

**SCROOGE** Oh, please. I want to be your friend.

**FELICITY** Well, we don't want to be yours because we hate you.  
(*Thumb to nose*) Ya-boo, sucks to you.

**MERCEDES** (*attempting to thumb her nose*) Ya-boo...pills in my bag...

**FELICITY** *drags MERCEDES off.*

**SCROOGE** Why are all the children so horrible to me? I am so lonely and miserable.

*The lights fade to blackout.*

**MRS REECE** (*offstage, through the PA*) Scrooge wiped a tear from his eye as he recalled his unhappy childhood. But there was no time for regrets. In a flash the Spirit had whisked him to another part of town a few years hence; and Scrooge's heart leaped as he recognized a voice he once knew as well as his own.

**MERCEDES** (*offstage*) Further down...more...oh, yes...that's it... oh! Oh!

*The lights come up below the gauze.*

**SCROOGE** *is discovered; so too are MERCEDES' legs, sticking out from behind the gauze - one kicks convulsively. FELICITY appears, distraught, in bonnet and shawl, as LITTLE FAN. During the ensuing scene MERCEDES exits.*

**LITTLE FAN** Ebenezer, it is I, your delicate and sickly sister, Little Fan.

**SCROOGE** Little Fan, it has been an age. Are you keeping well in your delicate and sickly way?

**LITTLE FAN** I am up and down like Tower Bridge, but I must not grumble. (*She coughs*)

**SCROOGE** You sound a bit chesty.

**LITTLE FAN** It is nothing. (*She coughs*) Just a mild case of bronchopneumonia. (*She coughs dramatically*)

**SCROOGE** Yes. (*Pointedly*) Yes. We get the picture.

**LITTLE FAN** If anything should happen to me, Ebenezer, will you take care of my only child?

**SCROOGE** My dear nephew, Fred, who resembles you so uncannily? Why, of course.

**LITTLE FAN** And if he should ever invite you to Christmas dinner, you would accept, wouldn't you? Ebenezer? Beloved brother, you look as though you have seen a ghost.

**SCROOGE** I had the strangest precognition. Let us go in out of the cold and toast muffins by the fire.

**LITTLE FAN** *coughs.*

Stop putting in these extra coughs.

*The lights fade to blackout.*

*Everyone exits.*

**MRS REECE** (*offstage, through the PA*) How Scrooge regretted his forgotten assurance to Little Fan, whose time on earth was to be cut so cruelly short. But in a twinkling, he and the Spirit were airborne again and soon they came upon the warehouse where Scrooge had been apprenticed. It was another Christmas eve and jolly old Mr Fezziwig was organizing the festivities.

*The lights come up below the gauze.*

**GORDON** *is discovered as MR FEZZIWIG.*

*As he opens his mouth to speak, Highland dance music is heard.*

**SCROOGE** *hurries in and begins dancing.*

*The music stops immediately.*