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Charles Dickens (1812–70) was an established novelist when he decided to produce a Christmas story, which was written in only six weeks and published at the end of 1843. The book was an immediate bestseller, and had it not been for the very high production costs of the specially commissioned illustrations and the decorative binding, it would have been a great commercial success. This strategic error meant that Dickens did not make the profits he expected, which contributed to his falling out with the publishers, Chapman and Hall. The story, however, has endured to this day as a classic and remains Dickens' best-known and most adapted work. This reissue of the first edition, with its famous illustrations by *Punch* caricaturist John Leech (1817–64), is printed in black and white, but the four colour illustrations found in the original can be viewed at: <http://www.cambridge.org/9781108057141>

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-05714-1 - A Christmas Carol
Charles Dickens
Frontmatter
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A Christmas Carol

CHARLES DICKENS



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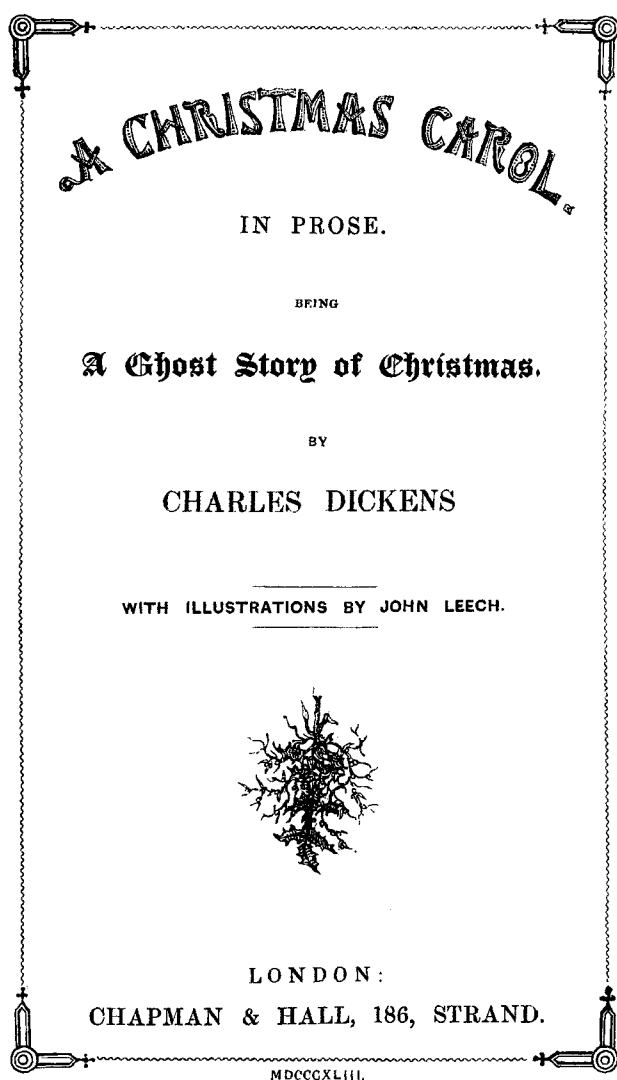
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Mr. Fezziwig's Ball.

London, Chapman & Hall, 1866, Strand.

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LONDON :
BRADBURY AND EVANS, PRINTERS, WHITEFRIARS.

PREFACE.



I HAVE endeavoured in this Ghostly little book, to raise the Ghost of an Idea, which shall not put my readers out of humour with themselves, with each other, with the season, or with me. May it haunt their houses pleasantly, and no one wish to lay it.

Their faithful Friend and Servant,

C. D.

December, 1843.

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