

Excerpt from A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens! Adapted by James Hutchison

MRS. CRATCHIT

Goodness...me...ha, ha, ha, settle down you two before you crash into something or make me drop a plate and break it.

JUSTIN

Where's daddy, mommy?

ABBY

Why isn't he home yet?

MRS. CRATCHIT

Oh your father and Tiny Tim are probably up to some mischief knowing those two. They should have come home long before this, and your sister Martha wasn't nearly this late last Christmas.

BELINDA

Look, here's Martha now, mother.

JUSTIN

Hurrah, here's Martha!

ABBY

There's such a goose, Martha!

MARTHA

Is there?

JUSTIN

Yes!

MRS. CRATCHIT

Why bless your heart alive my dear – how late you are!

MARTHA

We had a lot of work to finish up last night and there was an awful lot to clear away this morning, mother. I'm sorry, I came as quickly as I could.

MRS. CRATCHIT

Well, never mind, you are here now. Sit down before the fire, my dear, and warm yourself.

JUSTIN

No, no, no!

ABBY

There's father coming. Hide, Martha, hide!

MARTHA

Hide?

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JUSTIN

Yes, hide.

ABBY

Hello father!

JUSTIN

Happy Christmas!

BELINDA

Happy Christmas, father.

PETER

Hello Father, Happy Christmas.

BOB

Yes, Happy Christmas indeed. (To Mrs. Cratchit) How are you my dear?

MRS. CRATCHIT

Very glad you and Tim are finally home.

BOB

Mmmm, t all smells delicious, doesn't it Tim?

TINY TIM

Yes, father.

BOB

Where's our Martha?

MRS. CRATCHIT

Oh, not coming, I'm afraid

BOB

What? Not coming? Not coming on Christmas Day. But why?

BELINDA

Don't you know father?

BOB

Know what? Has something happened?

PETER

Yes, something has.

BOB

Well what is it? What's happened?

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BELINDA

Martha has...been...summoned to Buckingham Palace to meet the Queen.

BOB

Oh. Has she indeed?

JUSTIN

Oh yes, it's quite true father. They sent a carriage to pick her up.

TINY TIM

Lucky Martha.

BOB

And she's to have Christmas dinner with the Queen, no doubt.

PETER

I wonder what they'll have.

BOB

Whatever they have it won't be near as good as the feast your mother has prepared for us, I am sure of that.

JUSTIN

That's true!

ABBY

Yummy!!