





Once upon a time there was a man by the name of Ebenezer Scrooge, he was a miserly, cold-hearted creditor. He was stingy, greedy and hated Christmas. He yelled at the charity workers; and overworked his employees.

SCHOOL





HUMBUG

BAAH HUMBUG



Scrooge's nephew wishes Scrooge a merry Christmas, but Scrooge answers him with a disdainful "Bah! Humbug!" He believes Christmas is the same as any day of the year, a day in which one must still pay bills. His nephew, Fred, thinks of Christmas as a "kind, forgiving, charitable, pleasant time." Fred, invites him to a Christmas dinner but in his grumpy way of being Scrooge rejects the invitation and all of the good tidings of the holiday.



SCROOGE SCROOGE

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Two portly gentlemen enter and ask Scrooge for charity for the poor. Scrooge believes that prisons and workhouses are sufficient, and he dismisses them. Outside, it gets colder. A Christmas caroler tries to sing at Scrooge's door, but the old man scares him away. Scrooge closes up the counting-house and tells Cratchit he expects him to work on Christmas day. Cratchit goes home.



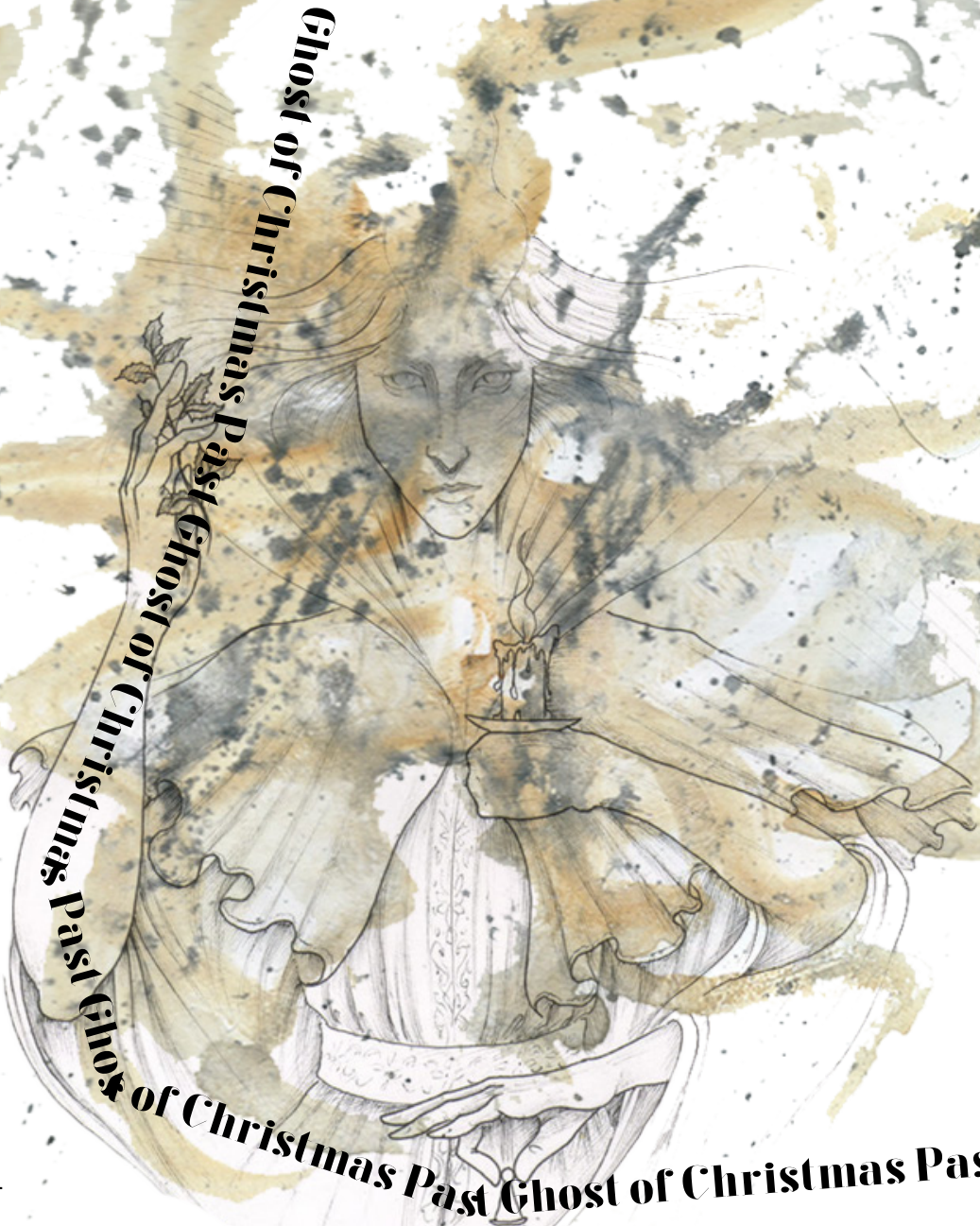


Scrooge
sees the
dead
Marley's
face in the
knocker of
his door
until it turns
back into a
knocker.
It gives
Scrooge
pause, but
he resolves
not to be
frightened.
He thinks
he sees a

locomotive
hearse going
up the stairs
before him. He
walks through
his room to
make sure no
one is there.
After, he warms
himself by a
small fire. A
bell in the
room starts
to ring, and
soon all the
other bells in
the house do.
After some
time, the bells
stop, and
Scrooge hears
the cellar-door
open.

Scrooge's
former partner
Jacob Marley, dead
for seven years, visits
him in the form of a
ghost. Marley's spirit
has been wandering
since he died as
punishment for
being consumed
with business and
not with people
while alive. He
has come to warn
Scrooge and
perhaps save him
from the same
fate. He tells him
Three Spirits will
come to him over
the next three
nights. Marley
makes incoherent,
sorrowful sounds,
then leaves.





Scrooge falls asleep and wakes up to find the Ghost of Christmas Past, she says she is there for Scrooge's "welfare" and "reclamation," then puts Scrooge's hand on her heart. They instantly reappear on a wintry country road around Scrooge's childhood home. Scrooge is deeply affected by the memory, and he walks with the Ghost to the town. They see schoolboys, and the Ghost explains that the people they see are shadows of their former selves, and are unaware of him and Scrooge. The boys run out of school and wish merry Christmas to each other.

