

A
**Christmas
Carol** In Prose



Being a Ghost Story of Christmas
A dramatic recitation of Dickens' public reading version

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A Christmas Carol In Prose Performed by Man of Words

"I have endeavored 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

Reading ghost stories at Christmas time was a Victorian tradition. Not unlike the Christmas tree, mistletoe, exchanging presents, Christmas cards, Christmas carols, and even the date of Christmas-telling ghost stories at Christmas has its origins with pagan winter festivals. This tradition also has a link to the spiritualism movement of the Victorian age. The belief in ghosts actually brought comfort. If ghosts existed, the deceased might be seen again. It was into these traditions that Dickens introduced the Christmas ghost story.

"As a 'ghostly little book,' the tale should haunt us, just as the ghosts haunt Scrooge, and to precisely the same effect. The spirits give Scrooge, just as Dickens gives us, a story with a linear plot that moves through past, present, and future; the experience of reliving his story changes Scrooge, as the experience of reading it should change us, for the better. A Christmas Carol is designed... to make us feel. For Dickens, the power of the imagination expressed through fiction is, like ghosts, an agent of regeneration." from *The Friendly Dickens* by Norrie Epstein

"I have always thought of Christmas time... as a good time; a kind, forgiving, charitable, pleasant time; the only time that I know of, in the long calendar of the year, when men and women seem by one consent to open their shut-up hearts freely, and to think of people below them as if they really were fellow travelers to the grave, and not another race of creatures bound on other journeys. And therefore, uncle, though it has never put a scrap of gold into my pocket, I believe that it has done me good, and will do me good; and I say, God bless it!" Fred from *A Christmas Carol*.

Thanks to: John Hepner,
Aaron Cain, Pat McCord,
Raven Frame Works, Inc.



Featuring
Original Sculptures
by Dan Chen

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to enrich, encourage, enlighten and entertain.

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