



A Christmas Carol

by Amanda Craib

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Main Characters

Ebenezer Scrooge

Bob Cratchit

Fred Scrooge

Dame Belle

Jacob Marley

Christmas Past

Christmas Present

Christmas Yet To Come

Smaller Characters

Emily Cratchit

Tiny Tim

School Boy Scrooge

School Master

Mr Fezziwig

Mrs Fezziwig

Young Scrooge

Young Belle

Charity Workers

Em Ment

Bez Ment

Elle Ment

Cratchit Children x5

Ignorance

Want

Sarah

Market People

Act One**Scene 1:**

The curtains open on a busy Christmas market scene, people are trading and enjoying each other's company.

Song – Opening number

Flower seller: Fresh flowers, anyone want some fresh flowers? I've got roses, I've got crocuses, I've got lilies (sneezes) I've got hay fever!

Vegetable seller: Fresh veg, anyone want fresh veg? I've got carrots, I've got parsnips, I've got brussel sprouts

Girl 1: I'll have some carrots

Vegetable seller: Here you are young girl, that'll be two pennies

Gas Lighter: That time of day again, I'd better get the street lights lit.

Girl 1: Here you are, oh sorry I've dropped it.

Vegetable seller: Don't worry I'll get it

As he bends down he farts and the street light lighter walks past and accidentally lights his fart

Flame effect

Gas lighter: Seems to me you've been over doing it with the brussel sprouts!

The local children all fall about laughing. Enter Scrooge, the children are in his way.

Scrooge: Out of my way! Shouldn't you be in school or better yet working?

Boy 1: I'm too young to work

Girl 1: And anyway it's the Christmas holidays.

Scrooge: Christmas! Bah humbug! Christmas is just an excuse for lazing around eating too much and spending too much money on ungrateful children, out of my way!

The children move out of his way and make faces behind his back. Scrooge turns round and catches them and chases them off with his walking stick.

Scrooge: Off with you!!

Flower seller: Christmas flowers sir?

Scrooge: Out of my way!

Scrooge walks towards his business and enters through the front door, as he does the front of the business opens completely to show the inside. There are three levels, ground level is for the workers with a raised section behind for Scrooge's desk with a stair at the side which leads up to Scrooges flat.

Bob: Mr Scrooge, sir, I trust you had a pleasant lunch?

Scrooge: Very over priced for what it was

Bob: Oh dear, not so good then.

Scrooge: I hope everyone here is working hard?

Bob: Of course sir

Scrooge: Good! I'll be in my office, I don't want to be disturbed.

Bob: Of course sir.

Em: I see his mood is just as cold as when he left

Bez: It's not just his mood that still as cold as when he left, it's freezing in here!

Elle: Bob, go and ask if we can have some more coal

Bob: Em, Bez, Elle – you know what he will say

Em: But he likes you, he might say yes.

Bez: I'm so cold, I've got brain freeze without the ice-cream

Elle: And without the brain!

Em: Please Bob.

Bob: Well.... I'll try

Em, Bez & Elle: Yes!

Bob goes up to Scrooges desk.

Bob: Um ... sir

Scrooge: I'm busy

Bob: It's just.... It's been snowing again and well the office is quite chilly and the ink is almost solid, making it quite impossible to write in the ledgers ...

Scrooge: Get to the point

Bob: Can we put another piece of coal on the fire?

Scrooge: (shouting) What?

Bob: Think of the ink Mr Scrooge, if it freezes we won't be able to use it.

Scrooge: Well, if the ink is going to freeze (pause) one lump! No more!

Bob: Thank you sir

Bob goes back down to the office

Em: Well....

Bob: (Triumphantly) One lump!

Bez: I knew you could do it.

Elle: I'm going to put it on right now!

The three of them run over to put the coal in the fire.

Em: Ohno there's none in the bucket, we better go and get some more from outside.

Bez: Yes, it's freezing in here.

Elle: I'll come out with you I might warm up a bit.

The exit the shop and go out to a bunker just by the door.

Enter Dame Belle.

Dame: Hello you three, Merry Christmas!

Em: Oh hello Belle, Merry Christmas!

Bez & Elle: Merry Christmas Belle.

Dame: What are you doing?

Bez: Just getting some more coal for the fire

Dame: You mean that old skinflint in there is letting you put on more coal?

Elle: Yes

Dame: Wow he must be in a good mood! Now don't drop it, wet coal will never burn and as I always say (*pause as she notices the audience*) oh my look here!

Em: What is it?

