

TRUNCATED SAMPLE SCRIPT

This is a series of excerpted scenes from the full script, which runs to 48 pages--about 45 minutes in performance.

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AUNTIE SCROOGE ***(A BACKWARDS CHRISTMAS CAROL)***

A radio drama by

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1. MUSIC: [MUS-1] PLAYHOUSE THEME-UNDER. PLAY THRU.

2* ANNOUNCER: [CUE] Holiday Playhouse presents... Auntie Scrooge, "A Backwards Christmas Carol"... the tale of a cheerful old woman who comes to realize the "false" spirit of Christmas in these troubled times.

(LONG PAUSE) For over one-hundred-and-sixty years, people have enjoyed Charles Dickens' wondrous story "A Christmas Carol," which tells of the miraculous conversion of a miserly Ebenezer Scrooge into a kind, generous, giving man.

However, our story takes place today, as we look in upon the great-great-great-great-grand-niece of old Ebenezer, who--true to her reformed ancestor's credo--loves Christmas-time! She is bright and happy and charitable--a lovely human being--but not for long...

(PAUSE) Our little "Ghost Story of Christmas" opens in New London, Connecticut, on a cold, snowy December twenty-fourth, in the year... two-thousand-and something...

3. MUSIC: PLAYHOUSE THEME--LET BELLS RING UNDER.

SCENE ONE: INT. ICE CREAM FACTORY DIARY - EVENING
(NARRATOR, AUNTIE, COW-CAROLERS, FRED, BOBBIE)

1* SOUND: JINGLING BELLS (QUIETLY) COWS MOOING.
OCCASIONAL CHICKENS. UNDER

2* NARRATOR: [CUE] (DELIVERED WITH DICKENSIAN DREAD) Once upon... this week--of all the good days in the

year--on Christmas Eve, old Auntie Scrooge sat milking her cows in her ice-cream factory dairy. (PAUSE) (WITH SCORN) Irene Carolyn Scrooge was a pleasing, friendly, gracious, sympathizing, obliging, courteous old winner--a good-natured woman! On this evening, the offices of her I--C--Scrooge ice cream company were shrouded in cold, bleak, biting weather. But external heat and cold had little influence on Auntie Scrooge. Her warmth could warm. No wintry weather could chill her. No wind that mooood--Um, I mean--blew... was warmer than she...

1. SOUND: SINGLE NOTE ON PITCH PIPE/HARMONICA.
JINGLE BELLS ACCOMPANY THE SONG, IN TIME.
- 2* COW-CAROLERS: (TO THE TUNE OF "GOD REST YE, MERRY GENTLEMEN)
 Moo moo moo moo, Moo moo moo-moo-moo
 Moo moo moo moo moo (SOURLY) mooooooooo
 Moo moo moo moo, Moo moo moo-moo-moo
 Moo moo moo moo moo (SOURLY) mooooooooo
 Moo moo-moo-moo moo moo-moo-(VERY SOUR)
 moooooooooooo....(SUDDENLY STOP)
3. AUNTIE SCROOGE: (TO COWS) (NOT MEAN) Oh! Bum hand-bag! That's not quite right, my dears. It doesn't quite... "mooooo-ve" me! (LAUGHS AT HER JOKE) Ha-ha-ha!
4. COW-CAROLERS: (GROANING AT THE PUN) Moooooooooooo.
5. AUNTIE SCROOGE: Well, maybe that's enough singing for tonight, anyway. I don't want to spoil your "mooooo-ry" Christmas. (LAUGHS AT HER JOKE) Ha-ha-ha-ha!
6. COW-CAROLERS: (GROANING EVEN MORE AT THE PUN) Moooooooooooo.
7. SOUND: DOOR OPENS. FRED AND BOBBIE WALK IN.
- 8* FREDERICKA: [CUE](SCOLDINGLY) Auntie Scrooge!
9. AUNTIE SCROOGE: Why, hello, Fredericka!
1. FREDERICKA: Auntie Scrooge! Don't you know Bobbie Cratchit and I have been searching the whole factory for you?
2. BOBBIE CRATCHIT: (DISDAINFULLY) That's right, Auntie. We've wasted precious time. And time is money!
3. AUNTIE SCROOGE: Er, I'm sorry, Bobbie. I know how you worry so about efficiency.
4. BOBBIE CRATCHIT: Were you wasting the cows' time... again?

5. AUNTIE SCROOGE: Er... just wishing the cows a... "mooooo-ry" Christmas. (LAUGHS AT HER JOKE) Ha-ha-ha-ha!
6. COW-CAROLERS: (GROANING AT THE PUN) Moooooooooooo.
7. AUNTIE SCROOGE: And the chickens a "Squawky" New Year!
8. SOUND: CHICKENS SQAWK A GROAN.
- 9* AUNTIE SCROOGE: [CUE] I just want them to be happy, so they'll produce healthy milk and eggs to go into our holiday egg-nog. You know, Fredericka, how I love egg-nog.
10. FREDERICKA: Yes, Auntie, we know. But sales are down for egg-nog.
11. BOBBIE CRATCHIT: They've been down for years. It's a money loser!
12. AUNTIE SCROOGE: Well... it's only money.
1. BOBBIE CRATCHIT: (GASPS) Only money? We have a business to run!
2. AUNTIE SCROOGE: I know, Bobbie. But what kind of "Mooo-ry..."
3. COW-CAROLERS: (QUICK HALF-A-MOO) Moo? (AS IF WARNING HER)
4. AUNTIE SCROOGE: (CATCHING HERSELF) Ahem, "Merry" Christmas would it be without egg-nog?
5. FREDERICKA: (SNOTTY) "Merry Christmas?" We are not a charity, Auntie! While you do control the majority of stock in the I.C. Scrooge company, you're old. And your old values are out of step with the public.
6. AUNTIE SCROOGE: What? Kindness is out of step?
7. BOBBIE CRATCHIT: Your kind of kindness is. Do you know how much it's going to cost to hold our office Christmas Party tomorrow night? Christmas night?

8. AUNTIE SCROOGE: But most of our employees have always liked the annual Christmas evening party.
9. FREDERICKA: They "like" it because we pay them double-time to attend! Plus, there's free food and drink! Another money loser! Every dollar counts!
10. AUNTIE SCROOGE: Some things can't be counted. And to my mind, those are the things that count the most!
1. BOBBIE CRATCHIT: That's insane, Auntie. Your generosity leads to loses and losses lead to layoffs!
2. AUNTIE SCROOGE: (GETTING RILED) Oh! Always looking for a reason to fire people--and animals! No wonder they call Bobbie Cratchit...
3. FREDERICKA: I know, Cratchit, the Hatchet-man!
4. COW-CAROLERS: (BOOING IN AGREEMENT) Moooooooooooooooooooo
5. AUNTIE SCROOGE: Y'see? Christmas is a grand opportunity to...
6. BOBBIE CRATCHIT: ... a grand opportunity to exploit the public's appetite!
7. AUNTIE SCROOGE: (DEFIANT) No! Christmas is a grand opportunity for time-honored traditions, like our annual and generous Christmas night party and our Holiday Egg Nog!
8. FREDERICKA: (CALMING EVERYBODY) Now, look, Auntie. We'll have the party, as planned, tomorrow night. But our marketing studies have shown that nobody wants egg-nog anymore. It harkens back to a forgotten past. And clogged arteries!
9. BOBBIE CRATCHIT: My kids won't touch egg nog. Not even Tiny Tim.
10. FREDERICKA: Kids today--and adults--want something new! Something cool. Something with... "edge."

