



Charles Dickens  
A Christmas Carol  
and Other Christmas Books

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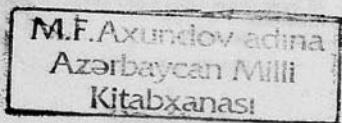
CHARLES DICKENS

*A Christmas Carol*  
*and Other Christmas Books*



*Edited with an Introduction and Notes by*  
ROBERT DOUGLAS-FAIRHURST

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## CHRISTMAS BOOKS

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'What was merry Christmas to Scrooge? Out upon merry Christmas! What good had it ever done to him?'

Ebenezer Scrooge is a bad-tempered skinflint who hates Christmas and all it stands for, but a ghostly visitor foretells three apparitions who will thaw Scrooge's frozen heart. *A Christmas Carol* has gripped the public imagination since it was first published in 1843, and it is now as much a part of Christmas as mistletoe or plum pudding. This edition reprints the story alongside Dickens's four other Christmas Books: *The Chimes*, *The Cricket on the Hearth*, *The Battle of Life*, and *The Haunted Man*. All five stories show Dickens at his unpredictable best, jumbling together comedy and melodrama, genial romance and urgent social satire, in pursuit of his aim 'to awaken some loving and forbearing thoughts, never out of season in a Christian land'.

**THIS EDITION INCLUDES**

**Introduction • Textual note • Bibliography  
Chronology • Explanatory notes • Appendices**

Edited with an Introduction and Notes by Robert Douglas-Fairhurst  
With original illustrations

Cover illustration: detail from the front cover of the music  
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