

YOUNG SCROOGE. No, but thank you. I have my accounts to return to.

MRS. FEZZIWIG. Suit yourself, dear. I wish you nothing but happiness.

MUSIC CUE #10: BELLE'S HOUSE TRANSITION

SCROOGE. Spirit, why do you delight to torture me?

GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PAST. I show you only the shadows you must see.

SCROOGE. Tell me, Spirit, whatever became of my fair Belle?

(SFX: Chime tree.)

Scene 6. Belle's Home

GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PAST. Years have passed. Belle has married. The man she has married is by her side now.

SCROOGE. That might have been me. She might have called me husband... Spirit, please, show me no more.

GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PAST. Listen to them, Ebenezer...

BELLE'S HUSBAND. *(To BELLE, with a smile:)* Belle, I saw an old friend of yours this afternoon.

BELLE. Who was it?

BELLE'S HUSBAND. Guess!

BELLE. How can I?

BELLE'S HUSBAND. Try!

BELLE. I don't know...Mr. Scrooge?

BELLE'S HUSBAND. Mr. Scrooge it was. I passed his office window—it wasn't shuttered, and there was a candle inside so I could scarcely help seeing him. His partner lies upon the point of death, I hear; and there he sat alone. Quite alone in the world, I do believe.

SCROOGE. *(In a broken voice:)* Spirit! Remove me from this place.

MUSIC CUE #11: END OF BELLE SCENE

GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PAST. I told you these were shadows of the things that have been. That they are what they are, do not blame me!

SCROOGE. Remove me! I cannot bear it! Leave me! Take me back. Haunt me no longer!

("APPLAUSE" sign flashes.)

JAKE LAURENTS. The WBFR Playhouse of the Air production of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* will return after a word from our sponsor...

Scene 7. Commercial Break #1

SALLY APPLEWHITE. For sensible and satisfying gifts, there's nothing more appropriate than fine food. And for both gift-giving and your Yule dinner, there's nothing more delicious than Olde London Extra-Fancy Fruitcake.

HARRY "JAZZBO" HAYWOOD. That's right, Sally. There's simply no rival to this magical concoction—crammed full of fruits and nuts, providing rich, delicious eating for everyone and making it America's most wanted Christmas gift.

SALLY APPLEWHITE. Luscious, tender and bursting with juicy goodness, Olde London Extra-Fancy Fruitcakes are a boon to fruitcake lovers. What's more, they're available in gaily-wrapped, five-pound and ten-pound gift cartons.

HARRY "JAZZBO" HAYWOOD. They're just the thing when unexpected guests arrive, and make wonderful gifts too—ideal for your business associates, family, friends, neighbors, shut-ins and those in the armed forces of the United States.

SALLY APPLEWHITE. And they're perfect for filling stockings and for your holiday buffet (*pronounced "boo-fay"*) boards, too. So, as a grand finale to your Christmas feast, why not treat the family to the most appetizing fruitcake ever discovered?!

HARRY "JAZZBO" HAYWOOD. And why not have the joy of this festive holiday season continue long into the new year? Well, it can, when you send a hair-raising parade of fruitcake—year 'round—with the Olde London Extra-Fancy Fruitcake of the Month Club.

SALLY APPLEWHITE. And the fun starts off with a deluxe, twenty-pound fruitcake basket for Christmas morning. Then the enchanting spectacle continues, month after month after month, providing thrills and surprises for everyone.