1. AUNTIE SCROOGE: (PUZZLED) Er... Ice-cream with an edge?
2. COW-CAROLERS: (QUESTIONING) Mooooooooooooo?
3. BOBBIE CRATCHIT: Yes! We want to replace our Holiday Egg Nog with.... Bo-bah!
4. AUNTIE SCROOGE: Bo-bah....? What's Bo-bah?
5. FREDERICKA: Bo-bah is the latest thing, Auntie! It's from Taiwan. All the kids want it. It's made from tea and milk and tapioca globules.
6. BOBBIE CRATCHIT: And emulsifiers, stabilizer, and hi-fructose corn syrup. Plus preservatives, of course, prolonging the shelf life--to all year long!
7. AUNTIE SCROOGE: Yikes! Chemicals? Fake sugar? This would rot kids teeth! It sounds dreadful!
8. FREDERICKA: Oh, it is dreadful--and addictive--but new! Think of the possibilities for marketing! We could do tie-ins!
9. BOBBIE CRATCHIT: Yes. "The Harry Potter--Teeth Rotter."
10. AUNTIE SCROOGE: (GASPS) No!
11. FREDERICKA: Yes! We could advertise it like this: "Dentist? The Menace!"
12. COW-CAROLERS: (DISAPPROVING) Moooooooooooo. (THEN STOP UNDER...)
13. BOBBIE CRATCHIT: (NASTILY SILENCING THEM) Taco filling, anyone?
1. FREDERICKA: This Bo-bah drink would be wretched, Auntie. On purpose! The terrible taste would add novelty--and be cheaper to produce. People would buy it.
2. BOBBIE CRATCHIT: They buy anything--with "edge." (PAUSE) And no carbs. Just sugar, fat and ice! And chemicals.

3. FREDERICKA: So, Auntie, we want to shut down the old Holiday Egg Nog line and replace it with... "Cobra-Bo-bah! The drink that's awfully good!"
4. AUNTIE SCROOGE: But the firm of Scrooge and Marley has long stood for natural goodness and health and joy!
5. FREDERICKA: (CORRECTING HER) Not always, Auntie. Back in England, "Scrooge and Marley" started as a usury--a loan-sharking company.
6. BOBBIE CRATCHIT: And a very profitable one! They had "edge!" Plenty of it!
7. AUNTIE SCROOGE: Yes, but when Jacob Marley's ghost visited my great-great-great-great-grand-uncle, Ebenezer Scrooge..., he turned the company around.
8. FREDERICKA: (DISMISSINGLY) Yes, Auntie, we know all about the visitations from the (SARCASTIC) "Ghost of Christmas Past" and "Ghost of Christmas Present" and (LAUGHS) "Ghost of Christmas Future."
1. BOBBIE CRATCHIT: (AGREEING) Yes! But, it is the future now and we've got to change with the times.
2. AUNTIE SCROOGE: What change? We're an ice-cream company!
3. FREDERICKA: (CORRECTING HER) No! We are a chilled-refreshment-manufacturer! One that has smartly capitalized upon the public's association of the name "Scrooge" and "cold."
4. BOBBIE CRATCHIT: Yes! (QUOTING FROM THEIR ADS) "With a name like 'Scrooge,' it's gotta be cold."
5. AUNTIE SCROOGE: (SIGH) I never liked that ad-line.
6. BOBBIE CRATCHIT: You can't argue with success!

7. AUNTIE SCROOGE: (FRUSTRATED) Oh, I've tried to keep up the reformed Scrooge family tradition of being kind and generous and sweet, but not... teeth-rottingly sweet! Bum hand-bag, Fredericka! This is a bunch of nonsense.
8. FREDERICKA: (ANGRY) I've had enough, Auntie! We're losing money! Your sentimentality will cost us our future! Nowadays, your old-fashioned "ideas" are just.....
9. BOBBIE CRATCHIT: (ANGRY) ... too old-fashioned! Too retro!
10. FREDERICKA: Well, come on, Bobbie. This is useless!
1. SOUND: FRED & BOBBIE WALK OFF.
- 2* AUNTIE SCROOGE: (CALLING AFTER THEM) Oh! Fred! Bobbie! Can't we work something out? It is Christmas Eve, after all?
3. FRED & BOBBIE: (DISTANT) (SNOTTY) "Merry Christmas, Auntie Scrooge!"
4. SOUND: DOOR SLAMS.
- 5* AUNTIE SCROOGE: (DEJECTED) Merry... Christmas...

SCENE TWO: EXT. SNOWY STREETS - LATER
(NARRATOR, MARLEY'S GHOST)

- 6* MUSIC: [MUS-2] FOGGY NIGHT-UNDER. PLAY THRU.
- 7* SOUND: WIND. AUNTIE'S STEPS IN SNOW--CONTINUE UP TO MARLEY'S LINE: "AUNTIE SCROOGE!"
- 8* NARRATOR: [CUE] Auntie Scrooge took a melancholy dinner in--for her--an un-usual melancholy manner, and walked home through the rolling fog and bitter cold. She silently passed street urchins crowded 'round fire apps in the street,

tweeting to keep warm. The wistful Scrooge trudged along through the dark streets, but... just as she reached the door of her little house... she thought she heard... something... calling...

PRODUCTION NOTE:

All ghosts will speak through a reverb to give their voice a ghostly flavor. Marley's sound effects also get reverb.

- 1* MARLEY'S GHOST: [REVERB] Auntie Scrooge! Auntie Scroo-ooge!
- 2* NARRATOR: [CUE] It was the voice of the ghost of the long dead Marley! ...Who's ghostly face appeared on the door knocker! Auntie Scrooge hurried inside, closed the door, and locked herself in! She double-locked herself in!
3. SOUND: DOOR CLOSSES QUICKLY. LOCKS (2X).
- 4* NARRATOR: She checked the sitting-room, bedroom, yoga-room--all as they should be. Nobody under the table, nobody under the sofa. Nobody under the bed, nobody in the closet. Secured against surprise, Auntie Scrooge put on her dressing-gown and nightcap, and sat down before the fire to knit some wool. (PAUSE) When... suddenly...

SCENE THREE: INT. AUNTIE SCROOGE'S SITTING ROOM - IMMEDIATELY
(AUNTIE, MARLEY'S GHOST)

5. MUSIC: FOGGY NIGHT-QUICK FADE.
- 6* SOUND: (SILENT PAUSE) THEN BELL 1. THEN BELL 2. THEN MANY BELLS. (NOT TOO LOUD.) CONTINUE UNDER, THRU THE LINE "WHAT IN THE..."
- 1* AUNTIE SCROOGE: (STARTLED) Er! What? What is it! The alarm! A burglar? The mailman? U.P.S? What in the...

