

# A CHRISTMAS CAROL.COM

A Play in Two Acts

By Dave Brandl

Based on the novel *Carol for Another Christmas*  
By Elizabeth Ann Scarborough

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## **DEDICATION**

*To Charley and Donna Ault for all their love and support.  
Also, thank you, Annie, for your delightful book.*

## **STORY OF THE PLAY**

He's back! And this time he's on-line! Scrooge on the net. Set amid modern technology, this new adaptation of Dickens' classic tale introduces us to Monica Banks (ever so "affectionately" called Money Banks by her overworked staff) who has no time for holidays. Scrooge first appears on the screen of Monica's computer for the start of her virtual adventure across the World Wide Web to find the true meaning of Christmas.

In a blithe, warm-hearted trip with the outrageously costumed Scrooge, Monica's reviews her whole life, from a lonely childhood, to her current over-worked career, to her bleak future--unless she changes now! All the other well-known characters are present too: the poor child, the anxious parent, and the unappreciated employee.

In a unique blend of tradition and technology, both endearing and enduring, we are reminded that Christmas is a season of second chances.

## **SETTING**

There is a split set. SR is an office that contains a chair and desk (computer and telephone on the desk), a sofa, and a coat rack. There is an entrance door SR. SL there is a large, putty-colored frame, at least 8 feet high. The frame extends diagonally from DSL to USC.

### **CAST OF CHARACTERS**

5 m, 5 w, 1 girl. Extras or doubling needed for additional minor roles.

*(In order of appearance)*

**NOAH TIMMONS:** An old janitor.

**TINA TIMMONS:** Noah's granddaughter, 8 years old.

**DOUG BANKS:** Former owner of Databanks, deceased.

**MONICA BANKS:** Doug's sister, owner of Databanks.

**CURTIS:** A programmer at Databanks.

**SHERYL:** A programmer at Databanks.

**WAYNE REILLY:** Former co-owner of Databanks.

**EBENEZER SCROOGE, ESQ.:** Famous literary character.

**YOUNGER MONICA:** In her 20s.

**MRS. REILLY:** Wayne's mother.

**TIFFANY TIMMONS:** Noah's daughter, Tina's mother.

**OTHER ROLES:** *(May be played by cast members as described below, or extras may be used, if available.)*

**COMPUTER VOICE:** Noah.

**\*LITTLE MONICA:** Tina.

**\*MONICA'S MOTHER:** Tiffany.

**\*MONICA'S FATHER:** Doug.

**\*FAMILY MEMBERS:** Noah, Curtis, Sheryl, Wayne, Young Monica, Mrs. Reilly.

**WOMAN ATTORNEY:** Mrs. Reilly.

**SENATOR JOHANSEN:** Doug.

**PARTY GUEST:** Mrs. Reilly.

\*Non-speaking parts.

**TIME:** The near future.

**PLACE:** The office of Monica Banks, CEO of Databanks, Seattle, Washington.

## **SYNOPSIS OF THE PLAY**

### **ACT I**

Scene 1: Monica's office, 5:15 a.m., Christmas Eve.

Scene 2: 5:30 p.m., Christmas Eve.

Scene 3: 1:00 a.m., Christmas morning.

### **ACT II**

Scene 1: 2:00 a.m., Christmas morning.

Scene 2: 3:00 a.m., Christmas morning.

Scene 3: 7:00 a.m., Christmas morning.

Scene 4: Noah's apartment and Monica's office, Christmas Day.

## **PROPS**

TINA: Crutches, blanket and pillow, small Christmas tree made of aluminum foil, plates, glasses, knives and forks, package with small bag of candy.

MONICA: Coat: small gift-wrapped present containing a fruitcake: papers: watch: pillow.

WAYNE: Small wreath, telephone, pet bed, laptop computer, pajamas and robe, handkerchief, overcoat.

SCROOGE: Top hat, cane, Victorian Santa suit, garland of holly, red velvet cape, outfit like Monica's, wig, handcuffs.

YOUNGER WAYNE: Small, gift-wrapped package.

YOUNGER MONICA: Pretty dress, telephone, coat, bathrobe.

MRS. REILLY: Cup, small wrapped package containing a lace collar.

TIFFANY: Boots, fishnet stockings, black leather jacket, mini-skirt, jeans, sweatshirt, deck of cards, stocking cap, tattered jacket, flashlight.

NOAH: Tray of food, candle.

CURTIS: Champagne glass, computer.

SHERYL: Champagne glass, bag of gifts, box with toy kitten.

MISCELLANEOUS: Pink Christmas tree; small, nicely decorated tree, radio, boxes of trash, several computers.

