

Y.A. Belle: *(moves to the bench, sits with Ebenezer)* Ebenezer, how could you do this to me? Why have you let money come between us? *(pause, turns right semi-facing to old Scrooge, wiping away a tear)* I am no longer your first love. *(sobbing...old Scrooge trying to comfort her, turning to the angel for help. Angel doesn't respond)*

Y. A. Scrooge: *(Scrooge yells from back stage...)* Belle! *(pause)* Belle! *(Belle enters, stage left, walking fast...Scrooge following close behind her.)* Why did you run off like that??? Why won't you talk to me? *(Y.A. Scrooge runs to the bench. Out of breath)*

Y. A. Scrooge: Belle, what is it? Have I hurt you?

Y. A. Belle: In a manner of speaking, yes! You, Ebenezer and your whole manner. *(Y.A. Belle gets up and walks to Grid 4 -- center stage)*

Y. A. Scrooge: I don't understand. *(Y.A. Scrooge follows Y.A. Belle)*

Y. A. Belle: Well, I know that it's not lack of sleep you display or poor health; I'm afraid I know what troubles you.

Y. A. Scrooge: *(sarcastically)* And what might that be?

Y. A. Belle: I suppose I should have seen this all along, but I just didn't want to.

Y. A. Scrooge: Please, Belle, no riddles. What is it you wish to say?

Y. A. Belle: Ebenezer, it seems I've been displayed by an idol.

Y. A. Scrooge: What idol?

Y. A. Belle: A golden one, money and greed.

Y. A. Scrooge: You don't understand, that is the way of the world, Belle.

Old Scrooge: *(in the background)* It forces poverty on the weak and condemns the strong who seek wealth. *(covers his face with his hands)*

Y. A. Belle: Yes, Ebenezer, I agree. It's the way of the world, but those are not

the ways I wish to pursue.

Y. A. Scrooge: You have never known poverty as I have, Belle. It crushes the weak and infirmed and binds them forever.

Y. A. Belle: Many of the poor are much happier than the rich, for God comforts them in their suffering. If you seek happiness in money, I'm afraid you'll not find it.

Y. A. Scrooge: Oh yes, we can go on blinded by faith, but God shall not put clothes on our backs and a roof over our heads or food in our stomachs

Y. A. Belle: Won't He? My God will! His word says... He will never leave us nor forsake us. He provides for all our needs. I don't fear poverty as you do.

Y. A. Scrooge: That was for your father's generation, Belle. We must find our own way.

Y. A. Belle: True, Ebenezer. *(Y. A. Belle walks away from Y. A. Scrooge, goes to center of platform.)* I make my way through prayer and you, evidently, make your way through other means.

Y. A. Scrooge: What are you saying, then? *(Scrooge follow her to center of platform)* Is it that you no longer love me?

Y. A. Belle: My love for you has grown each day. It's you who has ceased to love.

Y. A. Scrooge: I have never stopped loving you, Belle!

Y. A. Belle: Oh, I suppose in your own way, you think you love me but I love you in a different way...with the love Jesus gives me. Without Him, our love will cease to exist. He needs to be your first love, Ebenezer.

Y. A. Scrooge: Belle, we can still believe in God. That doesn't have to change.

Y. A. Belle: No Ebenezer, believing isn't enough! (*Scrooge moves to the right side of the platform.*) You must love Him as well. Money is your love and your god! I may always love you. Rather, I should say, I love what you were...what I thought you were. But God wont share you with greed (*pauses, moves to the left of the platform*) and neither will I.