2. SOUND: BELLS ALL STOP.
- 3* AUNTIE SCROOGE: ...world? (PAUSE) N-Nonsense. A bum hand-bag! Nonsense! It's a bum hand-bag! I had... Wait! Ohh!... What-what's that?
- 4* SOUND: SILENCE THEN BASH... BASH/BASH! CRASH. JINGLE BELLS DRAGGED. SLOW FOOTSTEPS--UNDER.
5. MUSIC: [MUS-3] MARLEY'S WOE-UNDER. PLAY THRU.
- 6* AUNTIE SCROOGE: Someone's in the cellar! But the doors are locked! Double-locked! Something... is coming. Up the stairs! Closer! It's outside my door! Oh, bum hand-bag! I won't believe it! I say...
7. MARLEY'S GHOST: [REVERB] (MOANING) Scrooge! Auntie Scrooge!
8. SOUND: THUNDER-CRACK. RUMBLE. JINGLE BELLS RATTLING. MARLEY'S DRAGGING STEPS.
- 9* AUNTIE SCROOGE: (SCARED) Ah! Whoa! (PAUSE) What-what do you want with me? Who-who are you? (PAUSE) Santa... Claus?
9. MARLEY'S GHOST: (JAMAICAN ACCENT) No! I am... Marley's Ghost!
- 10 AUNTIE SCROOGE: (AMAZED) The-the g-ghost of... Jacob Marley?
11. MARLEY'S GHOST: No! He's busy! I'm the ghost of Bob Marley!
1. AUNTIE SCROOGE: (DUMBFOUNDED) Bob Marley? The reggae singer from Jamaica? (GASP) But, y-you're... d-dead!
2. MARLEY'S GHOST: Yes, mon! That's how you get to be a ghost! Don't you see my dreadlocks? I am the sad ghost of Bob Marley. Full of... dreads.
3. AUNTIE SCROOGE: But... Bob Marley in a Santa suit?

4. MARLEY'S GHOST: It's a long story, mon. I-and-I had a wonderful life--but it's a terrible after-life!
(WAILS) Ohhhhhhh, mon!
5. AUNTIE SCROOGE: Bob Marley? But you were a good guy! You sang about love and peace! You gave people all over the world... dope. Er... I-I mean... hope!
6. MARLEY'S GHOST: (SIGHS) Dope! Hope! Either way, it's a curse!
7. AUNTIE SCROOGE: What? But I see you're chained, Bob! Tell me why!
8. MARLEY'S GHOST: I wear a retail-chain! Forged in life, mon. Commercialism! I'm chained by gift boxes, jingle bells, Christmas lights, credit card bills. It a pondr'ous chain!
9. AUNTIE SCROOGE: Er.. I don't get it, Bob. What does Jamaica and your good-guy life have to do with being a ghost? With wearing a Santa suit? And with your suffering over Christmas?
1. MARLEY'S GHOST: Well... when I was alive, I had a (SINGS FROM THE SONG "POSITIVE VIBRATION") "positive vibration--Yay-ah--Positive, uh-huh." (SPOKEN) Looky-yay... I was a do-gooder.
2. AUNTIE SCROOGE: Yes! I feel the same way... "positive."
3. MARLEY'S GHOST: Well, once I died, I was doomed to forever have to spread joy and good cheer. A symbol of hope! That's why the Santa suit, mon.
4. AUNTIE SCROOGE: OK. But you bring gifts to children all over!
5. MARLEY'S GHOST: No-no, Mon! I have to sit with greedy kids in my lap--for-ever--and listen to them demand toys and goodies.

6. AUNTIE SCROOGE: Is that so bad? They're only children.

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4. AUNTIE SCROOGE: I'm sorry for you, Bob. Is there anything I can do?

5. MARLEY'S GHOST: For me, it is too late! But I have come... to warn you of a hope and chance of escaping my fate. (PAUSE) You will be haunted by three spirits.

6. AUNTIE SCROOGE: Er... Three spirits? Wait! This is strangely familiar...

1. **MARLEY'S GHOST:** (IGNORING HER) Expect the first, tomorrow when the bell tolls One. The second and then the third, soon come! Without their visits, you cannot escape the dread-mill I'm on! (WAILS) Aieeeee! Beware this cruel fate, Auntie Scrooge! Beware! (FADES) Beware! Beware! (WAILS) Aieeeee!
2. **MUSIC:** MARLEY'S WOE--LET CHURCH BELLS RING UNDER, FADE.
- 3* **NARRATOR:** [CUE] And with that, the ghost of Bob Marley vanished into thin air. Auntie Scrooge wondered... was Marley's visit a dream? Or not? She decided it was a dream and nothing more, but suddenly...
- SCENE FOUR: INT. AUNTIE SCROOGE'S BEDROOM - LATER
(NARRATOR, FIRST SPIRIT, AUNTIE SCROOGE)
- 4* **SOUND:** CLOCK CHIME (1X).
5. **MUSIC:** [MUS-4] SPIRIT #1 ARRIVES--UNDER, PLAY THRU.
- 6* **NARRATOR:** (CONT'D)... Auntie Scrooge found herself face-to-face with an un-earthly visitor. It was a strange figure--like a child, yet... not so like a child as like an old man...
7. **FIRST SPIRIT:** [REVERB] I.C. Scrooge?
1. **AUNTIE SCROOGE:** Er... Are you the Spirit that Bob Marley sent?
2. **FIRST SPIRIT:** I am the Ghost of Christmas Past...Due.
3. **AUNTIE SCROOGE:** Christmas past-due?
4. **FIRST SPIRIT:** Yes! Christmas Past...Due! Collecting on the debts incurred while paying your dues. Rise and walk with me!

5* MUSIC: [MUS-5] FEZZIWIG'S BALL--UNDER, PLAY THRU.
(TRANSITION/SILENCE/FIDDLE-TUNING/
DANCESONG/CLAPS.)

6. NARRATOR: Instantly, Auntie Scrooge and the Spirit were transported to the past! To the back room of a beauty parlor--decorated for a party.

SCENE FIVE: INT. FUZZY WIGWAM BEAUTY PARLOR - NIGHT
(WALLA--PARTYERS, AUNTIE SCROOGE, FIRST SPIRIT)

7. SOUND: WALLA--PARTY GUESTS UNDER.

8. NARRATOR: A small group of teenagers mill about. A young fiddler tunes up!

9* AUNTIE SCROOGE: [REVERB] The old Fuzzy-Wigwam! I worked here after school! It's our Christmas dance!

10. FIRST SPIRIT: [REVERB] Do you see yourself, Scrooge? The young girl with the eager eyes and hopeful smile? Ready to dance every dance and dosey-doe and curtsy with every boy?

1. AUNTIE SCROOGE: (HAPPY) Oh! It was a marvelous dance! So much fun!

2. FIRST SPIRIT: (SKEPTICAL) Was it, Auntie?

3. AUNTIE SCROOGE: What do you mean?

4. FIRST SPIRIT: Well... everybody's got a dance partner--almost everybody! Who's dancing with you?

5. AUNTIE SCROOGE: (SQUIRMING) Well, um... no one, right now. I'm... uhh.. dancing by myself. I think a boy will ask me, in a minute.

