

## **APPENDICS**

### **APPENDIC 1: SUMMARY OF A CHRISTMAS CAROL**

On a frigid, foggy Christmas Eve in London, a shrewd, mean-spirited cheapskate named Ebenezer Scrooge works meticulously in his counting-house. Outside the office creaks a little sign reading "Scrooge and Marley" Jacob Marley, Scrooge's business partner, has died seven years previous. Inside the office, Scrooge watches over his clerk, a poor diminutive man named Bob Cratchit. The smoldering ashes in the fireplace provide little heat even for Bob's tiny room. Despite the harsh weather, Scrooge refuses to pay for another lump of coal to warm the office.

Suddenly, a ruddy-faced young man bursts into the office offering holiday greetings and an exclamatory, "Merry Christmas!" The young man is Scrooge's jovial nephew Fred who has stopped by to invite Scrooge to Christmas dinner. The grumpy Scrooge responds with a "Bah! Humbug!" refusing to share in Fred's Christmas cheer. After Fred departs, a pair of portly gentlemen enters the office to ask Scrooge for a charitable donation to help the poor. Scrooge angrily replies that prisons and workhouses are the only charities he is willing to support and the gentlemen leave empty-handed. Scrooge confronts Bob Cratchit, complaining about Bob's wish to take a day off for the holiday. "What good is Christmas," Scrooge snipes, "that it should shut down business?" He begrudgingly agrees to give Bob a day off but insists that he arrive at the office all the earlier the next day.

Scrooge follows the same old routine, taking dinner in his usual tavern and returning home through the dismal, fog-blanketed London streets. Just before entering his house, the doorknocker on his front door, the same door he has passed through twice a day for his many years, catches his attention. A ghostly image in the curves of the knocker gives the old man a momentary shock: It is the peering face of Jacob Marley. When Scrooge takes a second re-focused look, he sees nothing but a doorknocker. With a disgusted "Pooh-pooh," Scrooge opens the door and trudges into his bleak quarters. He makes little effort to brighten his home: "darkness is cheap, and Scrooge liked it." As he plods up the wide staircase, Scrooge, in utter disbelief, sees a locomotive hearse climbing the stairs beside him.

After rushing to his room, Scrooge locks the door behind him and puts on his dressing gown. As he eats his gruel before the fire, the carvings on his mantelpiece suddenly transform into images of Jacob Marley's face. Scrooge, determined to dismiss the strange visions, blurts out "Humbug!" All the bells in the room fly up from the tables and begin to ring sharply. Scrooge hears footsteps thumping up the stairs. A ghostly figure floats through the closed door--Jacob Marley, transparent and bound in chains.

Scrooge shouts in disbelief, refusing to admit that he sees Marley's ghost--a strange case of food poisoning, he claims. The ghost begins to murmur: He has spent seven years wandering the Earth in his heavy chains as punishment for his sins. Scrooge looks closely at the chains and realizes that the links are forged of cashboxes, padlocks, ledgers, and steel purses. The wraith tells Scrooge that he has come from beyond the grave to save him from this very fate. He says that Scrooge will be visited by three spirits over the next three nights--the first two appearing at

one o'clock in the morning and the final spirit arriving at the last stroke of midnight. He rises and backs toward the window, which opens almost magically, leaving a trembling Scrooge white with fear. The ghost gestures to Scrooge to look out the window, and Scrooge complies. He sees a throng of spirits, each bound in chains. They wail about their failure to lead honorable, caring lives and their inability to reach out to others in need as they and Marley disappear into the mist. Scrooge stumbles to his bed and falls instantly asleep.

Scrooge awakes at midnight, which leaves him baffled--it was well after two a.m. when he went to bed. Initially, he thinks he has slept through an entire day or that it's actually noon and the sun has merely gone under some sort of cover. He suddenly remembers the words of Marley's ghost. The first of the three spirits will arrive at one o'clock. Frightened, Scrooge decides to wait for his supernatural visitor.