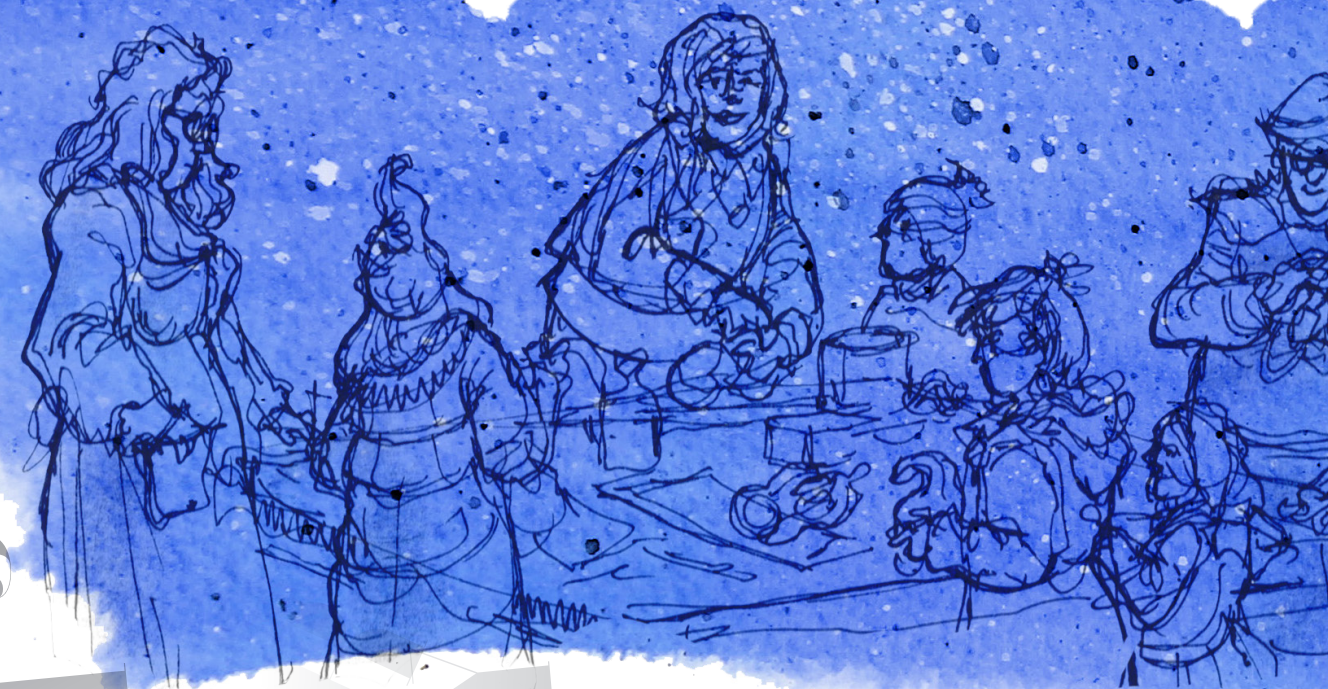


WHEN THE GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PAST APPEARS TO SCROOGE

The Ghost reminds Scrooge that one boy, ignored by the others, remains in school alone, and Scrooge weeps. They walk into the dilapidated schoolhouse, where they see the young Scrooge reading alone by a small fire. The older Scrooge cries again, and says he wishes he had given something to the boy caroling at his door last night. The Ghost says they will see another Christmas, and the young Scrooge grows larger as the room becomes dirtier. Scrooge's younger sister, Fan, enters the room and joyfully announces she is bringing him home for Christmas, as their father is much kinder than he used to be. After they eat and drink with the

intimidating schoolmaster, they go off. The Ghost reminds Scrooge that his sister died after having had Scrooge's nephew. The Ghost and Scrooge travel to the warehouse of Scrooge's apprenticeship. Fezziwig, an old, jolly man, gives Scrooge and another worker the night off for Christmas Eve. Scrooge and his friend quickly clean up and build a cozy fire. Several more people come in and a party ensues. Scrooge enjoys himself immensely until the party ends, when he remembers he is merely revisiting