6. FIRST SPIRIT: (SKEPTICAL) Will there ever be one?

7. AUNTIE SCROOGE: (BRIGHTENING) But I'm having fun! Even if I am dancing alone. I was a pretty good dancer.

8. FIRST SPIRIT: Really? Your "friends" don't think so!
9. SOUND: WALLA--AMID DERISIVE LAUGHS. "YOU CALL THAT DANCING?" "TALK ABOUT A 'SQUARE' DANCER! "GET BACK ON THE WALL, FLOWER!" "HEY EVERYBODY! GIVE HER A HAND--OUT!" DERISIVE LAUGHTER--UNDER.
10. FIRST SPIRIT: Face it, Auntie. You were a loser. An outcast. You never fit in. Because you were too naive to fit in. Too easy. No "edge." Your "friends" called you a... what was it?
11. FRIENDS: (ALL TOGETHER) Loser! (LAUGHING)

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7* MUSIC: [MUS-6] BILL'S MUSIC BOX--UNDER, PLAY THRU.

SCENE SIX: INT. BILL'S PARLOR - DAY
(AUNTIE, FIRST SPIRIT, BILL)

- 8* AUNTIE SCROOGE: [CUE] [REVERB] (IN AWE) Ah, Bill! As handsome as ever...
9. FIRST SPIRIT: [REVERB] A cynical young man... who never loved you enough, Auntie.
10. AUNTIE SCROOGE: Don't say that, Spirit. It didn't matter. I was so happy loving him...
1. FIRST SPIRIT: Until your own unconditional love came between you. The more you adored him, the more you lost favor in his eyes. Do you see yourself? You're older. Your eyes are needy--the eager, restless eyes of a future spinster!
2. AUNTIE SCROOGE: (SHAKEN) No! No! No! Spare me this! Not this, Spirit. (PLEADS) No!

3. BILL: (REGRETFUL) This music box is a neat little gift, Irene, but you gotta realize you matter little to me, now. It's a hard and cruel world, but you're too soft-hearted. You're a fool for love! You love me no matter what! And frankly, it's suffocating. Another woman's replaced you.
4. AUNTIE SCROOGE Who could ever replace me, Bill?
5. BILL: Somebody cooler! A gal who'll fight back once in a while. Your "miss goody-two shoes" thing was cute at first but, you've got no "edge," no mystery. (SIGHS) Irene, you're just too willing.
6. AUNTIE SCROOGE: I'd do anything you want, Bill. Anything for you!
1. BILL: That's just it! I want a challenge, not surrender--therefore, even though it's Christmas, I'm breaking off our engagement.
2. AUNTIE SCROOGE: (PLEADING) No. No! Bill! Please. Please!
3. BILL: Don't worry. You'll get over me. I ain't so special, anyway. You'll see.
4. MUSIC: BELLE'S MUSIC BOX-FADE IF NOT FINISHED.
5. AUNTIE SCROOGE: (PLEADS) Bill. Bill! No! (PAUSE) Spirit! Show me no more! Why torture me? (SOBS) Remove me! I can't bear it! Haunt me no longer! No longer! (FADING) No longer!
- 6* MUSIC: [MUS-7] TAKE ME BACK--(CYMBAL/WIND CHIME) LET FADE.

SCENE SIX: INT. AUNTIE SCROOGE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT
(NARRATOR, SECOND SPIRIT)

- 7* MUSIC: [MUS-8] SPIRIT #2. UP, PLAY THRU.
(CLOCK CHIME SONG/SILENCE/SPIRIT 2 THEME)
- 8* NARRATOR: [CUE] The whole scene disappeared and Auntie Scrooge found herself, once more, ...alone ...back upon her bed. (PAUSE) She drifted off to sleep, only to be awakened... again... by the stroke of One...
- 9* SOUND: CLOCK CHIME (1X).
10. AUNTIE SCROOGE: (GROGGY) I gotta get that clock fixed...
- 1* NARRATOR: ... She gradually noticed a great blaze of ruddy light, glowing from beneath the door. Something was in the outer room...
2. SECOND SPIRIT: [REVERB] Come in. Auntie Scrooge! Come in!
 (LAUGHS)
3. SOUND: CREAKING DOOR OPENS UNDER.

SCENE SEVEN: INT. AUNTE SCROOGE'S SITTING ROOM - IMMEDIATELY
 (NARRATOR, SECOND SPIRIT, AUNTIE SCROOGE)

- 4* NARRATOR: [CUE] Auntie Scrooge opened the door and beheld her own knitting room--transformed! The walls and ceiling were so strung with tinsel decorations, that it looked a... shopping mall! Around the simulated fire lay a feast of take-out pizzas and donuts and seething bowls of Cap'n Crunch! And there sat a jolly glutton--not a petty bourgeoisie! The Spirit bore a overflowing pouch, shaped like Plenty's horn, and held it up--high up--to shine its blue light...special...on Auntie Scrooge, as she came peeping 'round the door...

5. SECOND SPIRIT: [REVERB] (LAUGHS) Attention holiday shoppers! Auntie Scrooge! Come on down! Come in and know me better. [MORE...]
1. SECOND SPIRIT: (CONT'D) I am the Ghost of Christmas Presents! You've never seen deals like these before!
2. AUNTIE SCROOGE: [DRY] Er... Spirit, make whatever sales pitch you wish. My last lesson was doozy and I'm pondering it now. But if you have anything to teach, let it at me. I won't resist.
4. SECOND SPIRIT: (LAUGHS) Very well! Touch... my... remote!
5. MUSIC: [MUS-9] CHRISTMAS PRESENT-UP
- 6* NARRATOR: [CUE] And immediately, Auntie Scrooge and the Spirit found themselves in a tacky condo on Christmas morning. Auntie recognized the place.

SCENE EIGHT: INT. BOBBIE CRATCHIT'S HOME - SECONDS LATER
(SCROOGE, SECOND SPIRIT, MRS. CRATCHIT, PETER, MARTHA, BELINDA, BOB, TIM,)

- 7* SOUND: GIFT UNWRAPPING. WALLA--KID ARGUING. CONTINUE UNDER.
8. AUNTIE SCROOGE: [REVERB] Why this is the home of my executive assistant, Bobbie Cratchit, her husband and three kids. What's going on here, Spirit?
9. SOUND: CRASH. WALLA--KID FIGHTING. "GIVE IT BACK." "NO!" "IT'S MINE." "MINE." "MOM!"
1. BOBBIE CRATCHIT: Now, cut that out, Petra! Stop it, Gidget! What has gotten into you kids? Where is that Tiny Tim? Have you seen him, Big Tim?
2. BIG TIM CRATCHIT: No, dear. (UNCARING) But he couldn't have gotten far! Not with that bum leg!