**ACT I**  
**Scene 1**

*(AT RISE: The near future, 5:15 a.m., Christmas Eve, Seattle, Washington. The LIGHTS on Monica's office are on. The LIGHTS on the frame are off.)*

NOAH: *(Offstage.)* Come along, Tina.

*(NOAH TIMMONS enters the office helping TINA TIMMONS. Tina uses crutches to help her walk.)*

TINA: I'm sorry I interrupted you, Grandpa, but I really, really had to go.

NOAH: That's all right, baby. I'll just finish up in the hallway here and we'll go home.

TINA: OK. *(SHE hobbles over to the desk and starts to crawl under it, laying her crutches on the floor.)*

NOAH: Is that comfortable enough under there?

TINA: Yeah. The blanket and pillow are soft and warm.

NOAH: All right, then. I'll get back to work. You rest awhile. And remember, don't touch anything.

TINA: *(From under the desk.)* Thanks, Grandpa.

*(NOAH exits. After a moment, TINA gets out from under the desk, sits in the chair, and turns on the computer. LIGHTS on the frame come on. Standing in the frame is DOUG BANKS. This is what Tina sees on the computer screen. Doug appears to be about 40, and is dressed casually, but neatly.)*

TINA: OK, Doug. I'm back.

DOUG: Good. You know, Tina, I think you're pretty lucky to be programming computers at eight. I wasn't programming when I was eight because the stuff wasn't available then. But I would be, if I were eight today.

TINA: What do we do next, Doug?

DOUG: We need a main character, Tina. But I never read story books when I was a kid, I read instruction books. Who do you think we should get to help somebody become a better person?

TINA: Umm ... Mama likes Doctor Ruth.

DOUG: No, it's not that kind of change.

TINA: Oprah?

DOUG: It should be somebody who's not still ... around.

TINA: I know. Scrooge.

DOUG: No. No ducks!

TINA: Not Scrooge McDuck! I mean the Scrooge from the Christmas story. You know, the one who went from saying "Bah! Humbug!" on Christmas Eve to "Merry Christmas" the next morning.

DOUG: You're a smart kid, Tina. Scrooge it is. Yeah. We'll use old Scrooge.

TINA: Doug, what exactly is this program we're making?

DOUG: It's an override, Tina.

TINA: What does that mean?

DOUG: It means it's a program that won't let any other programs run until it's finished.

TINA: Why?

DOUG: Because it's the most important program that will ever run on any of the computers in this company.

TINA: Are you sure it's OK for us to be doing this?

DOUG: What else would you be doing? You said your mother works nights, too, so you can't stay home alone. That's why you come here with your grandfather.

TINA: Grandpa told me not to touch anything while he's working.

DOUG: Look, it's important to learn how to use computers, right?

TINA: I suppose.

DOUG: Remember, I used to own this place. All the buildings and computers. I was the boss. But you might say I'm on vacation now. Permanently.

TINA: I guess that's all right, then.

DOUG: Believe me, it's OK. But keep it our secret for now. What we're doing will help somebody a lot, if we do it right.

TINA: Where are you? I mean, I see you in the computer, but where are you really?

DOUG: Tina, do you know what a medium is?

TINA: Yeah. Between small and large.

DOUG: Not that kind of medium.

TINA: Do you mean a person who sees ghosts?

DOUG: Something like that, but the person doesn't see the ghost, the ghost comes through the person. This computer program we're making is like that.

TINA: It sounds scary.

DOUG: Don't be silly, Tina. The ghosts we're programming come to help people, not to scare them.

TINA: Are these ghosts angels?

DOUG: Not exactly. Not all of them; not yet anyway. You sure ask a lot of questions.

TINA: Sorry.

DOUG: No, it's all right. You should never apologize for asking questions. But it's Christmas Eve now, and we're just about finished. Are you excited?

TINA: Yeah.

DOUG: OK. Type the password and let it run.

TINA: I have to go home soon. I won't be back tomorrow because it's Christmas and Grandpa doesn't come to work. I have to turn off the computer so Grandpa's boss won't know I was here.

DOUG: Doesn't matter. Once it starts, there will be no stopping it. Go!

TINA: All right. *(SHE types.)* "H-u-m-b-u-g." *(SHE presses the enter key.)*

NOAH: *(Offstage, singing.)* "GRANDMA GOT RUN OVER BY A REINDEER ..."

TINA: Oh. That's Grandpa's signal. *(SHE ducks under the desk.)* I forgot! *(SHE gets back up and turns off the computer. LIGHTS on the frame go off.)* Merry Christmas, Doug. *(SHE ducks under the desk again. The LIGHTS on the frame come on.)*

DOUG: Merry Christmas to you, too, Tina. *(The LIGHTS on the frame go off.)*

NOAH: *(Offstage.)* Merry Christmas, Ms. Banks.

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