

Scrooge was so sad, he hardly realized that he was back in his bed. But he was not alone. This time it was a different spirit standing in front of him. It was a tall ghost, with a long robe and a crown of icicles on his head.

“I am the Ghost of Christmas Present,” said the spirit. “Come with me, and see how others are celebrating Christmas this year.”



This time, the spirit took Scrooge around town in the present day. Everywhere they went Scrooge saw merriment. Even the poorest of people were laughing and smiling. Then, they came upon the house of Bob Cratchit, his clerk. The family was very poor, but still they were very happy as they ate Christmas supper. Scrooge saw that Mr. Cratchit’s youngest son, Tiny Tim, looked very sick. He was just ten years old, but he had bad legs and walked with a cane. Even so, Tiny Tim was in very good spirits tonight. Scrooge suddenly felt sad again.

“Will that little boy be okay?” asked Scrooge. The spirit shook his head. “No. The family is too poor to afford his medical bills. The child will not live to see another Christmas.”