3. SOUND: CRASH.
- 4* BIG TIM CRATCHIT: Here he comes, Bobbie!
5. BOBBIE CRATCHIT: C'mon! We're wasting time! Ohhh! Just unwrap the presents already! Let's get it over with. Here, Gidget... from Grandma Cratchit.
6. SOUND: GIFT UNWRAPPED.
- 7* GIDGET CRATCHIT: Eew! Yuck! A sweater? I hate this. It's turtle-puke green! Don't ya hate it too, Petra.
- 8* BIG TIM CRATCHIT: I thought that's your favorite color!
9. GIDGET CRATCHIT: Not anymore, Daddy. It's so five-nanoseconds-ago. Here, Petra, you can have it.
10. PETRA CRATCHIT: Don't re-gift me, Gidget Cratchit!
11. BOBBIE CRATCHIT: Stop that!(CALLING OUT) Hurry up, Tiny Tim! Get in here! You're gonna miss the whole thing.
12. SOUND: DISTANT CRASH.
- 1* BIG TIM CRATCHIT: He's getting closer, Bobbie. Well, while we're waiting. Here's my gift for you... Merry Christmas.
2. SOUND: GIFT BEING UNWRAPPED--UNDER.
3. BOBBIE CRATCHIT: Merry Christmas, Big Tim. But this better not be another vacuum cleaner like last...
(DISMAYED) Ohhh...
4. GIDGET CRATCHIT: Nice frying pan, Mom!
5. BIG TIM CRATCHIT: (SMIRKING) Whaddya think, honey?
6. SOUND: FRYING PAN HITTING SMARTY PANTS HUSBAND'S HEAD.
7. BIG TIM CRATCHIT: Ow!
8. BOBBIE CRATCHIT: (ANGRY) Go on, Petra. Open this one.

9. SOUND: GIFT UNWRAPPED.

10* PETRA CRATCHIT: (DISAPPOINTED) Oh, This is sooooo lame!

11. BOBBIE CRATCHIT: What? You said you wanted the "Oh-My-God-It's-an-iPod." It comes loaded with twenty gigabytes of the latest "boy band" tunes. That's what...? Forty-thousand songs?

12. PETRA CRATCHIT: I already heard all these songs! They're "oldies" now! How could you, Mom? I hate it!

13. BOBBIE CRATCHIT: OK, Petra. Just put it back in the box. We'll re-gift it to some...

1. SOUND: IPOD BEING STOMPED TO PIECES--UNDER

2. BOBBIE CRATCHI: Or take it back to the store....
(SFX: SMASH) and say it...(SFX:SMASH) had a software bug.

3. AUNTIE SCROOGE: (GASPS) My goodness, Spirit. These Cratchit kids behave terribly. Bob Marley's ghost was right!

4. SECOND SPIRIT: Not at all, Auntie! These are the kind of consumers who drive the economy! They generate manufacturing jobs... overseas, at least. Ahhh. Look! Big Tim Cratchit's got a special gift in-store for his son, Tiny Tim, who's just crawling up here now...

5. BIG TIM CRATCHIT: OK, Tiny Tim. Here's your present. Open it up!

6. SOUND: GIFT UNWRAPPED--SLOWLY

7. BOBBIE CRATCHIT: We hope you like it, Tiny Tim!

8. SOUND: UKELELE STRINGS BEING RAKED ("MY DOG HAS FLEAS")

- 9* TINY TIM: (SINGS A NOTE--VERY LONG) "ohhhhhhhh!"
10. GIDGET CRATCHIT: (GROANS) Oh no! Not another ukulele for him, Mom!
11. MUSIC: [MUS-10] "TIPTOE THROUGH THE TULIPS" ON UKE.
- 1* TINY TIM CRATCHIT: (SINGS ALONG)
Tiptoe to the window, by the window
that is where I'll be
Come tiptoe through the tulips with me!
2. PETRA CRATCHIT: Oh, somebody stop him! God save us, every one!
3. TINY TIM CRATCHIT: Tiptoe from your pillow,
to the shadow of a willow tree
And tiptoe through the tulips with me!
(START FIRST VERSE AGAIN AND CONTINUE UNDER.)
4. AUNTIE SCROOGE: (TROUBLED) Oh, Spirit. I had no idea that poor Bobbie Cratchit's Christmas was so wretched! This is truly awful! ...To see a grown man singing like that. Tell me, Spirit, will Tiny Tim die?
5. SECOND SPIRIT: Not soon enough! Come, Auntie Scrooge, before he gets to the bridge! There's more Christmas presents, across town...
6. MUSIC: [MUS-11] TRANSITION TO FREDERICKA'S

SCENE NINE: INT. FREDERICKA'S PARLOR - AFTERNOON
(AUNTIE SCROOGE, SECOND SPIRIT, FREDERICKA, KIM)

- 7* AUNTIE SCROOGE: [REVERB] Ahh, Fred--and his co-habitant, Kim. But no... friends for Christmas dinner? What kind of Christmas is this?

1. FREDERICKA: (FADING IN) ...And then, Kim--get this--she said to me that my Bo-bah proposal was a... a... bum hand-bag! And she believed it!
3. KIM: Wait. A "bum"... what?
4. FREDERICKA: A "bum hand-bag"--a purse full of junk. Twaddle! It's one of her old-fashioned expressions. From the Seventies, I think.
5. KIM: Well, she's a fool, Fred. You've told me that.
6. FREDERICKA: And she's living in a fool's paradise! Auntie Scrooge trusts too many people. Has too many high ideals. She runs too many risks--and with my future nest-egg.
7. KIM: Well, one of these days, she'll be gone and then you do what you want with the company.
8. FREDERICKA: But when? If we were smart, we'd sell the "I.C. Scrooge" name to the giant Yum-nivorous liquid-dessert corporation.
9. KIM: Oh, yeah! They're big time. They're the ones who sell Eskimo Pies to the Eskimos.
10. FREDERICKA: Yes. And they would take my advice about "Dentist, the Menace."

1. KIM: It's brilliant, dear.
2. FREDERICKA: Yeah, but Auntie Scrooge won't allow it! Her relentlessly (SNOTTY) "positive"--but-really-naïve--outlook will cost us millions!
3. KIM: Go, ahead, dear, vent. Get it all out!
4. FREDERICKA: She's stifled my career! I'm sure somebody will steal our "Harry Potter--Teeth Rotter" idea and clean up.

SCRIPT HAS BEEN TRUNCATED AT THIS POINT
(several pages later...)

9. SOUND: FRED AND KIM WALK OFF. DOOR SLAMS.
10. MUSIC: [MUS-12] MONTAGE THEME--UNDER, PLAY THRU.
(TRANSITION/GOD REST YE HORNS)

SCENE TEN: EXT - TRIP AROUND THE WORLD - NIGHT

1* SOUND: WIND. JINGLE BELLS.

2* NARRATOR: [CUE] And with that, Auntie Scrooge and The Ghost of Christmas Presents traveled 'round the world. Much they saw, and far they went. And many malls they visited--but not with many "happy" returns. They stood in long lines at stores with legions of shoppers complaining. They saw holiday travelers strip-searched at airports and mired in traffic jams in terrible weather. (PAUSE) They saw department-store Santas un-bearded by disillusioned tots and heard "Well, it's the thought that counts" countless times from ungrateful gift-recipients. (PAUSE) They saw lonely people choose to end their lives on a holiday celebrating a birth. (PAUSE) And everywhere, the happiness brought by material goods was fleeting, but mankind pursued them more doggedly every year. (LONG PAUSE) At last, they returned to the streets of New London... for the Spirit's final lesson... but the Spirit had... aged.

