

NARRATOR: Cratchit, with the long ends of his scarf dangling below his waist (*for he had no coat*), went racing home to his family to prepare for the next day's celebration. Scrooge, on the other hand, took his lonely dinner in his usual miserable tavern and then went home alone to his dull and depressing house. He lived in chambers which had once belonged to his dead partner, Marley.

The yard was so dark that even Scrooge, who knew its every stone, was forced to fumble about with his hands, attempting to find the front door. Now, it is a fact that there was nothing at all particular about the knocker on the door, except that it was very large. And then let any man explain to me, if he can, how it happened that Scrooge, having his key in the lock of the door, saw in the knocker, not a knocker, but Marley's face!

As Scrooge looked attentively at this phenomenon, it was a knocker again. To say that he was not startled, would be untrue. But he put his hand upon the key, turned it sturdily, walked in, and lighted his candle. He came in carefully, half expecting to be terrified with the sight of Marley's pigtail sticking out into the hall.

The whole house was in total dark. Up the stairs Scrooge went, caring little that the candle gave little light. Darkness is cheap. And Scrooge liked it. He secured the door, and walked across the hall, and up the stairs. But before he shut his heavy door, he walked through his rooms to see that all was right. All as they should be.

Nobody under the table, nobody under the sofa; Quite satisfied, he closed his door, and locked himself in; Double-locked himself in, which was not his custom.

He had a very low fire and had to sit close to it, before he could get the least sensation of warmth from such a handful of fuel. And yet he swore he saw the face of Marley in that fireplace!

He looked around the room and happened to notice a bell that hung in the room. (*pick up bell*) To his great surprise, as he looked, he saw this bell begin to swing. It swung so softly (*start ringing*) in the outset that it scarcely made a sound; But soon it rang out loudly, and so did every bell in the house - The bells ceased as they had begun. Together.