

(Author's note: There is no suggestion in Dickens that Belle was at this dance; however, by bringing her in at this stage, and focussing some definite moments on her growing relationship with Ebenezer, will undoubtedly help the next scene and add an essence of continuity that is rather essential at this stage.)

Throughout the whole scene, SCROOGE THE ELDER is elated almost to the point of being pulled into the scene himself; and as this dance ends, light begins to fade from the scene with everyone wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a great many "thank-you's" to MR FEZZIWIG for having such a wonderful party. SCROOGE and BELLE predominate in these thanks. And as the scene fades altogether, we concentrate again on SCROOGE and THE GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PAST: SCROOGE, momentarily is still filled with glee.

Start

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SCROOGE Dear old Fezziwig. Dear old Fezziwig....

*And as the last light of the scene fades, and OLD FEZZIWIG's laugh fades, SCROOGE becomes aware of the GHOST, and subsides.*

**C. PAST** A small matter - to make these silly folk so happy and so full of thanks.

SCROOGE Small!

**C. PAST** Is it not? He spent but a few pounds - three or four at the most. Is that so much to deserve such praise?

SCROOGE *(Still with some of the excitement he has just experienced.)* It isn't that, Spirit, it isn't that. He had the power to make us happy or unhappy.

**C. PAST** Us? Who do you mean?

SCROOGE All of us. But mainly Dick and I; we worked for him, we were his apprentices. He had the power to make our work light or heavy, a pleasure or a dreadful burden; and he used that power. He used that power; he used it in hundreds of little ways - in the way he spoke to us, or looked at us or asked us to do things. That's the kind of happiness he gave to us - and you can't buy that, even with a fortune. You - you can't....

*Suddenly he realises THE GHOST is staring at him and he stops.*

**C. PAST** What is the matter?

SCROOGE Nothing in particular.