SCENE ELEVEN: EXT. NEW LONDON STREET - ALMOST MIDNIGHT
(SECOND SPIRIT, AUNTIE SCROOGE, NARRATOR)

- 1* SECOND SPIRIT: [REVERB] My life upon this globe, has a short self-life. My time with you, Auntie Scrooge, is almost done. Have you learned by what I have shown you what dwells within mankind's heart?
2. AUNTIE SCROOGE: [REVERB] What do you mean learned? You've shown me nothing but greed and ingratitude, consumerism and callousness, longing and despair. This is dispiriting, Spirit!
3. SECOND SPIRIT: And that is my point, Scrooge. It is a reality check for you--one that won't bounce.
4. AUNTIE SCROOGE: This world is full of woe, but that's why we need Christmas--now, more than ever. If we can just give to one another, give ourselves, without all the strings and ribbons attached, then maybe things will work out.
5. SECOND SPIRIT: Get real, Auntie! That "positive thinking" stuff doesn't work! Look who's ruining the world today! Greedy, fearful, ignorant people! They've corrupted religion, government, business, culture! And they're immensely successful! Don't be a loser! You've got to fight fire with fire! Join the rat race!
1. AUNTIE SCROOGE: But what if the "losers" like me--what if we banded together--used the internet or something to pool our resources...? Promote green causes... Sold healthy products? What if we used our money... for good?

2. SECOND SPIRIT: (MOCKING HER) Ha! "It's only money!" "It's only money" (FADING) "It's only money!" "It's only money..." (FADES)

SCENE TWELVE: EXT. STREET - SECONDS LATER

3. MUSIC: [MUS-13] TRANSITION/THIRD SPIRIT THEME--UNDER

4* NARRATOR: [CUE] (SPOOKILY) And with that, the Spirit of Christmas Presents disappeared! (PAUSE) Auntie Scrooge stood upon the deserted street, awaiting the next ghostly visitor! Just then, there rang out a chilling bell, striking Twelve mid-night! Auntie Scrooge knew it was tolling for... (PAUSE) Ahem! (REPEATING, AS IN ASKING FOR THE SFX) I said, "Just then there rang out a chilling bell, striking Twelve mid-night." (PAUSE) Hey! Sound effects artist! Where's that "chilling bell striking Twelve mid-night?"

5. SOUND: CELLPHONE RINGS (2X) THEN CONTINUES UNDER UNTIL AUNTIE ANSWERS.

1* NARRATOR: [CUE] (GROANS) Oh! Whatever! It'll have to do... (RESUMING, SPOOKILY) Well... Auntie Scrooge knew it was tolling for her! And she now beheld... the most fearsome spirit of all! The Ghost of Christmas Future!

2. AUNTIE SCROOGE: (ANSWERING, SCARED) Er... Hello? This is Auntie Scrooge.

3. TECH SUPPORT: [PHONE VOICE] (CHEERY INDIAN ACCENT) Hello. This is Aum-pah, how may I assist you?

4. AUNTIE SCROOGE: (PUZZLED) What? Hey! Is this... the Ghost of Christmas Future?

5. TECH SUPPORT: Um... Yes. But he's not here right now. We expect him... soon. However, I would be happy to assist you. This is tech support.
5. AUNTIE SCROOGE: (PUZZLED) What? Tech support? I thought I was... going to be talking to a... spirit!
6. TECH SUPPORT: Well... I am a disembodied voice. I do possess special knowledge. And I am calling from far away.
7. AUNTIE SCROOGE: Far away? Do you mean... "the Great... Beyond?"
8. TECH SUPPORT: Uh... Actually, it's a call center in Bangalore, India. Now, how may I help you?
1. AUNTIE SCROOGE: Bangalore, India? Is... this the Christmas of the Future?
2. TECH SUPPORT: Yes! In the future, they've outsourced Christmas... to India! It's cheaper that way.
3. AUNTIE SCROOGE: India? You don't have much of an accent!
4. TECH SUPPORT: Thank you, ba-hoo-gee! Oh, and we don't call it "Christmas of the Future" anymore. Now it's: (SMILINGLY) "Christmas: Version Three-Point-Oh."
5. AUNTIE SCROOGE: (PAUSE) Oh. Well... golly..., I'm not so sure about all this. This wasn't what I had in mind.
6. TECH SUPPORT: That's the thing about the Future! It's never what you had in mind.
7. AUNTIE SCROOGE: Yeah, but "tech support...?"
8. TECH SUPPORT: Well... you are having problems; Problems you hope will be solved in the future. You need tech support. There's tech support for your computer, your car, your fax machine---and now... your life!

9. AUNTIE SCROOGE: (UNCERTAIN) Oh...kay. Well, what is in my future?
1. TECH SUPPORT: In your future? (HAPPILY) Death! Your computer will die, your car will die--and that fax machine...? It's not long for this world!
2. AUNTIE SCROOGE: Oh, no!
3. TECH SUPPORT: Oh yes! (PAUSE) And... one more thing. You... too! You will die.
4. AUNTIE SCROOGE: (GASPS) Oh!
5. TECH SUPPORT: (SORRY) Um... I hope this isn't news to you. According to our database, everyone dies. (DISMISSINGLY) Those "lifetime" warranties always run out. And, I wouldn't put much faith in those religious "afterlife-time" warranties either.
6. AUNTIE SCROOGE: (SHAKEN) So... I'm going to die? Umm... Will it be... soon?
7. TECH SUPPORT: Well... mmmm.... (LOOKING IT UP) Let's just say you will outlive your fax machine!
8. AUNTIE SCROOGE: But... will I die... (INHALE) alone?
9. TECH SUPPORT: If you don't wish to die alone, there are options. You could always pick up a psychotic hitch-hiker! Or perhaps take a whole post office with you. It's up to you.
1. AUNTIE SCROOGE: Well, when I die. Um, will I leave much of a legacy? My ice-cream business?
2. TECH SUPPORT: (LOOKING IT UP) The I. C. Scrooge company? I'm sorry... but there is no legacy showing up. All

I can see is a smoking ruin--after the big fire.