At one o'clock, the curtains of Scrooge's bed are blown aside by a strange, childlike figure emanating an aura of wisdom and a richness of experience. The spirit uses a cap to cover the light that glows from its head. The specter softly informs Scrooge that he is the Ghost of Christmas Past and orders the mesmerized man to rise and walk with him. The spirit touches Scrooge's heart, granting him the ability to fly. The pair exits through the window.

The ghost transports Scrooge to the countryside where he was raised. He sees his old school, his childhood mates, and familiar landmarks of his youth. Touched by these memories, Scrooge begins to sob. The ghost takes the weeping man into the school where a solitary boy--a young Ebenezer Scrooge--passes the Christmas holiday all alone. The ghost takes Scrooge on a depressing tour of more Christmases of the past--the boy in the schoolhouse grows older. At last, a little girl, Scrooge's sister Fan,

runs into the room, and announces that she has come to take Ebenezer home. Their father is much kinder, she says. He has given his consent to Ebenezer's return. The young Scrooge, delighted to see his sister, embraces her joyfully. The aged Scrooge regretfully tells the ghost that Fan died many years ago and is the mother of his nephew Fred.

The ghost escorts Scrooge to more Christmases of the past including a merry party thrown by Fezziwig, the merchant with whom Scrooge apprenticed as a young man. Scrooge later sees a slightly older yet still boyish version of himself in conversation with a lovely young woman named Belle. She is breaking off their engagement crying that greed has corrupted the love that used to impassion Scrooge's heart. The spirit takes Scrooge to a more recent Christmas scene where a middle-aged Belle reminisces with her husband about her former fiance, Scrooge. The husband says that Scrooge is now "quite alone in the world." The older Scrooge can no longer bear the gripping visions. He begs the Ghost of Christmas Past to take him back, back to his home. Tormented and full of despair, Scrooge seizes the ghost's hat and pulls it firmly over top of the mystical child's head, dimming the light. As the inextinguishable, luminous rays flood downward onto the ground, Scrooge finds himself zipped back in his bedroom, where he stumbles to bed yet again and falls asleep immediately.

The church clock strikes one, startling Scrooge, who awakes in mid-snore. Glad to be awake, he hopes to confront the second spirit just as it arrives. The echoes of the church bell fade, however, and no ghost appears. Somewhat disappointed, Scrooge waits for 15 minutes after which a bright light begins to stream down upon him.

Curious and a bit befuddled, Scrooge pads into the other room where he finds the second spirit waiting for him.

The figure, a majestic giant clad in green robes, sits atop a throne made of a gourmet feast. In a booming voice, the spirit announces himself as the Ghost of Christmas Present. He tells Scrooge that he has more than 1800 brothers and his lifespan is a mere single day. The spirit orders Scrooge to touch his robe. Upon doing so, the feast and the room vanish instantly and Scrooge finds himself alongside the spirit in the midst of the bustling city on Christmas morning. Blissful passersby take pleasure in the wondrous sights and smells abounding through the shop doors. People merrily shovel snow, tote bags of presents, and greet one another with a cheery "Merry Christmas!"

The spirit then takes Scrooge to the meager home of Bob Cratchit, where Mrs. Cratchit and her children prepare a Christmas goose and savor the few Christmas treats they can afford. The oldest daughter, Martha, returns from her job at a milliner's. The oldest son, Peter, wears a stiff-collared shirt, a hand-me-down from his father. Bob comes in carrying the crippled young tyke, Tiny Tim, on his shoulders. The family is more than content despite its skimpy Christmas feast. Scrooge begs to know whether Tiny Tim will survive. The spirit replies that given the current conditions in the Cratchit house, there will inevitably be an empty chair at next year's Christmas dinner.

