

SPIRIT FAN SIDE

FAN

Now, Ebenezer, what do you see?

EBENEZER

I see badly mannered children and a woman with no respect for -

(catches FAN glaring at him,
reconsiders)

A family?

FAN

You question it?

EBENEZER

Family is a lie, as is love. Both will betray you in an instant.

FAN

You dare say such a thing to me?

EBENEZER

I see no value in the illusion of family. What I can hold, what I can count has value. It's tangible, lasting. To rely on anything else is foolish. It's dangerous.

FAN

What is counted are the moments they share, the memories they make and they are rich in that. You cannot hold these things but you can feel their worth.

EBENEZER

You can't provide for your family with feelings.

FAN

And your part in how Bob Cratchit provides for his family? Whatever lack you perceive is replaced with love, but love can only fill an empty stomach for so long.

EBENEZER

Perhaps I could find another shilling a week.

FAN

My God, Ebenezer!

EBENEZER

I'm trying!

FAN

You certainly are!

(beat)

Whatever you believe Christmas to be... whatever supposed truths you've wrapped your heart in... you're mistaken. It's not some facade of compassion. It's a reminder of how we can choose to be every day. It's in the hearts of Fred, Grace, Bob, Emily ... Tim.

She stands behind TIM and holds her hand up as though she is reading him.

FAN

That tiny beating heart. It could burst for all the love it holds.

EBENEZER

I have seen the future, Fan. Tim will not live.

FAN

No.

EBENEZER

Is there nothing to be done?

FAN

Try and see the connection between
yourself and the welfare of the world
you inhabit, Ebenezer! It is time.

EBENEZER

Time? For what?

FAN

You must go back.

EBENEZER

Back where? Are we done, so soon?

FAN

I am, but you are not. Not yet.

EBENEZER

Fan, I don't want to lose you again.

FAN

Open that shut-up heart of yours. There
is something there! There has to be! A
part of me that you might find
suffocating under your soul's
heaviness. You must search in places
dark and long forgotten.

She pulls a small old book from her cloak and
hands it to EBENEZER. Then she takes his face in
her hands.

FAN

I leave you now, dear brother.
Remember, time is short, love is all.