Dame: We have visitors

Bez: We do?

Dame: You mean you haven't said hello yet?

Elle: Eh, well, no.

Dame: Oh what terrible hosts you are, well let's remedy that! (*to the audience*) Hello there (*waits for response*) I said hello there (*waits for response*) Oh dear I think these guys can do with a bit of a wake up (*turns to Em, Bez & Elle*) do you have anything that will wake them up?

Bez: Do we?!

Dame: Well that's what I was asking.

Elle: We sure do!

Em: Snowball fight!

Em, Bez & Elle throw out snowballs to the audience (could be the cake?)

Dame: Stop! Stop! I didn't want you to terrorise them! Honestly I can't take you three anywhere!

Em: Sorry Belle

Bez: But at least they are awake now.

Dame: Are they though – hello there! **(audience response)** Oh yes that's much better.

Elle: Well apart from that guy there *(throws the last snowball)*

Dame: Elle! Oh no wait he deserved it!

Elle: See.

Dame: Now that you are awake I will introduce myself, my name is Belle and I work at the local poulter, that's where people bought their turkey's, geese or chicken for tea in the olden days! And this three ragamuffins are.....

Em: Em

Bez: Bez

Elle: Elle

Dame: Ment family. Their parents Bea n Wilder are always so astonished at their accomplishments, anyway back to the point, these poor little fools work for Mr Scrooge

Em: And he is the meanest man you will ever meet.

Bez: So the next time you see him make sure you BOOOOOOOOO as loud as you can.

Elle: It would be so funny.

Bez: Let's hear you Booooooooooooo *(audience response)*

Em: Louder! *(audience response)*

Elle: Oh I can't wait!

Dame: Oh come on you three, he is mean but

Em: Mean! That's an understatement he's so tight he won't even tip his hat!

Bez: He's so mean *(Brexit reference depending on outcome)*

Elle: He is very mean but korma will catch up with him

Dame: I think you mean karma dear.

Elle: No korma, it always comes back on me.

Dame: Oh for goodness sake

Elle: (*aside*) I think it's the cream

Dame: Okay, okay, they get the gist! Let's go inside and see Bob.
(*they enter the shop*) Hello everyone, Merry Christmas!

Bob: Merry Christmas Belle!

Em: I'll get the coal on the fire.

Bob: What have you got there Belle?

Dame: Oh its old misery guts order from the shop.

Elle: I'll take that for you.

Dame: Oh, thank you.

Bez: You must be busy at the Poulterers just now Belle?

Dame: Oh I've pulled so many goose feathers you've no idea.

Elle: Well at least you've finally pulled something eh?

Dame: Cheeky! I will have you know that in my day I was quite the looker. Wasn't I Bob?

Bob: Oh, emm, well ...

Em: It's so long ago that even Bob can't remember.

Dame: When I was your age they were queuing up round the block for a date with me, I was everyone's dream girl ...

Bez: More like nightmare!

Dame: (*ignoring him*) And if I took a fancy to any of the young suitors they would always find an extra sausage in their package.

Elle: I really don't know what to say to that

Em: So how come you never married Belle?

Dame: Well there was someone a long time ago, but he broke my heart and I never recovered.

Bez: Oh that's sad.

Dame: And after him no other man could find a place in my heart.

Bob: So are you already for Christmas Belle?

Dame: Almost, just one or two more things to drop off at your house and that will be me. The kids are so excited.

Em: I can't wait to see them open their presents.

Bob: They are very lucky children to have such wonderful family and friends. Without you all Christmas would be much emptier.

Bez: You keep us all together Bob.

Elle: You always make us feel like one of the family.

Bob: That's because you are.

Belle: Oh me, now that's what you call an Andrex moment

Bez: I think you mean a Kleenex moment, or at least I hope you do!

Song – Friendship number- Bob, Belle, Em, Bez, Elle & chorus

Fred enters the office.

Fred: Merry Christmas everyone!

Bob: Merry Christmas Fred.

Dame: Merry Christmas Fredrick.

Em, Bez & Elle: Merry Christmas Fred.

Fred: Are you all looking forward to Christmas day?

