

*Christmas Present is helpless with laughter*

**Nephew** ...then I know in my heart I am truly a man of goodwill!

**Scrooge** The scoundrel!

**Topper** Now that I'll drink to!

*Scrooge, beside himself, goes over to Topper and glares at him*

**Scrooge** I don't like *you* at all!

**Christmas Present** Wait, there is more to come!

**Nephew** Besides, I like old Scrooge.

*Scrooge perks up*

**Christmas Present** What did I tell you?

**Guests** Nonsense...! Oh no...!

**Nephew** I truly do! God knows, I have little enough reason to do so after the way he treated our family, but I can't help feeling that hidden somewhere inside that loathsome old carcass of his... there is a different man fighting to get out!

**Topper** Careful, Harry—he may be even worse than the one you know!

*Laughter from everyone except Scrooge*

**Nephew** God forbid! Anyway, that's why I invite him to come here every Christmas, in the forlorn hope that one day he might just drop by and pick up enough goodwill to raise his clerk's wages by five shillings a week! God knows, it's high time he did!

**Guests** Hear, hear! Bravo!

**Scrooge** You're very free with other people's money.

**Mary** All right, Harry, now that's enough! I refuse to have my Christmas haunted by your silly old Uncle Ebenezer!

*Scrooge finds this amusing*

**Scrooge** If only you knew, my dear! *(He walks over to her, shrieks a mock ghostly shriek and pulls a face at her)*

*Christmas Present roars with laughter*

**Mary** All right, what shall we play?

**Lizzi** Charades...

**Lucy** Secrets...