



CHARLES DICKENS

# A Christmas Carol



JVA Editora

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First published: 1843

Public domain edition

**JVA Editora**

- 46 (Original First Edition Cover; 1843 Original Illustrations in Color by John Leech)
- 19337 (Published in 1905; Illustrations in Black and White by G. A. Williams)
- 24022 (Published in 1915; Illustrations in Black and White and Color by By Arthur Rackham)
- 30368 (First edition with original hand written pages; Black and White illustrations.)
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A CHRISTMAS CAROL.

IN PROSE.

BEING

A Ghost Story of Christmas.

BY

CHARLES DICKENS.

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS BY JOHN LEECH.



LONDON:  
CHAPMAN & HALL, 186, STRAND.

MDCCLXIII.

1853

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# **A CHRISTMAS CAROL**

**IN PROSE**

**BEING**

# ***A Ghost Story of Christmas***

**BY**

# CHARLES DICKENS

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WITH ILLUSTRATIONS BY JOHN LEECH

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## PREFACE

I HAVE endeavoured in this Ghostly little book, to raise the Ghost of an Idea, which shall not put my readers out of humour with themselves, with each other, with the season, or with me. May it haunt their houses pleasantly, and no one wish to lay it.

Their faithful Friend and Servant,

C. D.

*December, 1843.*

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# CONTENTS

STAVE I

MARLEY'S GHOST

STAVE II

THE FIRST OF THE THREE SPIRITS

STAVE III

THE SECOND OF THE THREE SPIRITS

STAVE IV

THE LAST OF THE SPIRITS

STAVE V

THE END OF IT



# ILLUSTRATIONS

|                                                                      | Artist.  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| <u>MARLEY'S GHOST</u>                                                | J. LEECH |
| <u>GHOSTS OF DEPARTED USURERS</u>                                    | ”        |
| <u>MR. FEZZIWIG'S BALL</u>                                           | ”        |
| <u>SCROOGE EXTINGUISHES THE FIRST</u><br><u>OF THE THREE SPIRITS</u> | ”        |
| <u>SCROOGE'S THIRD VISITOR</u>                                       | ”        |
| <u>IGNORANCE AND WANT</u>                                            | ”        |
| <u>THE LAST OF THE SPIRITS</u>                                       | ”        |
| <u>SCROOGE AND BOB CRATCHIT</u>                                      | ”        |

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## STAVE ONE.

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### MARLEY'S GHOST.

MARLEY was dead: to begin with. There is no doubt whatever about that. The register of his burial was signed by the clergyman, the clerk, the undertaker, and the chief mourner. Scrooge signed it: and Scrooge's name was good upon 'Change, for anything he chose to put his hand to. Old Marley was as dead as a door-nail.

Mind! I don't mean to say that I know, of my own knowledge, what there is particularly dead about a door-nail. I might have been inclined, myself, to regard a coffin-nail as the deadest piece of ironmongery in the trade. But the wisdom of our ancestors is in the simile; and my unhallowed hands shall not disturb it, or the Country's done for. You will therefore permit me to repeat, emphatically, that Marley was as dead as a door-nail.

Scrooge knew he was dead? Of course he did. How could it be otherwise? Scrooge and he were partners for I don't know how many years. Scrooge was his sole executor, his sole administrator, his sole assign, his sole residuary legatee, his sole friend, and sole mourner. And even Scrooge was not so dreadfully cut up by the sad event, but that he was an excellent man of business on the very day of the funeral, and solemnised it with an undoubted bargain.