the scene with the Ghost. Scrooge tells the Ghost that Fezziwig's gift of happiness to his friends far outweighs the money he spent on the party. He mentions he would like to say something to

his clerk. Scrooge now sees an older version of himself in the prime of life. His face shows the first signs of greed as he sits by a crying girl, Belle. She breaks off their romance, reproaching him for replating his love for her with the pursuit of money. The scene changes and Belle is now the mother of a raucous, affectionate brood of children. Her husband comes home and tells her he saw Scrooge sitting alone in his office. Scrooge begs the Ghost to take him back to his own time, and takes it upon himself to pull the Ghost's cap over its brightly-lit head. The light cannot be obscured, however, and Scrooge eventually falls into his own bed out of exhaustion.

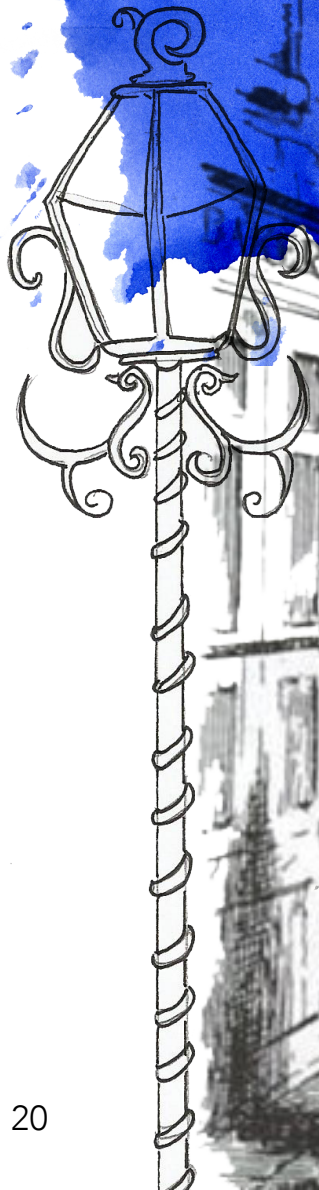




Scrooge goes to sleep and is awakened by the Ghost of Christmas Present, a giant with a lifespan of one day. He tells Scrooge to touch his robe. When he does, they are transported to the streets on Christmas morning where, despite the gloomy weather, people frolic joyously in the snow as shopkeepers pass out delicious food. He tells Scrooge to touch his robe.

