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Introduction

I credit Charles Dickens with the inspiration of this ghostly story, and I paraphrase him liberally and at times even mimic his old-style English writings. Dickens sought to entertain with an 1843 novella of the past, present and future with a tale of a stingy old man named Ebenezer Scrooge. I also seek to entertain, but my story is a broader account of the socio-economic background, realities and prospects of our 21st Century society, as seen through the life of a man named Edward Rouge. Rouge has some similarities with Scrooge, but his situation is far worse. Rouge is like you and me, caught in our stingy and self-centered lives without realizing it. And he and we are like our neighbors and our ancestors, all creating our own destinies. If you see yourself in the characters, then I may have succeeded in my intent to reach you.

The main historical events and the lives of famous people are factual and can be verified by searching on the Internet. The depiction of Capitalism as a dynamic, changing, evolving set of attitudes and norms is reality, as are the changes in American and world societies during the past three centuries. We seek to understand these realities. Our ghostly story foreshadows what may become of our children, our society, and our world. Regarding environmental concerns, it is an Earth Day Carol that reminds us that everyday should be about caring for our Earth. Regarding social issues, the story tells us that “Mankind is our business.” And regarding economic dealings, this is a story of how the dreams and promises of Capitalism can become nightmares of our own creation. Some would say that there is not a ghost of a chance for us

to escape our madness. Let the ghosts show us what we cannot see, or what we choose not to see.

Your faithful Friend and Servant,

Paul S. Anderson

With appreciation for the earlier writings of
Charles Dickens and I.M. Nehemiah

December 1843. *A Christmas Carol*, written by Charles Dickens.

April 2011. *An Earth Day Carol*, written by I. M. Nehemiah for Earth Day, more than one year before the days of that story in 2012.

August 2018. *A Capitalist Carol*, written by Paul S. Anderson for every day, with more attention to the issues of capitalism, democracy and the realities of our society.