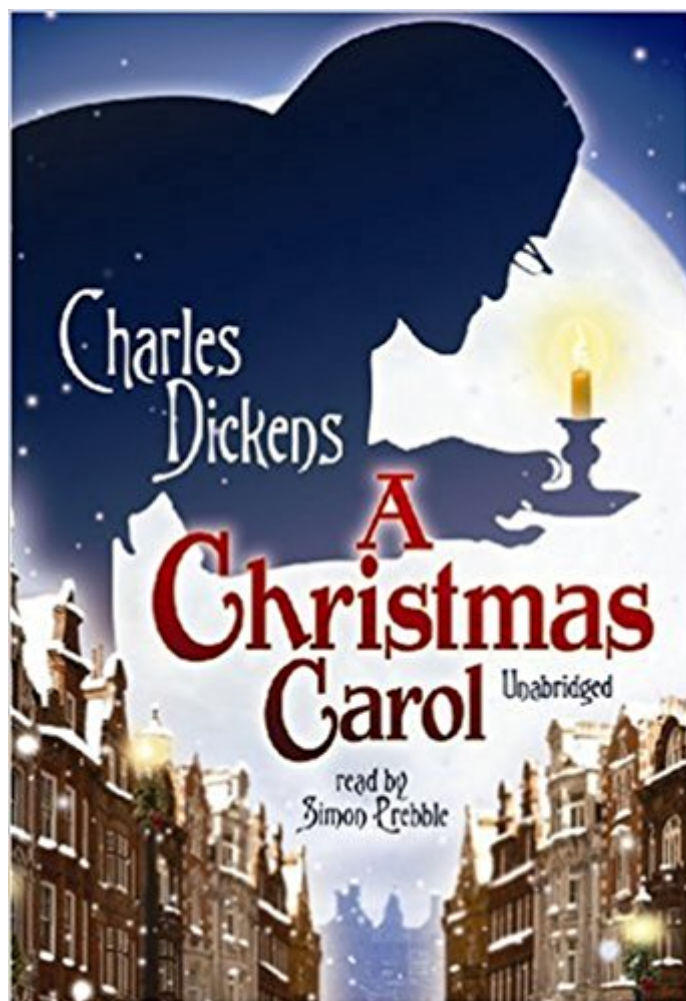


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# A Christmas Carol (Blackstone Audio Classic Collection)



## Synopsis

'Every idiot who goes about with 'Merry Christmas' on his lips should be boiled with his own pudding,' says Scrooge. Mean old Scrooge despises Christmas, until Christmas Eve, when a haunted voice from the past changes his life overnight. Many know the story, but few have experienced the marvel of the book. If you are one who has never read this family classic, this is the time to do so. Listen to our unabridged recording and make this a truly Charles Dickens Christmas. And, 'God bless us, everyone!'

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

In the history of English literature, Charles Dickens's *A Christmas Carol*, which has been continuously in print since it was first published in the winter of 1843, stands out as the quintessential Christmas story. What makes this charming edition of Dickens's immortal tale so special is the collection of 80 vivid illustrations by Everett Shinn (1876-1953). Shinn, a well-known artist in his time, was a popular illustrator of newspapers and magazines whose work displayed a remarkable affinity for the stories of Charles Dickens, evoking the bustling street life of the mid-1800s. Printed on heavy, cream-colored paper stock, the edges of the pages have been left rough, simulating the way in which the story might have appeared in Dickens's own time. Though countless editions of this classic have been published over the years, this one stands out as particularly beautiful, nostalgic, and evocative of the spirit of Christmas. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

For many people in the 21st century, Dickens's *A Christmas Carol* has come to define what "keeping Christmas" should look like. And according to Michael Patrick Hearn's superb introduction to this annotated edition of Dickens's beloved classic, that was precisely the author's intention. Dickens feared that encroaching industrialism undermined the traditional values of family, faith and simplicity, and that killjoy Puritans had done away with many of the pleasures of Christmas, so he set out to revive old-fashioned English customs. Hearn's introduction grandly describes the story's enduring popularity around the world (including Dickens's irate but mostly ineffectual attempts to stem the tide of its plagiarism). The annotated edition is enriched by numerous wood etchings, including some from the original 1843 art by Punch cartoonist John Leech. Old Scrooge himself would approve. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

A timeless classic. It's one thing to watch any of the multitude of adaptations that have been made for both movies and TV but the story should never be neglected in its print form and provides all the emotional punch that the others provide. Reading is an intimate experience in which the reader can project herself/himself onto the characters and experience the emotions as if they themselves are experiencing them. A film has actors who have now permanently imprinted themselves and rob us of this interpretive aspect that a novel or short story can provide. Alternately we are Scrooge, we are Jacob Marley, we are Tiny Tim, etc, etc. I am very happy to have this wonderful story on my Kindle and available whenever. It is a story that should not be exclusive to Christmas but to any time of the year.

