

A CHRISTMAS CAROL-THE ALTERNATE ENDING

by John Cosper

GENRE: Comedy

SYNOPSIS: Ebenezer Scrooge visits the Cratchit home on Christmas morning and finds a rather ungrateful Tiny Tim.

DIRECTOR'S TIP: The opening introductory lines are optional—the scene could just as easily begin with lights up on the Cratchit home.

TIME: Under 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 5

TOPIC: Christmas

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: 1 Timothy 6:6-10, James 4:1-3

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Christmas

SUGGESTED USE: Seeker Service

CHARACTERS:

SCROOGE
BOB CRATCHIT
MRS. CRATCHIT
TINY TIM
CHARLES DICKENS

PROPS: Goose, packages, ticket

COSTUMES: Costumes appropriate for each character

SOUND: Five wireless microphones

LIGHTING: General stage

SETTING: The Cratchit home

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OPTIONAL INTRO: *Time was when we were at the mercy of our favorite storytellers. From books to movies, every story had one ending. Now, thanks to the DVD, we are no longer limited to one ending. Almost every DVD comes with an alternate ending, a different way of looking at the same events. We can decide if the hero lives or dies, or if the young couple makes it work or breaks up. I wonder how the great authors of literature might have taken advantage of this technological breakthrough. Imagine if Charles Dickens had written an alternate ending to A Christmas Carol. It might have looked something like this.*

The setting is the home of Bob Cratchit. BOB, MRS. CRATCHIT, and TINY TIM are on stage. There's a knock at the door. MRS. CRATCHIT answers, and

SCROOGE enters, angry.

BOB: Mr. Scrooge?

SCROOGE: Cratchit, you're a swindler, cheating me out of half a day's work! We have books to balance, letters to write. And I won't be delayed any more.

BOB: But Mr. Scrooge, we're just about to have Christmas dinner.

SCROOGE: Ho ho, dinner indeed. What are you cooking, Bob? A pigeon?

MRS. CRATCHIT: Yes, Mr. Scrooge. And if you'd be so kind as to let Bob eat before he goes to work, you could join us.

SCROOGE: Mrs. Cratchit, do you think I could ever sit down to sup with the likes of you?

MRS. CRATCHIT: *(looks away.) (Softens)* Not unless we were eating the finest goose I could find in all of London.

A shop boy enters with the goose and some packages.

BOB: Mr. Scrooge?

SCROOGE: Cratchit, you've been a saint to put up with me all these years. And for pauper's wages. I've come to make it up to you, and your family. Today we will have goose for Christmas dinner.

MRS. CRATCHIT: Mercy me, it's a Christmas miracle!

SCROOGE: I brought gifts as well.