLISON

BUT NOT FOR EITHER BROTHER

(PETER and GERALD enter at opposite sides of the stage  
with letters which they refer to throughout the song)

TIM

THEY BOTH KNOW

ALLISON

YOU'VE WRITTEN ONE ANOTHER

TIM  
TO AND FRO

ALLISON  
GERALD AND HIS WIFE...

TIM  
...PATRICIA

ALLISON  
PETER...

TIM (Imitating a French bon vivant)  
...MONSIEUR L'ARCHITECT IN PAR-EE

(MARTHA enters center stage with several letters)

MARTHA, OF COURSE, REMAINS UNTOLD  
I HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO WITHHOLD...

ALLISON  
WITH MARTHA HOME, YOU COULDN'T WRITE  
YOUR LETTERS WOULD REMAIN IN OPEN SIGHT  
WHICH MEANS YOUR PARENTS WOULD CERTAINLY SEE

TIM  
YES, MY LOVE, I'VE SEEN TO ALL  
EVERY DETAIL, LARGE AND SMALL

ALLISON, TIM  
WHAT A DELIGHTFUL SURPRISE IT WILL BE!

(Lights fade on TIM and ALLISON)

PETER  
GERALD, I'VE GOT WONDERFUL NEWS  
BUT IT'S ONLY MEANT FOR YOUR EYES  
I'M COMING HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS  
I WANT IT TO BE A SURPRISE!

GERALD  
PETER, KNOW IN SEVERAL WEEKS HENCE  
YOUR NAME YOU'LL BE FORCED TO REVISE  
YOU'LL THEN ADD "UNCLE" -- BUT DON'T TELL TIM  
WE WANT IT TO BE A SURPRISE!

MARTHA

PETER, PARIS IS THE PERFECT CITY  
MANY LADIES YOU'LL THINK PRETTY  
PERHAPS THERE'S ONE MORE DESPERATE -- THAN WISE!  
DEAR TIM, NO DOUBT YOU'RE TRAILING  
BEHIND YOUR CLASS AND FAILING  
TO ME THAT WOULDN'T BE A SURPRISE!

PETER

MARTHA, MY PET, I MUST SAY WITH REGRET  
THERE WILL BE NO DUET -- I'M TOO BORED  
ALL THE LADIES I'VE MET QUICKLY SPREAD OUT THEIR NET  
IT'S UPSETTING TO BE SO ADORED!

TIM

MARTHA, ALAS, I HAVE NOT FAILED ONE CLASS  
THE REASON I PASS? I'LL EXPLAIN...  
MY PROFESSOR'S ALL FEEL -- PITY WHEN I REVEAL  
I'VE A SISTER AT HOME WHO'S INSANE!

PETER

INSANE!

GERALD

INSANE!

TIM, GERALD, PETER

INSANE!

MARTHA

IF ALL AGREE THEN CERTAINLY  
WHAT YOU SAY OF ME IS TRUE  
BUT THAT WON'T INTERFERE WITH MY PLEASURE EVERY YEAR  
TO MAKE A BIRTHDAY CAKE FOR EACH OF YOU!

TIM, GERALD, PETER

OH, MARTHA, NO -- DON'T DO IT!

MARTHA

I SHALL IGNORE YOUR PLEA!

TIM, GERALD, PETER

IF ANYONE LIVES THROUGH IT...  
WHAT A DELIGHTFUL SURPRISE THAT WOULD BE!

VANESSA

Allison...

YOUR LETTER JUST CAME, MY DEAREST FRIEND  
A WEDDING NEXT YEAR WITH FLOWERS IN BLOOM  
I'M ELATED FOR YOU BUT LIVE WITH THE FEAR  
I'LL NEVER HAVE A WEDDING SINCE I'LL NEVER FIND A GROOM!

ALLISON

VANESSA, DON'T FRET... THAT DAY WILL COME  
WHEN SOMEONE YOU'VE MET WILL BE AT YOUR SIDE  
DON'T SCARE HIM OR HE MAY RUN AWAY AND HIDE--  
HE'LL NOT ASSUME THE ROLE OF GROOM SO YOU CAN BE A BRIDE!

VANESSA

THAT'S EASY TO SAY -- YOU'VE FOUND YOUR MAN!  
PLEASE NOTE THAT OUR POSITIONS ARE REVERSED!  
MALES ARE LIKE SNAILS ON MARRIAGE AND SUCH  
IT WOULD ALL GO SO MUCH FASTER  
IF GIRLS WERE ALLOWED TO ASK FIRST!

Good afternoon, Sir. Would you care for a cup of tea, or perhaps  
a wife?

(THEY laugh)

When will you meet Tim's parents?

ALLISON

On Christmas Day! It's a surprise...

(The spots fade on ALL as BOB and ANNE enter. SHE  
carries a small folio, HE a wooden office sign)

BOB

WHAT A SURPRISE IT WILL BE!

ANNE

A SURPRISE, I AGREE  
BUT BOB, WHAT IF HE  
IS NOT AS DELIGHTED AS WE ARE TONIGHT?  
PERHAPS IT WOULD BE BETTER  
TO PREPARE TIM IN A LETTER WHICH MIGHT...

BOB

ANNE, MY DEAR  
THAT'S CLEARLY NOT THE PLAN, MY DEAR  
IF WE DO WHAT YOU ADVISE  
THEN IT CAN, I FEAR  
NO LONGER BE A CHRISTMAS EVE SURPRISE