

MRS. CRATCHIT (*Not wanting to confront Scrooge*): Peter, Tim, Belinda – hurry along.

The CRATCHITS exit, and TINY TIM continues to wave to SCROOGE.

SCROOGE: What's today? (*Turning back to a shocked MRS. DILBER, who's trying to sneak out*)
What's today?

MRS. DILBER: Eh?

SCROOGE: What's today, my fine woman?

MRS. DILBER: Today? Why, it's Christmas

Day. SCROOGE: It's Christmas Day!

DILBER: Yes, Yes.

SCROOGE: I haven't missed it! (*SCROOGE hurriedly dresses*) The Spirits have done it all in one night! But of course, they can do anything they like. Of course they can! (*Handing her his tray*): Hallo, my fine woman!

MRS. DILBER (*Suspiciously*): Woo-hoo!! (*Takes Tray*)

SCROOGE: Here's a guinea. Do you know what this is for?

MRS. DILBER: To keep me mouth shut?

MUSIC: MERRY CHRISTMAS, MRS. DILBER

SCROOGE: (*Laughing*) No, Merry Christmas, Mrs. Dilber! Long past due. Now, first you must gather my hat and my coat and then, I beg you, take the day for yourself, my good woman!

MRS DILBER: Oh, sir! Yes sir. Thank you sir. Lord bless me!

~~START~~ *MRS. DILBER exits, confused and delighted. SCROOGE moves to the window. YOUNG BOYS are frolicking in the street.*

BOY 1: Hey! Give me my scarf!

BOY 2: It's mine now. Catch me if you can!

BOY 1: I'll cuff ya. You're a pint pot!

BOY 2: Ha! You're a shaver. You can't catch me!

SCROOGE: (*To The BOYS*) Hallo there!

MUSIC: LONDON BOYS

BOY 1: Oo' me?

SCROOGE: Yes, you. Tell me, do you know the Poulterer's in the next street but one, at the corner?

BOY 1: I should hope I do.

SCROOGE: An intelligent boy! A remarkable boy! Tell me do you know whether they've sold the prize turkey that was hanging there? Not the little prize turkey, mind you, but the big one.

BOY 2: What, the one as big as me?

SCROOGE: What a delightful boy! It's a pleasure to talk to you all. Yes, my buck!

BOY 2: It's hanging there now.

SCROOGE: Is it? Go and buy it!

BOY 1: Walk-ER!

The BOYS start off. SCROOGE calls after them.

SCROOGE: No, no..., wait. Wait! I am in earnest. Go and buy it, and tell them to bring it here, that I may give them the directions where to take it. Come back with the man, and I'll give you each a shilling.

BOY 1: *(Boys start running out.)* A Shilling! Woo Hoo!

SCROOGE: Boys!! Come back with him in less than five minutes, and I'll give you each half a crown.

BOY 2: C or blimey!

BOY 1: Half a crown?

BOY 1&2: Awright! Half a crown? Wow...we'll be back before you're dressed. Sorted mate!

The BOYS run off.

SCROOGE: *(Turning his back from his window and getting dressed)* I'll send it to Bob Cratchit's! He shan't know who sent it. It's twice the size of Tiny Tim!

MUSIC: COAT AND HAT

MRS. DILBER enters with Scrooge's hat, coat and scarf.

MRS. DILBER: Sir? Mr. Scrooge, Sir.

SCROOGE: Eh?

DILBER: Your coat, Sir.

SCROOGE: Oh! My coat. Of course.

MRS. DILBER helps SCROOGE dress.

DILBER: Mr. Scrooge?

MRS. DILBER hands him his hat.

SCROOGE: Oh yes, my hat, I'll need that.

SCROOGE places his top hat on over his night cap.

MRS. DILBER: *(Pointing at his nightcap)* Ah – Sir?. Oh, never mind...

Misunderstanding her and about to leave, SCROOGE kisses her cheek. This shocks both of them.

After composing themselves, MRS. DILBER crosses to the bedroom and begins straightening. As SCROOGE leaves the house, it begins to snow.

SCENE II. The Street outside Scrooge's Chambers.

MUSIC: OLD JOE

MRS. DILBER sees him from the window, they exchange glances, she smiles and exits. The BOYS enter with JOE, carrying a large turkey.