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STORIES

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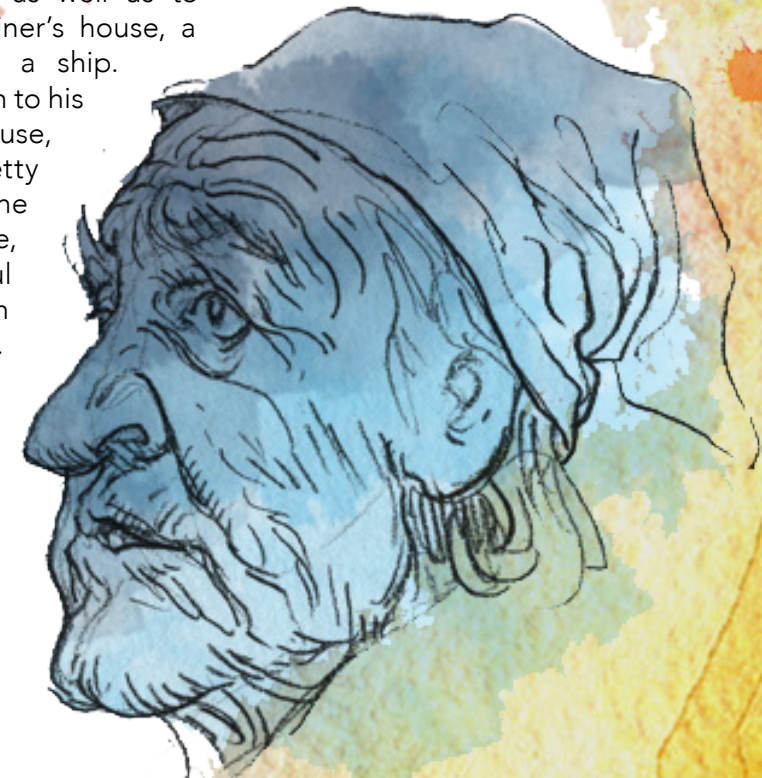


The Ghost transports Scrooge to the modest house of Bob Cratchit. His family, dressed in its best clothing, waits for Bob to return from church before they eat dinner. He comes in with his small, crippled son, Tiny Tim. They discuss Tiny Tim's good heart and his growing strength, then have a wonderful dinner. When Scrooge asks, the Ghost informs him that, unless the future is altered, Tiny Tim will die. At the dinner, Mrs. Cratchit curses Scrooge, but her husband reminds her that it is Christmas.



HAPPY MISERLY LIFE MISERLY HAPPY

The Ghost brings Scrooge to a number of other happy Christmas dinners in the city, as well as to celebrations in a miner's house, a lighthouse, and on a ship. Scrooge is then taken to his nephew Fred's house, where Fred tells his pretty wife and his sisters he feels sorry for Scrooge, since his miserly, hateful nature deprives him of pleasure in life. Scrooge's niece plays a tune on the harp, which softens Scrooge's heart. Scrooge even joins in for some of their games, though they are not aware of his ghostly presence.



The Ghost pulls Scrooge away from the games to a number of other Christmas scenes, all joyful despite the often meager environments. As they travel, the Ghost ages and says his life is short and he will die at midnight. A boy and girl, looking ragged, unhealthy, and impoverished, crawl out from his robes. The Ghost tells Scrooge they are named Ignorance and Want. He tells him to beware of them, especially the boy, on whose brow is written doom. He encourages Scrooge to deny Ignorance in himself and others. When Scrooge asks if the children have no refuge, the Ghost answers with Scrooge's previous words "Are there no prisons? Are there no workhouses?" The bell strikes twelve, the Ghost disappears, and Scrooge sees a new phantom, solemn and robed, approach.





