## A Christmas Carol

A long time ago, in London, there was a man named Scrooge. He was rich but very cold in heart. He hated Christmas, saying only, "Bah! Humbug!" He never gave money to the poor, and he was unkind even to his own clerk, Bob.

One Christmas Eve, Scrooge was visited by the ghost of his old business partner, Marley. Marley looked pale and weak, and heavy chains were around his body. Marley warned him, "If you do not change, you will suffer like me." Marley told Scrooge that three spirits would come.

First came the Ghost of Christmas Past. This spirit took Scrooge back to his childhood. He saw himself as a lonely little boy in school during Christmas. Then he saw how his love for money slowly pushed people away. Scrooge began to feel sadness and regret.

Next came the Ghost of Christmas Present. This spirit showed Scrooge happy families celebrating with love and laughter. Scrooge saw Bob's poor family and the sick child, Tiny Tim, enjoying a simple meal. Even though they were poor, they were full of warmth. Scrooge's heart began to soften.

Finally, the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come arrived. It was dark and frightening. It showed Scrooge his own grave, cold and forgotten. Terrified, Scrooge cried, "Please! Give me another chance. I will change!"

Suddenly, Scrooge woke up in his bed on Christmas morning. He was alive and full of joy. He sent a big turkey to Bob's family, gave money to the poor, and visited his family. From then on, Scrooge was known as a kind man who kept Christmas in his heart. And Tiny Tim, with Scrooge's help, grew healthy and strong.