3. AUNTIE SCROOGE: Big fire? At the factory? Oh no! What about my niece, Fredericka? And Bobbie Cratchit? Do they die?
4. TECH SUPPORT: No! They make a killing! By selling off the "Scrooge" brand name to the giant Yum-nivrous liquid-dessert corporation.
5. AUNTIE SCROOGE: What about me? What about my good will? All the delight and good cheer I've tried to spread? My dreams!
6. TECH SUPPORT: (MATTER OF FACTLY) Oh, they will all be betrayed. You see, just like your fax machine, dreams die too. Nothing lasts... And neither do you.
7. AUNTIE SCROOGE: (DEVASTATED) Well... I'm... shattered!
8. TECH SUPPORT: (HAPPILY) You needn't be! But that is the standard option. OK. How should I close this inquiry?
1. AUNTIE SCROOGE: Well, what's the use of trying to do good? If it's all a waste? If everything dies, why even bother? (SIGHS) I give up.
2. TECH SUPPORT: Me too! (HAPPILY) Very well. I am happy to have been of service. Thank you for calling Christmas: Version three-point-oh. Have a nice day! Or in your case... not. (HANGS UP)
3. AUNTIE SCROOGE: (SIGHS DESPONDENTLY) Bye.
4. MUSIC: [MUS-14] TRANSITION BACK HOME

SCENE THIRTEEN: - INT. AUNTIE SCROOGE'S BEDROOM - MORNING

- 5* NARRATOR: [CUE] And suddenly, Auntie Scrooge found herself back in her bedroom. Safe and sound. But in reality--which is where she now found herself finally living--she was neither safe, nor sound. Just human. (PAUSE) The visits by Bob Marley's ghost and the three Spirits had succeeded in freeing her from the false hopes she'd relied on her entire life. Now, unburdened by illusion, she took all the love, hope, dreams and other bunk that she'd used to prop up herself up through misfortune, tied them up in a handkerchief, and locked them away, deep in her purse. [MORE...]
1. NARRATOR: (CONT'D) Chastened by fate, Auntie Scrooge had finally left her Fool's Paradise and was now living in the real world, with the rest of us. She'd have to muddle through, just like everyone else.
2. MUSIC: [MUS-15] CHRISTMAS DAY-UP, UNDER, PLAY THRU.

SCENE FOURTEEN: INT. AUNTIE SCROOGE'S HOUSE - DAY
(NARRATOR)

3* NARRATOR: [CUE] Auntie Scrooge spent Christmas day like other normal people. She got up and opened the few presents she'd bought for herself--as a ruse to convince her that somebody cared; She went to church and sat while everybody went through the motions. Back home, she listened to old Christmas records she'd heard too many times before; She went to lunch at a Chinese restaurant with some Jewish neighbors. She channel-surfed through sentimental and tasteless comic holiday films on TV. And... oh yes! She made out her will--leaving everything to her niece, Fredericka.
[MORE...]

1. NARRATOR: [CONT'D] (PAUSE) As night fell, Auntie Scrooge arrived--unfashionably late--at the company Christmas Party. The dreary affair was just what she needed--a total downer!

SCENE FIFTEEN: INT. OFFICE CHRISTMAS PARTY - NIGHT
(NARRATOR, BOBBIE, AUNTIE, FREDERICKA, KIM, WALLA)

2. SOUND: WALLA--BORED CROWD-UNDER.

3. BOBBIE CRATCHIT: [CUE] (CHEERLESS) Ho-ho-hum! (DULLY) Merry Christmas, Auntie Scrooge. You're... late.

4. AUNTIE SCROOGE: (FEARFUL OF DEATH) Late...? Don't bury me yet! (RECOVERING) Sorry, Bobbie. I had a rough... night. Um... how's the rest of the Cratchit family doing?

5. BOBBIE CRATCHIT: Don't ask. They're around here somewhere. Oh, here's Fredericka! I gotta go find Big Tim.

6. SOUND: BOBBIE WALKS OFF. FREDERICKA AND KIM STEP UP.

7. FREDERICKA: (DULL) Hello, Auntie. How's your Christmas?

8. KIM: (TO AUNTIE) Hello, old girl. My! You don't look like you got much sleep last night.

9. AUNTIE SCROOGE: Actually, Christmas Eve was quite an eye-opener for me. I did a lot of thinking.

10. FREDERICKA: Did you?

1. AUNTIE SCROOGE: Er...Yes. And I've decided to step down from running the firm... and let you take over, Fredericka.

2. KIM: (STARTLED) You... what?

3. AUNTIE SCROOGE: That's right. It's time for somebody who's got a better view of the real world to run things.

4. FREDERICKA: Well, it's about time, Auntie. You've nearly run this company into the ground, if you don't mind me saying so.
5. AUNTIE SCROOGE: No, I guess you're right. Do whatever you want with the company. I won't stand in your way.
6. FREDERICKA: Wow! That's great news--for me! I've got to go tell Bobbie! (EXITING) We'll start making changes immediately!
7. KIM: Say, you don't look very good, Auntie. Are you ill? Your brow is sweating.
8. AUNTIE SCROOGE: Sweating? (FLUSHED) I'll just dab my forehead with my hankie a bit.
9. SOUND: AUNTIE SCROOGE WALKS. OPENS PURSE UNDER. HANDLING HANDKERCHIEF.
10. KIM: (CALLING AFTER HER) Go get yourself a drink of the holiday egg nog over at the punch bowl.
1. AUNTIE SCROOGE: (TO HERSELF) Well. (SIGH) Hmmm. This may be my last batch of Holiday Egg Nog. Um... What's this?--wrapped up in my hankie? Oh! Yeah. (SIGHS) All the love and dreams and hope that caused me so much trouble. Well, I don't need this anymore. Oh! Whoops! Right into the bowl!
2. SOUND: HANKIE PLOPS INTO EGG NOG BOWL.
3. FREDERICKA: (DISTANT) Attention! Attention everybody.
4. BOBBIE CRATCHIT: (DISTANT) Wake up, you zombies! I see the tired faces, the briefcases. I want everybody to come over here. Right now! It's toast time. Nog up!
5. SOUND: (DISTANT) WALLA--CROWD STIRS.
AUNTIE DIPS LADLE IN EGG NOG. FILLS A CUP.

6. AUNTIE: Oh, goodness! I can't find my hankie in the punch bowl. Well, I might as well have some egg nog... (SIPS) Mmmmm. Say, this is delicious!
7. FREDERICKA: (DISTANT) OK. Listen up! This is a brand new day for the I.C. Scrooge & Marley company.
8. SOUND: WALLA--INTERESTED.
- 9* FREDERICKA: Yes! I'm proud to announce that I've appointed myself new president of the company!
10. SOUND: WALLA--STUNNED.
- 1* BOBBIE CRATCHIT: That's right, everybody! Auntie Scrooge has stepped down and Fred will be the new CEO!
2. SOUND: WALLA--GASP.
3. FREDERICKA: Thank you, thank you! Now! There's gonna be changes around here. Lots of them. Starting with our product line. Tell 'em, Bobbie!
4. BOBBIE CRATCHIT: First, we're gonna shut down the money-losing Holiday Egg Nog production line!
5. SOUND: WALLA--GASP.
6. FREDERICKA: Then, we're gonna start making Bo-bah!
7. ALL: What's bo-bah!
8. BOBBIE CRATCHIT: Never mind! It's a company secret.
9. FREDERICKA: And it's gonna make us rich! Well, some of us, anyway!
10. BOBBIE CRATCHIT: I propose a toast! A toast to...
11. A SINGLE VOICE: How about a toast to Auntie Scrooge?!
12. SOUND: WALLA--ANGRY CRIES "YEAH!" "AUNTIE" "AUNTIE SCROOGE."

