

MARLEY SIDE

EBENEZER

Jacob, please leave me be! All I desire is some peace -

MARLEY

There is no peace without a price. Not for you.

EBENEZER

Alright then. What's your price? What's the price to be left alone?

MARLEY

Should you hope to escape the path I now tread, you must heed! Search your heart, if you can find it! I am here to warn you that you are next!

EBENEZER

Next in what? Next for what? Speak plainly or I shall leave.

MARLEY lunges at him and grabs EBENEZER by the wrists. The sound of chains rattling and a loud low boom.

MARLEY

I have walked the earth for seven years. Every single day, for every single injury by my hand I am branded. My flesh burns with regret and pain. My bones ache from the weight of missed opportunities. Would you care to join me?

EBENEZER

(increasing concern)
No, thank you.

MARLEY

Then hear me, friend. You are doomed as I am to walk this path of remorse for all eternity.

EBENEZER

You're telling me there's no rest, even after death?

MARLEY

Not for men like you. Tomorrow is another Christmas and tomorrow another soul will be taken.

EBENEZER

You mean mine?

MARLEY wails, lifts his fists, brings them down hard onto the table. A loud clanking of chains and a deep low boom.

EBENEZER

Alright! Please, Jacob! Tell me, why are you fettered?

MARLEY

This is the weight of the world I created, and must now carry. They cling to me as in life I would cling to silver and gold. Each link represents the life of a man, woman or child which my greed and carelessness savagely devastated. But these chains are nothing compared to those waiting for you.

EBENEZER

(looking at himself)
I feel no weight. I see no chains!

MARLEY

Where wealth accumulates, men decay,
Ebenezer. Could your good deeds stand
for you in the face of God? Are you
ready to be judged for all that you
are?

EBENEZER

Who are you to judge me?

MARLEY

Not I.

(He stands)

There will be three who visit you
tonight.

EBENEZER

Three what?

MARLEY

Spirits. Keepers of time and memory.

EBENEZER

I have enough trouble sleeping as it
is. Another time, perhaps?

MARLEY

The bell has rung, Ebenezer. It tolls
for thee. Prepare. The first one, the
unknown one... is nigh.