I've read several derivatives (one with Jane Austen characters and voice, another the original Christmas story with the innkeeper as Scrooge) this year, so I decided it might be time to re-read the original. This was an interesting edition to read because it included a bio of Dickens and the context of the book in the time period. It also included reviews throughout history since the story was first written. Amazing the differences in reviewers' reactions--ranging from a reviewer from Dickens' own time who predicted the story would still be read a hundred years later to a modern reviewer who can't understand why anyone would ever read such a sappy, sentimental story. Some saw Scrooge's transformation as a religious redemption; others saw nothing of the birth of Jesus in the story.

I recommend only purchasing the hardback version if you are looking for the fully annotated "A

Christmas Carol". Both the paperback and Kindle versions (sold on the same webpage and with the same description) are, in fact, not the same books. The annotated version is amazing and reveals the entire "backstory" of Dickens' "A Christmas Carol". Highly recommended!

This is not an annotated edition in the way readers might expect. It is simply the text with some biographical information at the end. If you are expecting explanatory notes about details in the text, this is not for you.

This e published version of "A Christmas Carol" is beautifully illustrated and an absolute joy to read. This is the first time I read this book. I expected a revision of Hollywood's version of this story. Obviously, no movie can do justice to any book or novel; this book is no exception. What is excellent about this version is that it gives a brief history of the historical background that Dickens' wrote his work in and the history of this timeless classic. There may be a minor ( and I mean minor issue) on two of the illustrations: Bob Cratchit carrying Tiny Tim on his shoulders and Scrooge raising his salary. The Kindle Fire version of all the illustrations are recreated perfectly. They are partially duplicated on the top third portion and look like the top third of the illustration is above the the whole of the image in the Kindle 3G Keyboard version. I think that the publisher should look into this. This is no reason to avoid purchasing this version. Again, this version is excellent!

"A Christmas Carol" is not just A Christmas story, but one of THE Christmas stories -- not only is it instantly recognizable by pretty much everybody, but it's relentlessly copied and spoofed in countless Christmas specials. But taken just by itself, Charles Dickens' yuletide novella is a pretty bleak and bittersweet affair, with brilliant imagery and lots of ghostly weirdness. Scrooge is... well, a scrooge -- a professional miser who hates Christmas, goodwill, charity, puppies, kittens, his relatives, his employees, and virtually everything else except money. And on Christmas Eve, his dead partner Jacob Marley comes back, wrapped with supernatural chains, and claims that Scrooge is doomed to the same fate. But he has a chance at redemption: three ghosts representing will visit him that night, taking him on a guided tour of Christmases past, present and yet to come. So Scrooge is transported on a trio of hourlong trips through time. The childlike Ghost of Christmas Past takes him to his bleak childhood, when he was less jaded and hard. The jolly Ghost of Christmas Present takes him to people's homes on the very next morning, specifically of of his nephew and the poor miner Bob Cratchit. And finally a Ringwraith-like spirit gives him a glimpse of Christmas years in the future... a bleak and terrible future, unless he changes his ways. You can

read plenty of symbolism into a story like "A Christmas Carol"; I've heard speculation about Dickens' father, the Industrial Revolution, spiritualism, and all sorts of other stuff. But at its heart, "A Christmas Carol" is the most powerful when appreciated for its story alone -- a story about a greedy, miserable man who redeems himself by learning to love all humanity. Dickens' writing is utterly brilliant here. Most of the book is bleak, grimy and painted in shadows, with Dickens only rarely holding back from showing the dark situation of England's poor. A great example is the symbolic children Want and Ignorance ("a stale and shrivelled hand, like that of age, had pinched, and twisted them, and pulled them into shreds"). As for the Grim-Reaperlike third ghost, it's the stuff of nightmares. But all isn't dark here. Occasionally Dickens splashes it with moments of crystalline brilliance ("It held a branch of fresh green holly in its hand; and... its dress trimmed with summer flowers"). And as dark as the book is, Dickens offers hope for the future. He also does a brilliant job with Scrooge, "a squeezing, wrenching, grasping, scraping, clutching, covetous, old sinner! Hard and sharp as flint, from which no steel had ever struck out generous fire." Having worked hard to make us hate Scrooge, Dickens then deftly displays his skill at slowly revealing how Scrooge became who and what he is, and slowly redeeming him. Charles Dickens created one of the greatest Christmas stories with "A Christmas Carol" -- bah humbugs, merry Christmases and all. God bless us, every one!

This was read to me every Christmas Eve when I was too young to read. Later we had the record by Barrymore reading it. I re-read it every Christmas season, and even though the tale truly reflects the hardness of that time in England in the 1800's I realize that such hardships still exist in much of the planet today. It is truly worth reading by individuals of any faith (or those who have no faith). Much of the philosophy of A Christmas Carol seems to apply for any nation, any time. The illustrations in this publication are charming. I had not seen them before and they add to the charm of the tale. Every adult should take time to read this story of the reclamation of Ebenezer Scrooge.

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