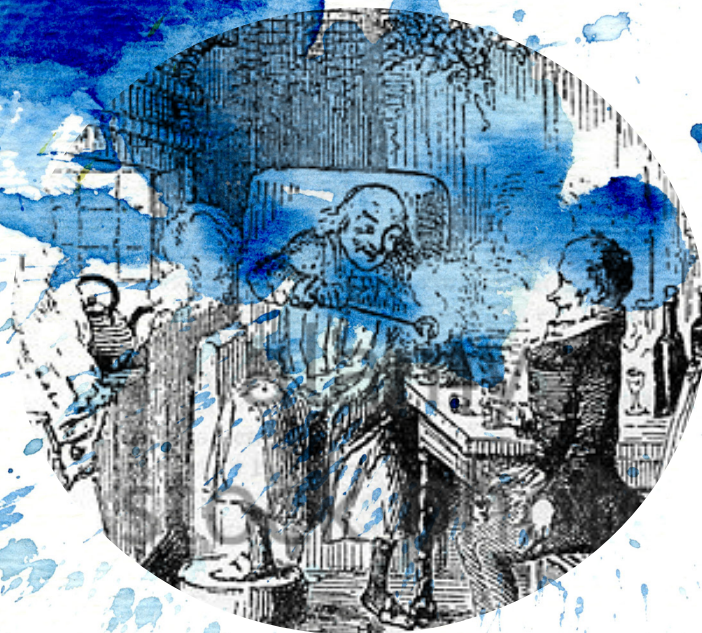
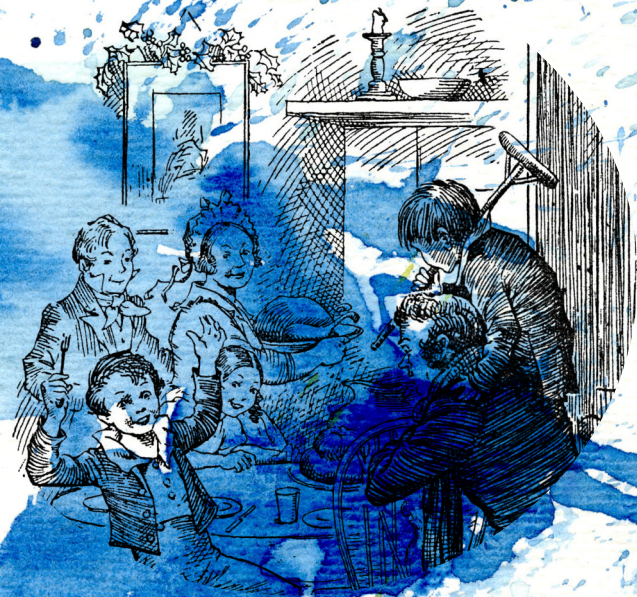
The silent, black-clad Ghost of Christmas Yet To Come replaces the other ghost. It responds to Scrooge's questions with silence and motions for him to follow. They instantly appear in the city and listen in on some businessmen who casually and jokingly discuss someone's death. Scrooge wonders why the Ghost is showing him these conversations and what bearing they have on his future self.