The spirit takes Scrooge to a number of other Christmas gatherings, including the festivities of an isolated community of miners and a party aboard a ship. He also takes Scrooge to Fred's Christmas party, where Scrooge loses himself in the numerous party games and has a wildly entertaining time, though none of the party

guests can actually see him. As the night unfolds, the ghost grows older. At last, Scrooge and the ghost come to a vast and desolate expanse. Here, the ghost shows Scrooge a pair of starving children who travel with him beneath his robes--their names are Ignorance and Want. Scrooge inquires if nothing can be done to help them. Mockingly, the ghost quotes Scrooge's earlier retort, "Are there no prisons? Are there no workhouses?"

The spirit disappears as the clock strikes midnight and Scrooge eyes a hooded phantom coming toward him.

The phantom, a menacing figure clad in a black hooded robe, approaches Scrooge. Scrooge involuntarily kneels before him and asks if he is the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come. The phantom does not answer, and Scrooge squirms in terror. Still reeling from the revelatory experiences with the last two spirits, Scrooge pleads with the ghost to share his lesson, hopeful that he may avoid the fate of his deceased partner.

The ghost takes Scrooge to of strange places that is the London Stock Exchange, where a group of businessmen discuss the death of a rich man, a dingy pawn shop in a London slum. Where a group of vagabonds and shady characters sell some personal effects stolen from a dead man; the dinner table of a poor family, where a husband and wife express relief at the death of an unforgiving man to whom they owed money; and the Cratchit household, where the family struggles to cope with the death of Tiny Tim. Scrooge begs to know the identity of the dead man, exasperated in his attempts to understand the lesson of the silent ghost. Suddenly, he finds himself in a churchyard where the spirit points him toward a freshly dug grave.

Scrooge approaches the grave and reads the inscription on the headstone: Ebenezer Scrooge.

Appalled, Scrooge clutches at the spirit and begs him to undo the events of his nightmarish vision. He promises to honor Christmas from deep within his heart and to live by the moralizing lessons of Past, Present, and Future. The spirit's hand begins to tremble, and, as Scrooge continues to cry out for mercy, the phantom's robe shrinks and collapses. Scrooge, again, finds himself returned to the relative safety of his own bed.

Finally, Scrooge is grateful for a second chance at his life, and sings the praises of the spirits and of Jacob Marley. Upon realizing he has been returned to Christmas morning, Scrooge begins shouting "Merry Christmas!" at the top of his lungs. In a blur, Scrooge runs into the street and offers to pay the first boy he meets a huge sum to deliver a great Christmas turkey to Bob Cratchit's. He meets one of the portly gentlemen who earlier sought charity for the poor and apologizes for his previous rudeness, promising to donate huge sums of money to the poor. He attends Fred's Christmas party and radiates such heartfelt bliss that the other guests can hardly manage to swallow their shock at his surprising behavior.

The following morning, Scrooge arrives at the office early and assumes a very stern expression when Bob Cratchit enters eighteen and a half minutes late. Scrooge, feigning disgust, begins to scold Bob, before suddenly announcing his plans to give Cratchit a large raise and assist his troubled family. Bob is stunned, but Scrooge promises to stay true to his word

As time passes, Scrooge *is* as good as his word: He helps the Cratchits and becomes a second father to Tiny Tim who does not die as predicted in the ghost's ominous vision. Many people in London are puzzled by Scrooge's behavior, but Scrooge merely laughs off their suspicions and doubts. Scrooge brings a little of the Christmas spirit into every day, respecting the lessons of Christmas more than any man alive. The narrator concludes the story by saying that Scrooge's words and thoughts should be shared by of all of us ... "and so, as Tiny Tim observed, God bless us, every one!"



