

A  
CHRISTMAS  
CAROL

CHARLES  
DICKENS

TIMELESS CLASSICS



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# A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Charles Dickens

- ADAPTED BY -

Patricia Hutchison

 **SADDLEBACK**  
PUBLISHING



**TIMELESS CLASSICS**



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ISBN-13: 978-1-62250-711-5

ISBN-10: 1-62250-711-8

eBook: 978-1-61247-962-0

Printed in Guangzhou, China  
0000/CA00000000

17 16 15 14 13 12 3 4 5

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## Scrooge's Office

Marley was dead. He had been dead for many years. There was no doubt about that. Scrooge and Marley had been partners for a long time. He was the only one who missed Marley. But he wasn't very sad about it.

Scrooge was a grumpy old man. He was hard and cold. He didn't like children. He didn't like adults. He didn't like anything, unless it made him rich. He didn't even like Christmas!

People didn't pay attention to Scrooge. No one stopped in the street to say hello. No one knocked on his door to visit. Even dogs went out of their way to avoid him. But Scrooge didn't care. He liked it that way.

One Christmas Eve, he sat in his office. He was doing what he liked best. He was counting his money. It was a cloudy, bitter cold day. He had a small fire going, just to keep the chill off.

His door was open so that he could watch his clerk. The clerk was copying letters. His fire was even smaller than Scrooge's. He tried to warm his hands by the candle.



Scrooge's nephew, Fred, came happily inside. "Merry Christmas, Uncle!" he said.

"Humbug!" said Scrooge.

"I know you don't mean it, Uncle," said Fred.

“I do mean it! What good is Christmas?” Scrooge asked. “It just makes you poor, buying all those presents. You’re already poor enough.”

“You’re rich enough. But you’re still not happy,” Fred said.

“Humbug!” Scrooge yelled again. “Any idiot who yells ‘Merry Christmas’ should be boiled. Then bury him with a stake of holly through his heart.”

“Uncle!” Fred said, shocked.

“You have Christmas your way. I’ll have it mine,” declared Scrooge.



“But you *don't* have Christmas at all,” Fred pointed out.

“And that’s the way I like it!” Scrooge said finally.

“Money isn’t everything,” Fred said calmly. “Christmas is not about riches. It is always fun. There is much joy and forgiveness. People open their hearts. Christmas makes me feel good. But it has not made me rich.

“Don’t be angry, Uncle. Have dinner with us. Tomorrow?” Fred asked.

“Ah. You have a wife now. Why did you get married?” Scrooge asked.

“Because I fell in love,” Fred replied.

“Love! Humbug! Love is even sillier than Christmas!” Scrooge growled. “Please leave!”

“Why can’t we be friends, Uncle?” Fred asked. “I don’t ask anything from you.”

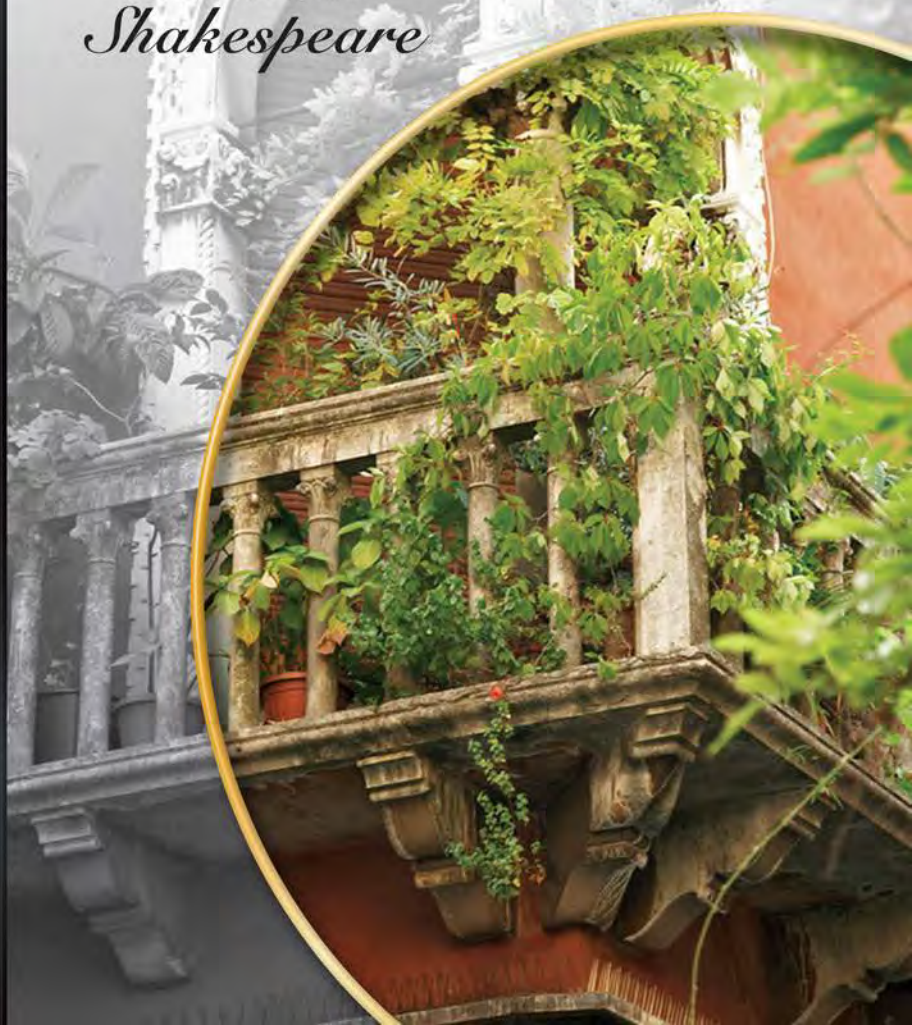
“Good-bye!” Scrooge snapped.