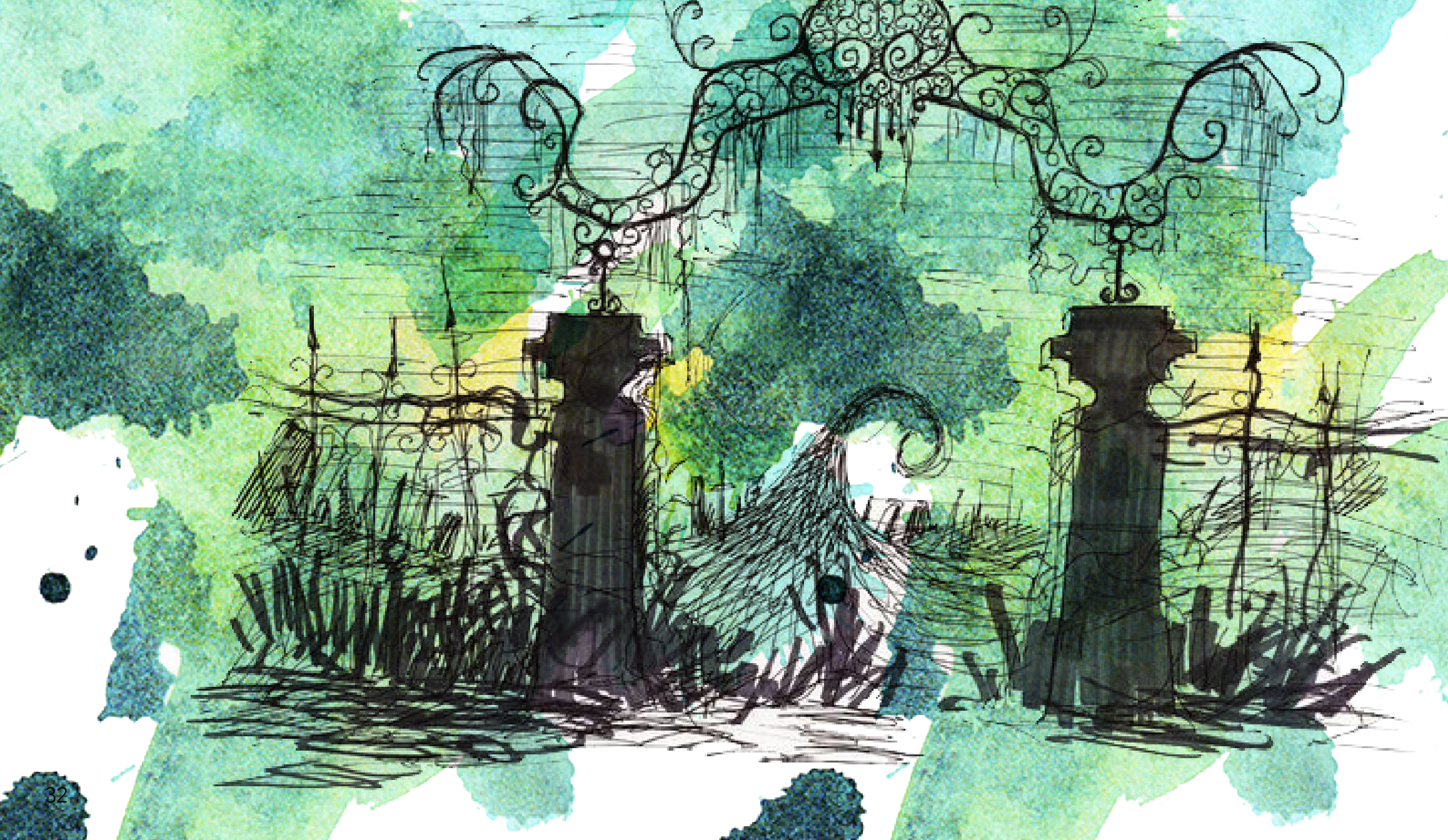
Christmas Yet to Come





They are transported to the house of a young couple, who rejoices since their merciless creditor has died and they are not ruined from debt. Scrooge asks the host to show him some tenderness connected with a death. In the Cratchit home, Bob mourns for Tiny Tim, who has recently died. He tells the family about the kindness of Scrooge's nephew, Fred, and soon feels better when he discusses Tiny Tim's lasting memory.





However, he does not see himself among the crowds. Scrooge and the Ghost travel through a poor, run-down part of town. In a shop, several people divvy up some possessions they have plundered from a man who has recently died. Scrooge tells the Ghost that he sees his life might turn out like the dead man's. The scene changes and Scrooge is at the plundered bed of the corpse. Scrooge cannot bring himself to raise the veil of the dead man and see his face. Scrooge asks the Ghost to show him someone who has been emotionally affected by the man's death.





Scroogewakes up in his bedroom and learns that the whole adventure took only one night. Scrooge dresses in his best clothing and walks in the crowds with a smile. In addition to smiling and being friendly to everyone he sees, he sends a large turkey to the Cratchits, gives a sizable donation to the charity worker he previously insulted, and has a wonderful time at Fred's party.

MAN
CHANGED
THOUGHTFUL
KIND

MAN
HAPPY



The next morning, Scrooge gets to work early. When Cratchit comes in late, Scrooge pretends to reprimand him, then gives him a raise. Scrooge continues his kindly ways after Christmas, befriending everyone and becoming a second father to Tiny Tim, who does not die. He never sees the ghosts again, but he keeps the spirit of Christmas alive in his heart as well as anyone.