## **APPENDIC 2: BIOGRAPHY OF CHARLESH DICKENS AND HIS LITERARY WORKS**

Charles Dickens (1812—1870), English novelist, was born on February 7, 1812, the son of John and Elizabeth Dickens. John Dickens was a clerk in the Naval Pay Office. He had a poor head for finances, and in 1824 found himself imprisoned for debt. His wife and children, with the exception of Charles, who was put to work at Warren's Blacking Factory, joined him in the Marshalsea Prison. When the family finances were put at least partly to rights and his father was released, the twelve-year-old Dickens, already scarred psychologically by the experience, was further wounded by his mother's insistence that he continue to work at the factory. His father, however, rescued him from that fate, and between 1824 and 1827 Dickens was a day pupil at a school in London. At fifteen, he found employment as an office boy at an attorney's, while he studied shorthand at night. His brief stint at the Blacking Factory haunted him all of his life. He spoke of it only to his wife and to his closest friend, John Forster, but the dark secret became a source both of creative energy and of the preoccupation with the themes of alienation and betrayal that would emerge, most notably, in *David Copperfield* and in *Great Expectations*.

In 1829, he became a free-lance reporter at Doctor's Commons Courts, and in 1830, he met and fell in love with Maria Beadnell, the daughter of a banker. By 1832, he had become a very successful shorthand reporter of Parliamentary debates in the House of Commons, and began work as a reporter for a newspaper.

In 1833, his relationship with Maria Beadnell ended, probably because her parents did not think him a good match (a not very flattering version of her would appear years later in *Little Dorrit*). In the same year his first published story appeared, and was followed, very shortly thereafter, by a number of other stories and sketches. In 1834, still a newspaper reporter; he adopted the soon to be famous pseudonym "Boz." His impecunious father (who was the original of Mr. Micawber in *David Copperfield*, as Dickens's mother was the original for the querulous Mrs. Nickleby) was once again arrested for debt, and Charles, much to his chagrin, was forced to come to his aid. Later in his life both of his parents (and his brothers) were frequently after him for money. In 1835, he met and became engaged to Catherine Hogarth.

The first series of *Sketches by Boz* was published in 1836, and that same year Dickens was hired to write short texts to accompany a series of humorous sporting illustrations by Robert Seymour, a popular artist. Seymour committed suicide after the second number, however, and under these peculiar circumstances Dickens altered the initial conception of *The Pickwick Papers*, which became a novel (illustrated by Hablot K. Browne, "Phiz," whose association with Dickens would continue for many years). *The Pickwick Papers* continued in monthly parts through November 1837, and, to everyone's surprise, it became an enormous popular success. Dickens proceeded to marry Catherine Hogarth on April 2, 1836, and during the same year he became editor of *Bentley's Miscellany*, published (in December) the second series of

Sketches by Boz, and met John Forster, who would become his closest friend and confidant as well as his first biographer.

After the success of *Pickwick*, Dickens embarked on a full-time career as a novelist, producing work of increasing complexity at an incredible rate, although he continued, as well, his journalistic and editorial activities. *Oliver Twist* was begun in 1837, and continued in monthly parts until April 1839. It was in 1837, too, that Catherine's younger sister Mary, whom Dickens idolized, died. She too would appear, in various guises, in Dickens's later fiction. A son, Charles, the first of ten children, was born in the same year.

*Nicholas Nickleby* got underway in 1838, and continued through October 1839, in which year Dickens resigned as editor of *Bentley's Miscellany*. The first number of *Master Humphrey's Clock* appeared in 1840, and *The Old Curiosity Shop*, begun in *Master Humphrey*, continued through February 1841, when Dickens commenced *Barnaby Rudge*, which continued through November of that year. In 1842 he embarked on a visit to Canada and the United States in which he advocated international copyright (unscrupulous American publishers, in particular, were pirating his works) and the abolition of slavery. His *American Notes*, which created a furor in America (he commented unfavorably, for one thing, on the apparently universal — and, so far as Dickens was concerned, highly distasteful — American predilection for chewing tobacco and spitting the juice), appeared in October of that year. *Martin Chuzzlewit*, part of which was set in a not very flatteringly portrayed America, was begun in 1843, and ran through July 1844. *A Christmas Carol*, the first of Dickens's enormously successful Christmas books — each, though they grew

progressively darker, intended as "a whimsical sort of masque intended to awaken loving and forbearing thoughts" — appeared in December 1844.