“I feel very sorry for you, Uncle. Merry Christmas,” Fred said softly. He quietly said good-bye to the clerk. Then he opened the door and left.

# Romeo and Juliet

*William  
Shakespeare*

TIMELESS SHAKESPEARE



— Cast of Characters —

*Montague family and friends:*

**ROMEO MONTAGUE:** A young man

**LORD MONTAGUE:** Romeo's father  
and the enemy of Lord Capulet

**LADY MONTAGUE:** Romeo's mother

**MERCUTIO:** Romeo's friend and  
Prince Escalus's cousin

**BENVOLIO:** Romeo's cousin and friend

**BALTHASAR:** Romeo's servant

**ABRAHAM:** Lord Montague's servant

**FRIAR LAWRENCE:** A Franciscan  
priest

**FRIAR JOHN:** Friar Lawrence's friend

— Cast of Characters —

*Capulet family and friends:*

**JULIET CAPULET:** A 13-year-old girl

**LORD CAPULET:** Juliet's father and the enemy of Lord Montague

**LADY CAPULET:** Juliet's mother

**NURSE:** Juliet's nanny

**SAMPSON** and **GREGORY:** Lord Capulet's servants

**TYBALT:** Juliet's cousin

**PARIS:** A young man who wants to marry Juliet; Prince Escalus's cousin

**PRINCE ESCALUS:** Prince and ruler of Verona

## — The Prologue —

*(The Chorus enters.)*

**CHORUS:** This play is about two families in Verona, Italy. They have been fighting for years. Two teens fall in love. One is a Capulet. The other is a Montague. They take their own lives. The fighting stops. Read on. You will learn the details.

## ACT 1

### — Scene 1 —

*(A Verona street. Sampson and Gregory enter. They have swords. They are looking for trouble.)*

**SAMPSON:** I won't be put down by Montagues. Believe me!

**GREGORY:** Calm down. This isn't our

fight. The fight is between our bosses.

**SAMPSON:** It's all the same to me. I would fight any of them.

**GREGORY:** Here's your chance. Draw your sword!

**SAMPSON** (*drawing his sword*): Pick a fight with them. I'll back you up.

**GREGORY:** How? By running away?

**SAMPSON:** Don't worry!

**GREGORY:** I'm more afraid of what you will do. I'm not afraid of the Montagues.

**SAMPSON:** We'll let them start the fight. Then we'll have a right to fight back. The law will be on our side.

**GREGORY:** I'll frown as they pass by. They can take it however they want.

**SAMPSON:** I'll make a face at them. They'll

have to fight. Or they'll be shamed.

*(Abraham and Balthazar enter.)*

**ABRAHAM:** Did you make a face at us?

**SAMPSON** *(aside to Gregory):* What will happen if I say yes? Will we be arrested?

**GREGORY:** Yes.

**SAMPSON:** Then, no. I didn't make a face at you.

**GREGORY:** Do you want to fight?

**ABRAHAM:** Fight? No, sir!

**SAMPSON:** Well, if you do, I'm ready. My boss is as good as yours.

**ABRAHAM:** As good? Maybe. But no better.

**GREGORY:** Say "better"—here comes Benvolio. He'll back us up.



**SAMPSON:** Yes, say “better”!

**ABRAHAM:** You lie!

**SAMPSON:** Draw your swords. Gregory,  
are you ready?

*(They fight. **Benvolio** enters.)*

**BENVOLIO:** Stop, fools! Put away your  
swords. You don’t know what you’re  
doing.

*(He beats down their swords. **Tybalt** enters.)*

**TYBALT:** Are you fighting with the servants?

**BENVOLIO:** No, I’m trying to stop the  
fight. Put your sword away. Or use it to  
help me stop it.

**TYBALT:** Are you talking about peace with  
your sword drawn? I hate the Montagues.  
I hate you! Come on, coward!



*(They fight. Others join in. Lord and Lady Capulet enter.)*

**CAPULET:** What's going on? Give me a sword too.

**LADY CAPULET:** You need a crutch, not a sword.

**CAPULET:** Give me my sword! Montague is coming. He's waving his sword to make me mad.

*(Lord and Lady Montague enter.)*

**MONTAGUE:** I hate you, Capulet!

*(to his wife, who is holding him back):*  
Let me at him!

**LADY MONTAGUE:** Stop! I will not let you do this.

*(Prince Escalus and his men arrive.)*

**PRINCE:** Rebels, listen! Drop your swords and listen to me. This is the third time you have fought in our streets. If you do this again, you will pay with your lives. Clear the streets!

Capulet, come with me. Montague, I will meet with you this afternoon. You will die if I catch you fighting one more time.

*(Everyone leaves except the Montagues and Benvolio.)*

**MONTAGUE:** Who started this fight, nephew?

**BENVOLIO:** I saw Capulet's servants fighting with yours. I tried to stop them. Tybalt came in and drew his sword. The crowd joined in. Then the Prince came and stopped it.

**LADY MONTAGUE:** Where is Romeo? I'm glad he wasn't in this fight.

**BENVOLIO:** I saw him earlier. He was in the woods. I walked toward him. When he saw me, he ran and hid. I didn't follow him.

**MONTAGUE:** He goes there a lot to cry. When it's light, he hides in his room. I wish we knew what was wrong. We would gladly help him.

**BENVOLIO:** Here he comes. I'll see if I can find out anything.