- Dame:** I'm looking forward to the rest – if I never see another goose it will be too soon! And talking of geese I better get back. See you all later.
- Everyone:** By Belle.
- Fred:** How about all of you, are you looking forward to Christmas?
- Em:** It will be the same as every other day for us.
- Fred:** How so?
- Bez:** Well Scrooge in there won't give us the day off
- Fred:** What!?! Surely he gives you Christmas Day off?
- Elle:** No, he says it's an over commercialised holiday ...
- Bez:** Giving people the excuse to over indulge
- Em:** And make merry
- Fred:** Bah humbug!
- Em, Bez & Elle:** That's what he said.
- Scrooge:** What's all the chat down here, after getting some coal to defrost the ink, oh hello Fred.
- Fred:** Merry Christmas Uncle Ebenezer!
- Scrooge:** Christmas! Bah Humbug.
- Fred:** Oh Uncle Ebenezer. That same old tune, every year, bah humbug!
- Scrooge:** What do you want Fred?
- Fred:** To sing my old tune and once again ask you to join myself and Sarah for Christmas lunch tomorrow.
- Scrooge:** No thank you.
- Fred:** Oh come on Uncle, it must be more preferable to sitting upstairs on your own?

Scrooge: I will be sitting down here with my workers, tomorrow is just another day.

Fred: So it's true! You haven't even given your staff the day off?

Scrooge: Fred if you've just come to cause trouble

Fred: But Uncle, everyone closes on Christmas Day.

Two charity workers enter the office

Scrooge: What now.

Worker 1: Mr Scrooge we are collecting money for the poor and destitute.

Scrooge: You're collecting for who?

Worker 1: The poor and the destitute

Scrooge: Why?

Worker 2: Because they have no where else to go.

Scrooge: Are there no prisons?

Worker 2: Oh yes there are plenty of prisons but

Scrooge: Are there no workhouses?

Worker 1: Unfortunately there are still workhouses sir but ...

Scrooge: Well then what is the problem?

Worker 2: I don't think you understand sir, we are trying to give the poor and destitute some hope at Christmas by offering them some meat, drink and a means of warmth without having to resort to prison or workhouses.

Scrooge: Why?

Worker 1: Why Mr Scrooge? Some people would rather die than have to resort to the workhouses

Scrooge: Then should they not die and decrease the surplus population?

Fred: Uncle Ebenezer ...

Worker 2: But its Christmas, a time to show compassion and love to our fellow man.

Worker 1: So Mr Scrooge, how much can I put you down for?

Scrooge: Nothing.

Worker 1: You wish to remain anonymous?

Scrooge: I wish for you to leave, I will be giving you nothing!

Worker 2: Well I have never seen such a cold heart!

Scrooge: Well now that you have be off with you.

Worker 1: I can't believe I'm lost for words

Fred: I will make a donation, here you are.

Worker 2: Thank you kind sir.

Worker 1: Yes, thank you and I hope you have a Merry Christmas, unlike some.

The workers exit

Scrooge: You are a fool Fred, giving away your money for others.

Fred: Uncle Ebenezer you are going to end up a very unhappy and lonely man. Nonetheless I have brought you a gift in hope that one day you will change your mind and start to enjoy your life.

Scrooge: Bah humbug!

Fred: I will leave it here for you. *(he places the gift on a desk)* I bid you farewell and a Merry Christmas.

Everyone: Merry Christmas Fred.

Scrooge: Christmas! Bah ...

Fred: Humbug – we know! (*he exits*)

Em: Bob go and ask him now

Bez: Yes, I don't want to work tomorrow

Elle: He likes you the best

Bob: I don't think this is the best time.

Em: Bob, please

Bez: Pretty please.

Elle: Pretty please with sugar on top

They all stand in a line making a pleading face to Bob

Bob: Ok, ok, I think I know what to say (*crosses to Scrooge*) You know sir Fred is right

Scrooge: What about?

Bob: About all the other businesses being closed tomorrow.

Scrooge: So..

Bob: So you will be the only employer paying out a wage on Christmas

Em: And there will be no one for us to do business with ...

Bez: So we will get very little work done

Elle: And will just be sitting around using coal

Scrooge: I am the only person who see sense around here? Fine! Take the day off, save me the coal, but you better work twice as hard the next day.

Bob, Em, Bez & Elle: Yes sir, thank you sir.

Scrooge: Hmmm. Now lock up.

Bob: Yes sir!

Scrooge makes his way up to his flat above the office, Bob and the others start to lock up.

Em: Oh I can't believe it.

Bez: We have Christmas Day off.

Elle: We are going to have soooooo much fun.

Bob: Come on everyone, let's lock up for Christmas!

Song – Bob, Em, Bez, Elle & chorus

During the song we see the market place be packed up and tidied, with everyone wishing each other a Merry Christmas. After the song is finished the chorus are off and Bob's house has been moved onto the stage.