In that same year, Dickens and his family toured Italy, and were much abroad, in Italy, Switzerland, and France, until 1847. Dickens returned to London in December 1844, when *The Chimes* was published, and then went back to Italy, not to return to England until July of 1845. 1845 also brought the debut of Dickens's amateur theatrical company, which would occupy a great deal of his time from then on. *The Cricket and the Hearth*, a third Christmas book, was published in December, and his *Pictures from Italy* appeared in 1846 in the "Daily News," a paper that Dickens founded and of which, for a short time, he was the editor.

In 1847, in Switzerland, Dickens began *Dombey and Son*, which ran until April 1848. *The Battle of Life* appeared in December of that year. In 1848, Dickens also wrote an autobiographical fragment, directed and acted in a number of amateur theatricals, and published what would be his last Christmas book, *The Haunted Man*, in December 1849 saw the birth of *David Copperfield*, which would run through November 1850. In that year, too, Dickens founded and installed himself as editor of the weekly *Household Words*, which would be succeeded, in 1859, by *All the Year Round*, which he edited until his death. 1851 found him at work on *Bleak House*, which appeared monthly from 1852 until September 1853.

In 1853 he toured Italy with Augustus Egg and Wilkie Collins, and gave, upon his return to England, the first of many public readings from his own works. *Hard Times* began to appear weekly in *Household Words* in 1854, and continued until August. Dickens's family spent the summer and the fall in Boulogne. In 1855, they arrived in Paris in October, and Dickens began *Little Dorrit*, which continued in

monthly parts until June 1857. In 1856 Dickens and Wilkie Collins collaborated on a play, *The Frozen Deep*, and Dickens purchased Gad's Hill, an estate he had admired since childhood.

The Dickens family spent the summer of 1857 at a renovated Gad's Hill. Hans Christian Anderson, whose fairy tales Dickens admired greatly, visited them there and quickly wore out his welcome. Dickens's theatrical company performed *The Frozen Deep* for the Queen, and when a young actress named Ellen Ternan joined the cast in August, Dickens fell in love with her. In 1858, in London, Dickens undertook his first public readings for pay, and quarreled with his old friend and rival, the great novelist Thackeray. More importantly, it was in that year that, after a long period of difficulties, he separated from his wife. They had been for many years "temperamentally unsuited" to each other. Dickens, charming and brilliant though he was, was also fundamentally insecure emotionally, and must have been extraordinarily difficult to live with.

In 1859, his London readings continued, and he began a new weekly, *All the Year Round*. The first installment of *A Tale of Two Cities* appeared in the opening number, and the novel continued through November. By 1860, the Dickens family had taken up residence at Gad's Hill. Dickens, during a period of retrospection, burned many personal letters, and re-read his own *David Copperfield*, the most autobiographical of his novels, before beginning *Great Expectations*, which appeared weekly until August 1861.

In 1861 found Dickens embarking upon another series of public readings in London, readings that would continue through the next year. In 1863, he did public readings both in Paris and in London, and reconciled with Thackeray just before the

latter is death. Our Mutual Friend was begun in 1864, and appeared monthly until November 1865. Dickens was in poor health, due largely to consistent overwork.

In 1865, an incident occurred which disturbed Dickens greatly, both psychologically and physically: Dickens and Ellen Ternan, returning from a Paris holiday, were badly shaken up in a railway accident in which a number of people were injured.

1866 brought another series of public readings, this time in various locations in England and Scotland, and still more public readings, in England and Ireland, were undertaken in 1867. Dickens was now unwell but carried on, compulsively, against his doctor's advice. Late in the year, he embarked on an American reading tour, which continued into 1868. Dickens's health was worsening, but he took over still another physically and mentally exhausting task, editorial duties at *All the Year Round*.

During 1869, his readings continued, in England, Scotland, and Ireland, until at last he collapsed, showing symptoms of mild stroke. Further provincial readings were cancelled, but he began upon *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*.

