

Scene 15: Scrooge's Counting House

Clock chimes 9:00am. SCROOGE hums to himself as he enters. He glances over at BOB's empty desk.

SCROOGE: Nine o'clock... late again, eh, Cratchit? *(chuckles)* Well, we'll see about this.

Hurried footsteps as BOB – who is quite late -- runs to the store. SCROOGE gleefully hides. After a moment, BOB relaxes as he believes SCROOGE has not yet come in. Then...

SCROOGE: *(from the shadows)* Mr. CRATCHIT!!

BOB: *(deep sigh)* Here, sir.

SCROOGE: Do you know what time it is?

BOB: Yes, sir.

SCROOGE: *(harshly)* What time is it?

BOB: Eighteen minutes past the hour.

SCROOGE: Eighteen and a half minutes past the hour. What do you mean coming here this time of day?

BOB: I'm sorry, sir. I am behind my time.

SCROOGE: Yes, I think you are.

BOB: It's only once a year, sir. It shall not be repeated. My family and I were making rather merry yesterday.

SCROOGE: *(deliberately building the suspense)* Hmm. Well, I'll tell you, my friend. I'm not going to stand for this any longer! Therefore... Therefore, I am going to... double your salary!

BOB: *(shocked)* ... Double my salary, sir?

SCROOGE: *(laughing)* Yes, Bob! Yes! *(heartily)* A Merry Christmas to you! I'll double your salary for a start! And I intend to help you and your family any way that I can, and Tim! Tim will walk again and grow stronger and stronger upon my life he will! Well, we can discuss the particulars this afternoon over a Christmas bowl! *(after a beat)* What is the matter with you?

BOB: *(after a beat)* Nothing, sir. Well, it's just that... *(overcome with emotion)*... Thank you, sir!

SCROOGE: *(laughing)* My good fellow! Make up the fire before we freeze to death! Buy some more coal before you dot another eye!

Lights fade as music transitions. We see SCROOGE enter SL as TINY TIM enters SR. TIM runs towards SCROOGE'S open arms. They walk off stage, hand in hand.