Scene 2:

Bob: Hello everyone, I'm home.

Em, Bez & Elle: And we are here with him.

Enter Mrs Cratchit (Emily) carrying a box

Mrs Cratchit: Well hello everyone (kisses Bob) how was work today.

Bob: Not too bad

Enter the Cratchit children Peter, Matthew, Miranda and Lucy.

Children: Hello Father. (*They come over and hug their Father*)

Bob: Hello my darlings

Peter: Em, Bez, Elle it's nice to see you.

Em, Bez & Elle: Hi everyone! Merry Christmas!

Mrs Cratchit: Well it's not going to be a very Merry Christmas with you all working, that selfish, greedy cold hearted boss of yours really knows how to spoil everyone's fun!

Bob: Now Emily ...

Mrs Cratchit: If he would only pay you what you deserve and then we might be able to get medicine for Tiny Tim.

Em: Where is Tiny Tim, we've got some news for him.

Mrs Cratchit: He's with Martha, they went with the charity collectors to see if they could help raise money for the poor.

Bob: He has a heart of gold that boy.

- Bez:** He sure does.
- Mrs Cratchit:** He said he hoped that when people saw that he could be charitable at this time of year it might remind them how lucky they are to have their health and wealth and give something to the poor.
- Bob:** He is always thinking of others.
- Matthew:** What news do you have Father?
- Bob:** Tiny Tim and Martha can't be far away, we will wait for them.
- Miranda:** Well I'll get everyone a cup of tea while we wait.
- Lucy:** I'll help.
- Bob:** What good girls, thank you.
- Em, Bez & Elle:** Yes, thank you.

The girls go over to the cooker and busy themselves with tea making.

- Mrs Cratchit:** What's the news?
- Bob:** Now Emily dear, be patient.

Enter Dame Belle, Martha & Tiny Tim.

- Martha:** Hello everyone, look who we bumped into on the way home, Aunty Belle!
- Belle:** Hello everyone.
- Tiny Tim:** Father you are home.

He goes over to Bob who picks him up and hugs him.

Bob: Tim, Martha, good to see you both.

Martha comes over and hugs Bob.

Dame: Well I have brought a treat round for you all.

Children: Aunty Belle what is it?

Dame: Well come round here and see I have gifts for everyone to put under the tree for tomorrow.

Peter: But we don't have a tree Aunty Belle

Mrs Cratchit: We were going to get one but...

Tiny Tim: Let's place them round Father's chair, that's where we will be opening them and it will look nice and Christmassy, we don't need a tree.

Martha: Your right Tim, it would just get pine needles all over the floor as well.

Dame: Well then place them round your Father's chair.

As Belle hands out the gifts the children take them and place them under a small Christmas tree

Peter: Thank you Aunty Belle

Dame: Martha,

Martha: Thank you Aunty Belle

Dame: Matthew,

Matthew: Thank you Aunty Belle

Dame: Miranda,

Miranda: Thank you Aunty Belle

Dame: Lucy,

Lucy: Thank you Aunty Belle

Dame: And finally Tim.

Tiny Tim: Thank you Aunty Belle.

Martha and Peter help Tim to place his present under the tree.

Dame: And oh wait, I forgot, I have something in here for Mr & Mrs Cratchit.

Bob: Oh Belle, you didn't need to

Dame: Well there are a few perks of working in a Poulterers, it's a goose for tomorrow.

Mrs Cratchit: Oh Belle! Thank you! We will have a lovely feast on Christmas Day now, you will join us?

Dame: I will thank you.

Mrs Cratchit: And of course we wouldn't be without you also Em, Bez, Elle, when your finished work you are more than welcome to join us.

Bob, Em, Bez & Elle all look at each other with big smiles.

Bob: Well that's our big secret! We have Christmas Day off!

Mrs Cratchit: You have.

Em, Bez, Elle: Yes!

Children: Oh wow, that's great, it's so exciting ... etc...

Dame: That's wonderful news.

- Mrs Cratchit:** What changed that old meany's mind
- Bob:** We told him he would save on our wages and coal.
- Mrs Cratchit:** The old skinflint, anything to save money.
- Tiny Tim:** But he has given us the greatest gift we could have, we have a home with a plenty of coal to keep us warm and we will have our family all together for Christmas.
- Dame:** Your right Tim, and he wasn't always so mean. He was once a kind and loving person, he just had some bad times in his life.
- Em:** Belle, you don't mean...
- Bez:** He was the one...
- Elle:** Who broke your heart?
- Dame:** Yes, he was. But with the way his Father was towards him, oh if you think Scrooge is a mean man you should have met his father, he was the very definition of mean! I'm not surprised Scrooge has shut everyone out. Children you should be thankful for your loving family as Tim says.
- Children:** We are.
- Bob:** Christmas time is my favourite family time.

