

THE CHRISTMAS GHOSTS

BY

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SYNOPSIS:

Cell phones with creepy ringtones have made the ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future's job easier; they no longer have to fly their clients around and can display the bad guys' past, present and future in an instant. That's exactly what they do when Bill and Joe cross their path. Driven by the same intent they had with old Scrooge, the spirits help them to become better fellows and to keep Christmas in the most generous and honest way there is.

(Speaking Cast: 2 females, 2 males, 6 either, 10 total cast)

CHARACTERS

THE GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PAST

THE GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT

THE GHOST OF CHRISTMAS FUTURE

BILL A bank employee

JOE A clerk

MRS. HOPE A Charity worker

MRS. BARNET A Charity worker

THREE CAROLLERS

SETTING

The street.

TIME

The present. Christmas Eve.

DURATION

12 minutes.

PROPERTIES:

1. Cell phones with bell ringtones (Ghosts)
2. Selfie stick (Future)
3. Lanterns, a cup (Carollers)
4. A briefcase, a cell phone (Bill)
5. A cell phone, banknotes (Joe)
6. Cards (Mrs. Barnet)

AT RISE: (*PAST, PRESENT enter right checking their cell phones. FUTURE enters left hurriedly.*)

FUTURE: No wretched soul yet?

PRESENT: (*Shakes his head.*) Nope.

PAST: We did a pretty good job with old Scrooge.

PRESENT: You bet. The stingy guy surely learnt his lesson.

PAST: Good old times when a few howls were enough to scare you out of your skin.

FUTURE: Well, we have our cell phones now.

PRESENT: Less scary, but far more incisive.

FUTURE: Indeed; past, present and future displayed in an instant.

PRESENT: And no need to fly the blokes around anymore.

(*MRS. HOPE, MRS. BARNET enter.*)

PAST: So here are our Charity workers. Bless you, ladies.

MRS. HOPE: I'm afraid blessings won't be enough to feed the poor, my dear Spirits.

MRS. BARNET: (*Sighs.*) Folks have become so meagre lately, no one willing to give or share any longer.

MRS. HOPE: Just now a gentleman has treated us very rudely only for asking him a small contribution.

FUTURE: That's bad, Mrs. Hope, but we must go on being trustful.

MRS. BARNET: That's why we're still here.

PRESENT: Same for us.

MRS. HOPE: Better go on with our quest, Mrs. Barnet; it's Christmas Eve and miracles can still happen.

MRS. BARNET: Sure, but first let me leave our friends here a few cards, (*Hands GHOSTS the cards.*) just in case you bump into some generous soul.

MRS. HOPE: There's also a link for online donations.

PRESENT: Be sure we won't forget to hand them out.

(*MRS. HOPE, MRS. BARNET exit.*)

(FUTURE's cell rings.)

FUTURE: *(Checks it.)* Hey, guys, we've got a guest coming up our way. Have a look here.

PRESENT: Keep in mind that we have to grasp his attention fast and strike his heart at once.

PAST: What about giving him one of our scariest rings?

FUTURE: *(Chuckles.)* A good start for sure.

(GHOSTS move upstage. BILL enters, has the briefcase, looks around as if afraid of being seen. His phone rings loudly with a grave bell ringtone.)

BILL: *(Checks his phone.)* Say, what eerie tone is this?

(GHOSTS move towards him.)

PRESENT: Hey, Sir, we'd like to have a word or two with you.

BILL: Who... who are you, gentlemen?

PAST: *(Coarse laughter.)* Who are we? He dares to ask!

PRESENT: *(Gravely.)* We are the ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future, man.

BILL: *(Laughs nervously.)* I thought Halloween was over.

PAST: Halloween is, but not Christmas.

FUTURE: What's in that case of yours?

PRESENT: Cash, perhaps?

BILL: Just a few bills.

PAST: Slipped out of the bank's safe, huh?

PRESENT: *(Hints at the case.)* I reckon that money belongs to the savers who trusted you.

BILL: How do you know?

FUTURE: *(Takes out his phone.)* Look here, it's all in this video.

BILL: Bah, nothing but a silly trick. *(Harshly.)* And now, if you excuse me, I'm a bit in a hurry. *(Is about to leave.)*

FUTURE: *(Grabs his arm. Hollers.)* Have a look I said!

BILL: Good grief, that's me!

PRESENT: (*Shows him his phone.*) And this is Mrs. Brown's granddaughter; the child's very ill and won't make it if her grandma doesn't help paying for the surgery.

FUTURE: (*Checks his phone.*) Oh my, I see an empty place at the family table.

BILL: You're not fun, guys, you're not.

PAST: And here's old Ed, Mary, Sue and all the others; you've destroyed these folks' hopes and plans, man.

PRESENT: Don't you feel sorry?

BILL: Sorry? I don't know what that means.

PAST: I'm sure you know what greedy means.

BILL: Hey, are you are the same ghosts that visited old Scrooge?

(*GHOSTS nod.*)

BILL: Are... are you for real?

FUTURE: As real as ghosts can be.

PRESENT: We care for you, wouldn't be here otherwise.

BILL: You're the first. Nobody ever cared for me... so... well, I never cared for others.

FUTURE: Why won't you put the money back?

PAST: And keep Christmas the best way there is?

PRESENT: It's Christmas Eve and reconsiderations are most welcome.

BILL: Am I still in time?

FUTURE: It's never too late to do what's right, Bill.

BILL: Strange, for the first time in my life you make feel like wishing I'd never done any wrong.

PAST: That sounds like feeling sorry, son.

BILL: The only thought of putting those bills back makes me feel better, it does.

PRESENT: So what are you waiting for?

BILL: No creepy rings ever again?

(*GHOSTS shake their heads.*)