Dickens's final public readings took place in London in 1870. He suffered another stroke on June 8 at Gad's Hill, after a full day's work on *Edwin Drood*, and died the next day. He was buried at Westminster Abbey on June 14, and the last episode of the unfinished *Mystery of Edwin Drood* appeared in September.

## **Charles Dickens' Literary Works**

### **Novels:**

- [The Posthumous Papers of the Pickwick Club](#) (Monthly serial, April 1836 to November 1837)
- [The Adventures of Oliver Twist](#) (Monthly serial in Bentley's Miscellany, February 1837 to April 1839)
- [The Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby](#) (Monthly serial, April 1838 to October 1839)
- [The Old Curiosity Shop](#) (Weekly serial in Master Humphrey's Clock, 25 April 1840, to 6 February 1841)
- [Barnaby Rudge: A Tale of the Riots of 'Eighty](#) (Weekly serial in Master Humphrey's Clock, 13 February 1841, to 27 November 1841)
- The Christmas books:
  - [A Christmas Carol](#) (1843)
  - [The Chimes](#) (1844)
  - [The Cricket on the Hearth](#) (1845)
  - [The Battle of Life](#) (1846)
  - [The Haunted Man and the Ghost's Bargain](#) (1848)
  - [The Life and Adventures of Martin Chuzzlewit](#) (Monthly serial, January 1843 to July 1844)
- [Dombey and Son](#) (Monthly serial, October 1846 to April 1848)
- [David Copperfield](#) (Monthly serial, May 1849 to November 1850)
- [Bleak House](#) (Monthly serial, March 1852 to September 1853)
- [Hard Times: For These Times](#) (Weekly serial in Household Words, 1 April 1854, to 12 August 1854)
- [Little Dorrit](#) (Monthly serial, December 1855 to June 1857)

- [A Tale of Two Cities](#) (Weekly serial in All the Year Round, 30 April 1859, to 26 November 1859)
- [Great Expectations](#) (Weekly serial in All the Year Round, 1 December 1860 to 3 August 1861)
- [Our Mutual Friend](#) (Monthly serial, May 1864 to November 1865)

[The Mystery of Edwin Drood](#) (Monthly serial, April 1870 to September 1870. Only six of twelve planned numbers completed)

### **Short story**

- [Sketches by Boz](#) (1836)
- [The Mudfog Papers](#) (1837) in Bentley's Miscellany magazine
- Reprinted Pieces (1861)
- [The Uncommercial Traveller](#) (1860–1869)

### **Christmas numbers of Household Words magazine:**

- What Christmas Is, as We Grow Older (1851)
- A Round of Stories by the Christmas Fire (1852)
- Another Round of Stories by the Christmas Fire (1853)
- The Seven Poor Travellers (1854)
- The Holly-Tree Inn (1855)
- The Wreck of the "Golden Mary" (1856)
- The Perils of Certain English Prisoners (1857)
- A House to Let (1858)



Christmas numbers of All the Year Round magazine:

- The Haunted House (1859)
- A Message From the Sea (1860)
- Tom Tiddler's Ground (1861)
- Somebody's Luggage (1862)
- Mrs. Lirriper's Lodgings (1863)
- Mrs. Lirriper's Legacy (1864)
- Doctor Marigold's Prescriptions (1865)
- [Mugby Junction](#) (1866)
- [No Thoroughfare](#) (1867)

### **Selected non-fiction, poetry, and plays**

- The Village Coquettes (Plays, 1836)
- The Fine Old English Gentleman (poetry, 1841)
- [Memoirs of Joseph Grimaldi](#) (1838)
- [American Notes: For General Circulation](#) (1842)
- [Pictures from Italy](#) (1846)
  
- [The Life of Our Lord: As written for his children](#) (1849)
- [A Child's History of England](#) (1853)
- The Frozen Deep (play, 1857)
  
- Speeches, Letters and Sayings (1870)