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Jacob T. Marley

By R. William Bennett

AWARD WINNING AUTHOR READS BETWEEN THE LINES OF *A CHRISTMAS CAROL* – AND EXPLAINS WHY SCROOGE NEEDED THE LESSER KNOWN GHOST MOST OF ALL

It takes a lot of moxie write a book based on *A Christmas Carol*. Charles Dickens' classic has been re-read and re-told in many languages for many years. One cannot say the name 'Ebenezer' and not immediately know the surname. Scrooge is Scrooge and his tale of redemption is universally known.

But what of his mentor? Who taught him his parsimonious ways? Scrooge was not always Scrooge. While his childhood had been difficult, to become Victorian literature's most iconic miser, he needed a little help from...

Jacob T. Marley (Shadow Mountain). Marley's backstory is vividly revealed in the latest Christmas tale from award winning author R. William (Bill) Bennett. In ***Jacob T. Marley***, Bennett examines – in Dickensian detail – the prideful and ruthless taskmaster who taught Scrooge how to be Scrooge and then in a turn of character, saved him from the brink. Reminiscent of the insights *Wicked* provided about the Wicked Witch of the West in *The Wizard of Oz*, Bennett's new novel illuminates how the two men came to be who they were, what went on behind the scenes on Scrooge's fateful night, and just as importantly, what happened to both men after that.

"I count myself as one of Dickens' biggest fans," says Bennett. "I have always been intrigued by Marley's character in *A Christmas Carol*. We know from Dickens that Marley was almost as bad as Scrooge. We also know that in the afterlife, like all the other lost souls, he was forced to confront the error of his ways and be punished by his own unresolvable regret. But the unusual part of his story is that somehow, he was able to arrange the visit of three ghosts to hopefully scare Scrooge straight, and he got to appear and introduce that experience personally

to Scrooge. How come? What did he do that allowed him to intervene in Scrooge's behalf? And, what happened to him after that? This was the story that intrigued me and virtually begged to be told."

A fearless storyteller, Bennett explores in *Jacob T. Marley*:

- Why he was drawn to Scrooge's mentor more than any other character in *A Christmas Carol* and felt the urge to tell his story.
- How the partnership between two mean-spirited, miserly men should have led to eternal damnation – but didn't.
- How the seeds of deceit in both men are a risk for all of us today.
- Why he believes that Marley's lesson for us all is only '*when we lose ourselves for the good of another do we find our true selves*'

"I believe everyone gets a shot at redemption," says Bennett. "Dickens gave us peek into that process for Jacob Marley. I wanted to explore the rest of his story. "

R. William (Bill) Bennett is a former president of the corporate division of FranklinCovey, a leader in Management Consulting and Training. Bennett left the corporate life to write fulltime and was rewarded with *The Christmas Gift*, an award winning first novel released in 2010. *Jacob T. Marley* will be released in time for the holidays. To learn more, visit Bennett at www.rwilliambennett.com. *Jacob T. Marley* and *The Christmas Gift* may be found online where all fine books are sold.

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