Song – Bob, Em, Bez, Elle & Cratchit family

Song 3 allows for the Cratchit house to be removed and at the end of it everyone exits. We are left with Scrooge in his flat. His flat is quite bare with one chair with a small table beside it there is also a small bed, fireplace, coat stand and a candle on the mantel.

Scene 3:

Scrooge: Christmas, bah humbug! Days off and over indulging, just an excuse for laziness and extravagance! Good for nothing clerks they better work twice as hard the next day! (Cuts himself a little piece of cheese) Just one more bit Ebenezer, this cheese should last the week, especially for the price of it.

A ghostly howl is heard saying the name 'Scrooge'

Scrooge: What, what was that? I thought ... No I'm sure it was the wind. (**Another howl**) That the wind is getting stronger. Yes that's all it is. (**pause**) I best get myself to bed and save on the coal.

Scrooge goes over to his bed. The ghostly howl is heard again.

Scrooge: Marley? No! Don't be ridiculous Ebenezer you are just tired that's all.

The clock starts to strike 12 midnight, Scrooge jumps with fright.

Scrooge: It is an eerie windy night and how late it has gotten. I should have gone to bed hours ago.

When the clock stops striking the ghostly howl is heard for the third time and this time the fire in the grate and the gas lamp goes out with it.

Scrooge: Marley? It can't be you, it's been 7 years since ...

Marley appears from behind the coat stand

Marley: Since I passed away?

Scrooge falls off his bed and then looks over it.

Scrooge: No! It can't be! No I don't believe it, I can't believe it

Marley: Oh you better believe it! Scrooge I am here to warn you ...

Scrooge: Oh no your not!

Marley: Oh yes I am!

Scrooge: Oh no your not!

Marley: Oh yes I am

Continues for a short time

Scrooge: No, you're not here - it's just that cheap cheese I bought rumbling about inside my belly

Marley: Are you still buying that cheese, ooof that stuff smells!!
No I'm not that smelly cheese, I am here to warn you
Scrooge!

Scrooge: Warn me? What do I need warning for? I've looked after the business and the money

Marley: Scrooooooge, Scrooooooge

Scrooge: Stop that!

Marley: Sorry I just very rarely get the chance to sound spooky so I'm making the most of it!

Scrooge: Why are you wearing those ridiculous chains?

Marley: Scrooge this is why I have come. These are the chains we forge for ourselves in life. Every bad deed we commit in life will add another link to the chains we wear in death.

Scrooge: I don't want to wear those chains, they look heavy

Marley: More than you can guess! But Scrooge, you have time to change. You can mend your ways and the chains can be taken away.

Scrooge: I don't believe this, chains for every mean act I commit, bah humbug! This is fake news, you're not really here!

Marley: Oh yes I am! See the fun I can have.

Scrooge's bed lifts from the ground and lands again, then a chair moves across the room forcing Scrooge to sit in it.

Marley: How about that? Do you believe me now?

Scrooge: It's all a dream!

Marley: If it is a dream, would you feel this?

Marley nips Scrooge

Scrooge: Ouch! That hurt!

Marley: See I told you!

Scrooge: How did this happen to you?

Marley: I was thunderstruck

Dance – Ghosts – Thunderstruck

Scrooge: Okay I believe you! Marley, tell me what to do! I will do it! I don't want to wear chains forever.

Marley: Pay attention, I will say this only once. Tonight when the clock strikes one you will be visited by three different ghosts. These ghosts will show you the way to rid you of these chains.

Scrooge: Not more ghosts, Marley can't you just tell me what to do?

Marley: When the clock strikes one Scrooge, when the clock strikes one!

Marley disappears.

Scrooge: Marley? (*pause*) What is this madness? An apparition in my bedroom, no I'm sure it was a dream. (*pause*) What was it he said? A visit from three ghosts, bah humbug! Ghosts! I don't believe it!

The clock strikes one and Scrooge hides under his bed covers, no one seems to appear, Scrooge slowly re-appears from under his covers ...

Scrooge: There, see I knew it! Ghosts indeed, that's the last time I buy that cheap cheese!

The Ghost of Christmas Past appears in the room without Scrooge noticing.