

SCROOGE. I may be dreaming you. You ... you might be a nightmare brought on by eating too much. You might be a crumb of spoilt cheese or an underdone potato. You may not have risen from your grave, but from my gravy!

(MARLEY raises a terrible wailing.

MUSIC: Up, sudden, violent.

SFX: Violent shaking of chains.)

SCROOGE *(cont'd)*. Please, Jacob, why do you trouble me?

(SFX: Chains stop shaking but remain under the scene, rattling with MARLEY's every move.

MUSIC: Under all.)

MARLEY. Do you believe, then?

SCROOGE. I must. I must. But why are you here?

MARLEY. It is my curse.

SCROOGE. You're cursed, Jacob?

MARLEY. I have been cursed to wander through the world and witness what I cannot share ... to witness the unhappiness I caused in life ... unhappiness I cannot change in death ... *(He howls and moans.)*

(SFX: Chains.

SCROOGE howls and moans as well, and for a time, they moan together.)

SCROOGE. Why do you moan? Are you in pain?

(SFX: Chains stop.)

MARLEY. I grieve. I grieve over the chain I wear.

SCROOGE. Why do you wear it?

MARLEY. Because it is my own. Because I forged it in life. I made it myself, link by link and yard by yard. Each link a sin committed in life.

(SFX: Chain sounds match the action indicated by the dialog. The chains punctuate everything MARLEY says, every movement we hear him make.)

MARLEY *(cont'd)*. Look. Here. With this link I turned my back on a man who asked for my help ...

SCROOGE. Yes. I see it. But I ...

MARLEY. And this one. I cheated a friend out of what was his.

SCROOGE. Tell me ...

MARLEY. And this ... thievery ... this ... greed ... then apathy, sloth, malice, revenge, disloyalty, selfishness, cowardice! Link upon link, I forged the chain in life I now bear in death. We pay for our sins, Ebenezer Scrooge.

SCROOGE. It is quite a long chain, Jacob.

MARLEY. Yours is longer.

SCROOGE. My chain?

MARLEY. The chain you will wear in the afterlife. It grows longer each day.