

## Chapter 3

### Marley's Ghost

Scrooge finished his dinner and began to walk home. He walked through the streets until he reached his house. His house was big and old. Seven years ago it had belonged to Jacob Marley. Scrooge lived in two of the rooms. The rest of the house was dark and empty.

Scrooge took some heavy keys out of his pocket and unlocked the big wooden front door. There was a metal knocker in the middle of the door. Usually Scrooge did not look at it. But tonight the knocker was different. Scrooge thought he saw something strange. He looked closely and he saw Marley's face in the middle of the knocker!

The old man was very surprised. He opened the door. He looked at the back of it. But the back of Marley's head was not there!

'Bah!' he said, and slammed the door shut.

Scrooge lit a candle and went up the big staircase to his rooms. He unlocked the door and went inside. Then quickly he locked the door again. He put on his night-clothes and sat in a chair close to a very small fire. Then he saw Marley's face again - in the flames of the fire!

Suddenly, a bell above Scrooge's head started to ring. Then another bell! And another! And another! Bells rang all over the empty house. People had once used these bells to call servants to different rooms. But Scrooge lived alone. There were no servants in Scrooge's house.

The bells stopped. Then Scrooge heard another noise. It was a clanking, banging noise and it was getting louder. Someone was pulling metal chains across the floor downstairs. Now, someone was pulling metal chains up the stairs.

'This isn't happening!' said Scrooge. 'I won't believe

The clanking noise grew louder and louder. Then the noise came straight through the door into Scrooge's room. Suddenly, Scrooge saw Jacob Marley. He saw the face he had seen on the door knocker and in the fire. He saw Marley's face and hair and coat and boots. He saw a white cloth tied round Marley's face and chin. But Scrooge also saw the door. He could see straight through Marley! Was this a ghost?

There were huge chains round Marley's body and on the floor behind him. On the chains were things which Scrooge recognised. There were money-boxes, keys, locks and account books.

'Who are you?' I asked Scrooge.

'Ask me who I was, I replied the ghost.

'Bah!' said Scrooge. 'Who were you?'



*Scrooge could see straight through Marley! Was this a ghost?*

'When I was alive, we worked together. I was your partner, Jacob Marley,' it said