13. AUNTIE SCROOGE: (CALLING OUT)(VIVACIOUS) OK. A toast to me!
Sure, gang! Have yourself some of my Holiday
Egg Nog. Whadaya say?
1. SOUND: WALLA--"YEAH!" "I WANT SOME." "ME TOO."
FOOTSTEPS MILLING. EGG NOG LADLED OUT--UNDER
2. FREDERICKA: Yes! Go ahead! Drink up. It's our last batch.
Finish it! We're out of the egg nog business!
3. SOUND; WALLA--CROWD GETS BOISTEROUS--CONTINUE UNDER--
BUT BUILD TO INSANITY AS NARRATION DESCRIBES.
- 4* NARRATOR: [CUE] But then the most extraordinary thing
happened! As every man, woman, and child drank
the egg nog, they felt refreshed! Rejuvenated!
They found new energy. New willingness. And
great joy. All Heaven broke loose! Soon the
entire crowd was ecstatic! Out of control!
5. SOUND: WALLA--UPROARIOUS CROWD. AND---HAVE CRASHES,
RUNNING, COWS, CHICKENS, ETC READY---PEFORM AS
CALLED FOR.
6. NARRATOR: They added five more gallons of egg nog to the
punch bowl and everyone filled their cups
again. Suddenly, dancing broke out.
(DANCE/CLAP) Then footraces! (RUNNING) Three
hundred people playing Blind Man's Buff!
(SFX: CRASHES) They were swinging from the
light fixtures! (SFX: CREAK/CRASH)
[MORE...]
1. NARRATOR: (CONT'D) Trampolining with table cloths! (SHOUT
AND BOING) Then, somebody let the cows in...
(STAMPEDE AND MOOING) ...who promptly got
nogged. Then the chickens joined the fun!

(SQUAWK) Then everybody got... naked... and threw their clothes in a pile.

2. MUSIC: [MUS-15] CONGA LINE (1-2-3-456, ETC) WALLA--CHANTS TOO.

3* NARRATOR: They formed a conga line and danced around and around! But at the peak of the frenzy, the Christmas tree caught fire! (FIRE, SCREAMS, PANIC, RUNNING) and burned the building down.

4. SOUND: RUMBLE. SIRENS.

SCENE SIXTEEN: INT. RADIO STUDIO - LIVE
(NARRATOR, AUNTIE SCROOGE, ALL)

5. MUSIC: [MUS-16] CHRISTMAS ENDING -- STOP WHEN AUNTIE SHOWS UP.

6* NARRATOR: (CALMER) Well, although nobody was killed, the big fire completely wiped out the I.C. Scrooge & Marley chilled-desert-manufacturing company. They lost everything. It appears the prediction of the Ghost of Christmas: Version three-point-oh, was right! Everybody lost their jobs--even the cows. All that remained was for Fredericka and Bobbie to sell the Scrooge name.
[MORE...]

1. NARRATOR: [CONT'D] (PAUSE) As for Auntie Scrooge, well, she really learned her lesson. Her carelessness by dropping that hankie full of love and dreams into the egg nog cost everyone dearly. Marley and the ghosts had been right! In a world of worry, it's futile to be generous, open, and ever-willing. (PAUSE) And so... Auntie Scrooge curled up, in a little ball and...

2. AUNTIE SCROOGE: What a bum hand-bag! Hey, you! Narrator! That's the worst ending I've ever heard!

3. NARRATOR: What? Auntie Scrooge?!
4. AUNTIE SCROOGE: That's right! I can't abide a life-negating bunch of cynical tripe like this! It's a... a... bum hand-bag. That's what it is!
5. NARRATOR: (WHISPERS) Shhh! Go away. This show is over!
6. AUNTIE SCOOGE: Oh, no it ain't! I got bet-tah! I recovered my joy! After seeing how my own love and hope could be spread to everybody else, I went "over" your "edge!" So, that snide un-happily ever-after ending is kaput!
7. NARRATOR: (CORRECTING HER) Oh, no it ain't! It says, right here in the script. Look! "And so... Auntie Scrooge curled up in little ball and..."
1. AUNTIE SCROOGE: Gimmie that script, you!
2. SOUND: SCRIPT BEING GRABBED. TORN UP.
- 3* NARRATOR: Hey! You can't do that! This is a radio drama! What do we do now?
4. AUNTIE SCROOGE: Now?... We'll we're gonna have to improvise!
5. NARRATOR: What? Hey, I don't make this stuff up. I just read it.
6. AUNTIE SCROOGE: OK. I'll teach you how to improvise. The first rule is "Don't deny." You gotta say "Yes." "Yes" to everything and "Yes" to everybody.
(TO CROWD) Hey, gang!
7. ALL: Yes?
8. AUNTIE SCROOGE: Want a happy ending to this story? To life!
9. ALL: Yes!

10. AUNTIE SCROOGE: OK. It's all about willingness! Now. Answer me some questions. We were all gloomy, right?
11. ALL: Yes!
12. AUNTIE SCROOGE: And we drank that spiked egg nog, right?
13. ALL: Yes!
14. AUNTIE SCROOGE: And then we all felt love and goodness and joy, right?
1. ALL: Yes!
2. AUNTIE SCROOGE: And then everybody had a blast, right?
3. ALL: Yes!
4. AUNTIE SCROOGE: And then the building burnt down.
5. ALL: (LESS WILLING) Yes. (AD LIB—"umm... huh?")
6. AUNTIE SCROOGE: (CHIDING THEM) Wait! Stay with me. Go with it! You gotta embrace it. The good and the bad!
7. ALL: (A BIT MORE WILLING) Yes?
8. AUNTIE SCROOGE: That's the secret. You gotta learn to love it, no matter what happens to you. Yes?
9. ALL: (MORE WILLING) Yes!
10. AUNTIE SCROOGE: It's just what we needed. Some humbling, right?
11. ALL: (MORE WILLING) Yes!
12. AUNTIE SCROOGE: OK. So... where were we? Ah, yes... the building burnt down, right?
13. ALL: (WILLING) Yes!
14. AUNTIE SCROOGE: And we lost our jobs, right?
15. ALL: (WILLING) Yes!
16. AUNTIE SCROOGE: But we won't sob, yes?

17. ALL: (WILLING) Yes!

18. AUNTIE SCROOTE: We'll make plenty of money selling...

1. ALL: Spiked egg nog! (CHEER) Yes!

2. ALL: (SINGS) Egg nog! Who spiked the egg nog?
That crazy Christmas pick me up
Let's all have another cup, of that...
Egg nog! Who spiked the egg nog?
Ho-ho-ho! I've got to have some more!
Ho-ho-ho! I've got to have some more!
Ho-ho-ho! I've got to have some more!

3. MUSIC: [MUS-17] EGG NOG SONG-- UP AND PLAY THROUGH

4. NARRATOR: (OVER THE SONG) And that concludes our program:
Auntie Scrooge, a Backwards Christmas Carol!
Our program was written and scored by Tony
Palermo and starred: _____,
_____, _____,
_____, _____,
_____, _____,
_____, _____,
and _____. This has been a production
of the _____ Radio Network.
"Mooerry" Christmas, everybody!

5. COW CAROLERS: Mooooooooooooooooooooooooooooo.

-THE END-