

DUTCH PERSONS

first job.

YOUNG EBENEZER. Nor if I'm self-employed I won't be. WIFE. Shut up! *(The Beadle and his Wife exit, followed by Ebenezer and Young Jacob.)*

GHOST. Minions of the night, send Mr. Scrooge back to sleep. *(Ghost exits. Lights, music. A couple of "minions of the night" townsfolk — help with the set change and move Scrooge back to "home." Scrooge's chair comes back. The minions push Scrooge to his bed and he sits in it. If you like, the minions can be stagehands, dressers, and their normal clothes.)*

MINIONS OF THE NIGHT. One o'clock, one o'clock, forty-five. Scrooge is sleepy, Scrooge is sleepy. *(Note: "One o'clock" is in rhythm of "patty-cake, patty-cake.")*
EBENEZER SCROOGE. Why yes, I believe I am. *(Falls abruptly.)*
MINIONS OF THE NIGHT. Sleep in your chair. We don't have a set for the bed. Fall back asleep. *(The minions exit.)*

Scene 8

Scrooge back in his chair. He nods asleep. The clock strikes two. He awakens abruptly.

EBENEZER SCROOGE. Two dings from the clock. That means two A.M. and a second spirit. But here I am in my chair, and all well. I'm just having bad dreams, clearly. All that stuff about Jacob Marley and the Ghost of Christmas Past. It's just a dream. *(Enter Ghost again. Lights, magic music. She is now out of her UPS costume. She is in some big robe, with a garland of Christmas greens on her head. She also has a pretty fake-looking beard on. She's now the Ghost of Christmas Present; and in movies that figure is often presented as a jolly, bearded man with a fancy robe.)*
GHOST. Ho, ho, ho! Ha, ha, ha! I am the Ghost of Christmas Present!
EBENEZER SCROOGE. Oh God. I've had enough of this.
GHOST. Ebenezer Scrooge, you are being given this opportunity to improve yourself.

EBENEZER SCROOGE. All right, all right. Why do you have a beard now?

GHOST. I don't know, I'm Father Christmas. *(Takes off the beard, bit annoyed with it.)* Here, touch my cloak, we are to look at the ways in which touching, small people celebrate Christmas all over the world.

EBENEZER SCROOGE. Little lessons. I'm not a four-year old.
GHOST. Mr. Scrooge, look at this lovely Dutch couple. *(Enter Mr. and Mrs. Dutch couple. Mrs. Dutch is bald. They have strong Dutch accents.)*

MR. DUTCH PERSON. Merry Christmas, Mrs. Johanson.
MRS. DUTCH PERSON. Merry Christmas, my darling husband. Even though we have no money, I have managed to buy you Christmas gift, darling Edvar. Look — a watch fob for the cherished timepiece that your father gave you.

MR. DUTCH PERSON. *(Bit disappointed.)* Oh thank you.
MRS. DUTCH PERSON. You don't like it?
MR. DUTCH PERSON. I like it very much, it's just ... well, I'm afraid I sold my watch to pay for my present for you.

GHOST. *(To Scrooge.)* I hope you're taking this in?
EBENEZER SCROOGE. Why is she bald?

GHOST. I don't know, be quiet.
MRS. DUTCH PERSON. Oh, Edvar, you bought me a Christmas gift by selling your watch. I am so touched. What did you get me?

MR. DUTCH PERSON. I got you a beautiful comb to wear in your lovely hair. *(He hands her the comb; looks at her.)* Oh my God! Where is your hair?

MRS. DUTCH PERSON. Oh, Edvar. I sold my hair in order to buy you a Christmas present.
MR. DUTCH PERSON. You sold your hair that you love and value more than life itself?

MRS. DUTCH PERSON. Yes, I did.
MR. DUTCH PERSON. Oh, Hedwig! This is so tragic!
MRS. DUTCH PERSON. Oh, Edvar! It is. We've both given up things we love in order to buy presents which are now useless. How I hate Christmas.

MR. DUTCH PERSON. I hate Christmas too, Hedwig. Come, let us go into the other room and kill ourselves.
MRS. DUTCH PERSON. I'd love to. But I sold my father's gun last year to buy you arrows, don't you remember?

MR. DUTCH PERSON. Oh right. Except I could not use the arrows because

I had sold the arrows for your arthritis

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