

MARLEY and ELEANOR

- 1 **MARLEY:** (*ENTERS UP CENTER and ducks behind a shelf. Moans each line.*) Eleanor Scrooge.
- ELEANOR:** What? Did I hear that?
- MARLEY:** Eleanor Scrooge.
- 5 **ELEANOR:** Yes, yes, I did hear that. Who is it?
- MARLEY:** Eleanor Scrooge.
- ELEANOR:** I'm Eleanor Scrooge. Now stop! Enough of that! If you're one of the workers who has come back here to punk me, then I'll force you to get back to work, and you won't have the night off
- 10 after all. This is not funny!
- MARLEY:** I am not a worker, Eleanor.
- ELEANOR:** Then who are you? Show yourself.
- MARLEY:** I'm a little shy.
- ELEANOR:** Oh. Are you a child who is lost? You can't find your mother?
- 15 Need directions to The Gap?
- MARLEY:** I'm right where I should be, Eleanor. I just don't know what I look like anymore. I don't wish to scare you. Time has passed since I've looked in a mirror.
- ELEANOR:** That's okay. I haven't looked in a mirror in years. Stop
- 20 playing games. Come out, come out, whoever you are.
- MARLEY:** (*Emerges from behind the shelf and drops the ghostly moan. He looks frightful.*) Well, can you see me? How do I look?
- ELEANOR:** (*Still faces front.*) Mr. Marley? Is that your voice?
- MARLEY:** (*At her shoulder.*) It's me. Turn towards me and tell me what
- 25 I look like. Just do me a favor. Be gentle. (*ELEANOR slowly turns toward MARLEY and looks at him for the first time. She jumps and elicits a breathy soft scream.*) Well?
- ELEANOR:** (*Lies.*) You are very handsome.
- MARLEY:** Ha! I knew it. I've always been a handsome fella, and I want
- 30 to remember me that way. How's business?
- ELEANOR:** Business is more profitable than ever, but I thought you were dead. I saw your coffin being covered with dirt.
- MARLEY:** There weren't a lot of people at the funeral, were there?
- ELEANOR:** Well, honestly, I was the only one besides the undertaker
- 35 and two men from mall management trying to collect your rent.
- MARLEY:** Persistent buggers, aren't they?
- ELEANOR:** Forget about that. Are you really Mr. Marley?
- MARLEY:** Don't you believe in me?
- ELEANOR:** No, I don't. I can't. You're not real. You don't exist.
- 40 **MARLEY:** So you doubt your senses?