



# A Quiltmas Carol

We all know the classic tale... this issue **Kim Smith Soper** retells the story with a patchwork twist, helping us to be a little more mindful when starting new projects!

**It was a frigid and foggy Quiltmas Eve. Scrooge, uninvested in the holiday, was busy making online fabric purchases when his phone rang. It was his quilty BFF Marlena's number, so of course, he picked up.**

"Scrooooooooooooooge, I am buried under piles of fabric. I can no longer move in my sewing room. Life is too short to hold on to projects you no longer love. You will be visited by three spirits tonight. They will teach you the importance of being more intentional with your creative practice. This is the true meaning of Quiltmas!"

"Bah humbug," Scrooge mumbled as he hung up the phone and hesitated just slightly, before adding more fabric to his cart. He clicked 'submit' on his order and headed to bed early, thinking to himself that the shrimp he'd eaten for dinner must be playing tricks on his mind.

As the clock struck one, Scrooge was awakened to find a spirit, just as Marlena had promised, floating next to his bed. The spirit's figure looked like many of the projects that Scrooge had started but never finished. Projects from years ago, his childhood, and the recent past, all flickered before Scrooge's eyes at once.

the hand. Together they flew over every fabric shop, quilting workshop and unfinished project that Scrooge had ever encountered.

"Oh, yes! There was the time I was going to make a 100-block quilt! Scrooge marveled.

"That was the me-made garment I began all that time ago!" Scrooge

looked back fondly on how excited he had been to begin each and every one of these projects, the grand plans he had for them all.

"Scrooge, you are the quilter that you are today because of these projects. But if you no longer want to finish them, you must acknowledge the valuable lessons that they taught you, and let them go."

With that, the spirit was gone and Scrooge found himself back in bed. Immediately, the clock struck two.

*"Scrooge, you are the quilter that you are today because of these projects. But if you no longer wish to finish them, you must acknowledge the valuable lessons they taught you, and let them go"*

"I am the Ghost of Projects Past," the spirit whispered, "Come with me". And with that, the spirit grabbed Scrooge by

"I am the Ghost of Projects Present," a new spirit announced. The spirit was larger than life, and was surrounded by

Think back to all of the projects you've started over the years: are there any that you gave up on? Why not revisit or gift the fabric?



mountains of delicious fabric. The spirit snapped his fingers, and Scrooge was suddenly peeking inside the window of his own home. He watched himself experience the thrill of serially starting projects. It felt so good to start something new! But then, Scrooge felt overcome with sadness. He began to notice all of the hidden unfinished projects, and saw the accumulations of fabric that he'd purchased for these projects but was never going to use.

Back in his bed, the clock struck three. A shadowy figure suddenly appeared beside Scrooge.

"You are the Ghost of Projects Yet to Come?"

Scrooge inquired. The shadow nodded.

For the last time, Scrooge was whisked away. He again found himself looking into the window of his own

home, but this time, all he could see was fabric. There was no sign of life, no joy or creativity.

Just an ominous feeling of overwhelm, abandonment and delayed decisions.

"Spirit," Scrooge asked. "Are you trying to show me that I will lose my creative spark if I don't get control of my project-starting habit? Because I really don't want to lose my creative spark! I want to create – with intention!"

Suddenly Scrooge awoke in his bed. Terrified that he missed Quiltmas, he threw open the shutters and shouted to a passerby, "What day is it?!"

"Why, it's Quiltmas, of course!"

"Oh how wonderful!" Scrooge exclaimed as he ran to his sewing room. He began throwing fabric out of the window to all the quilters passing by, shouting "Merry Quiltmas!", at the top of his lungs. He promised to be more intentional about project selection, and vowed to share his fabric abundance with eager guilds, charities and new quilters.

Scrooge was a changed, more mindful quilter from that fateful night onwards, and will forevermore carry the creative spirit of Quiltmas in his heart.

We can all see ourselves in Scrooge sometimes. But it's never too late to become more intentional with your project selection!

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