

ACT II

SCENE 1

A DARK STREET. IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING.

The music begins. The lights rise to a dull and foggy shade. Scrooge is as we left him, coiled in the fetal position. He sings in a longing and tortured voice.

NO. 16 - WHY?

SCROOGE

WHY CAN'T I SEE THE STARS?
ARE THEY THERE?
WHERE THEY ALWAYS THERE?
I'VE NEVER LOOKED TO SEE.
WHY CAN'T I SEE THE SNOW?
IS IT WHITE?
WAS IT ALWAYS WHITE?
I'VE NEVER SEEN IT FALL.
WHY CAN'T I HEAR THE BABIES CRY?
DO THEY SMILE?
ARE THERE BABIES THERE?
I'VE NEVER LOOKED TO SEE.
TELL ME WHY?
BUT, NOW I WANT TO SEE THE STARS.
I WANT TO TOUCH THE SNOW.
AND HEAR THE BABIES CRY.
WHY CAN'T I SEE THE FLOWERS BLOOM?
IS THE FRAGRANCE SWEET?
DOES THE SUN COME OUT,
WHEN THE RAIN IS THROUGH?

Three PHANTOMS enter. Scrooge is unaware of their presence.

PHANTOMS

EBENEZER SCROOGE!
YOU CAN SEE!
OPEN UP YOUR EYES OR YOU ARE DOOMED.
AH!

SCROOGE

WHY CAN'T I GIVE MYSELF A CHANCE
TO FIND HAPPINESS IN MY ACHING HEART?
WHERE WILL I FIND THAT LOVING FLAME
THAT I KNOW MUST BURN?
WHY, OH WHY?

The Phantoms drift away leaving Scrooge on his knees. The GHOST OF CHRISTMAS YET TO COME enters silently.

It is shrouded in a black robe-like garment which conceals its entire body except for one outstretched pale white hand.

SCROOGE (cont'd)

(in a weak voice)

I am in the presence of the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come?

(pause)

You are about to show me shadows of the things that have not happened, but will happen in the future. Is that so, spirit?

(pause)

Ghost of the future, I fear you more than any spectre I have seen. But, as I know your purpose is to do me good, I am prepared to bear you company.

(pause)

Will you not speak to me? Lead on. Lead on, spirit.

The Ghost raises the bony, white hand and points DSR. There are a two MEN standing under a street lamp.

1ST MAN

And then, believe it or not, he requested that I extend the loan for him!

2ND MAN

Outrageous. I understand his wife is very ill.

1ST MAN

That is not my problem. He owes the money to me and that is all I care about. I will get it one way or another.

A third MAN enters.

3RD MAN

Have you gentlemen heard? Old Scratch has finally died.

1ST MAN

Yes. Are there any details?

3RD MAN

I don't know much about it either way. I only know he's dead.

2ND MAN

When did he die?