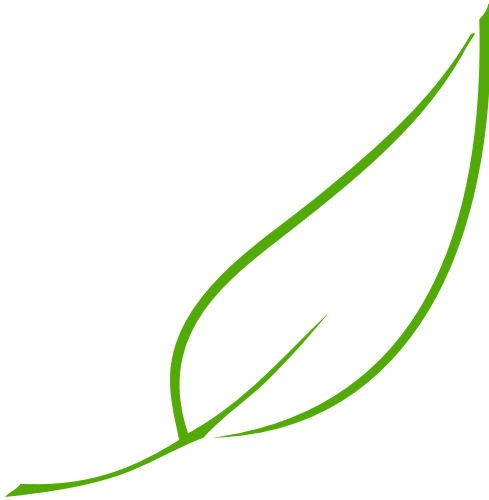


THE PHANTOM ELECTRON MIXMASTER PHONE

by Robert L. Crowe



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Cast: 2 (any combination)

(at open, Chris is standing behind a counter at The Electric House, a business that specializes in electronic retail)

CHRIS: *(reaches under the counter and sets an imaginary item on top)* Ahh. It's the Phantom Electron Mixmaster Phone. Lovely. Simply lovely.

RONNIE: *(enters)* Excuse me. Can you help me?

CHRIS: Well, I'm not sure. What type of help do you want? Are you having a medical emergency?

RONNIE: *(looks at Chris strangely)* No. *(pause)* I want to buy something.

CHRIS: Oh, then I can probably help you. That's one thing about our business here at The Electric House ... we are helpful. "Plugged-in to the community" you might say.

RONNIE: Look, I'm in a hurry. I have to get to school and I'm going to be late ... again. I'd like to buy that new thing you advertised ... the Phantom Electron Mixmaster Phone. I saw a picture in your ad. Isn't that it? *(points)* Could you tell me how it works?

CHRIS: *(picks up item and shows it to Ronnie)* It is designed for the young people of today. It completes all the important functions that you need.

RONNIE: How do you turn it on?

CHRIS: You don't need to turn it on. The battery is charged by the kinetic energy in your body. Just holding it in your hand supplies the power.

RONNIE: Wow. That's great!

CHRIS: No. Here is the great part. You press the "mode" button 3 times and the screen turns green. *(he does)* See? Then you press the green button on the top ... there is also a green button on the side, but that squirts mouth wash so you can get

away without brushing your teeth, like if you're in a hurry to get to school ... Anyway, press the green button on

top and it activates the x-ray function. Now, you lay the Electron on top of a book. The machine x-rays the book and prints out a book report.

RONNIE: I really need one of those. What is this button for?

CHRIS: Don't press that! You could hurt both of us. That is the whisk-auger.

RONNIE: Ohhh.

CHRIS: You put two scoops of ice cream in a tall glass and add some milk. Push this button and the whisk-auger appears and stirs the mix. Wallah! A milkshake.

RONNIE: Oh, yeah, that's real handy. I heard it has a great music feature. Where are the speakers?

CHRIS: It doesn't have any. Phantom Electron uses wireless short wave that jumps from the unit directly to your ear. The really neat thing about it is that when some news program comes on, like CNN world events, there is music so loud that it drowns out the information. That way you're not burdened with what's going on around you.

RONNIE: Sounds terrific. I'll take it.

CHRIS: Did you know we opened at six AM today to introduce the item?

RONNIE: Yes, but I was busy and couldn't get here.

CHRIS: You? Busy at 6 AM?

RONNIE: Yeh, I was sleeping. Look. I'm in a hurry. Can I buy the Electron Phone from you?

(the next few lines are a rapid exchange)

CHRIS: No.

RONNIE: No?

CHRIS: We're sold out.

RONNIE: That one is not for sale?

CHRIS: No.

RONNIE: Why not?

CHRIS: That's mine.

RONNIE: Hold it. You need to sell that to me. I'm a customer and the customer always comes first.

CHRIS: Where did you get a silly idea like that? Have you been listening to our commercials? Sorry. It's the last one and it's mine.

RONNIE: You said it is a product for young people. You're not young. You look like you're from ... the Middle Ages.

CHRIS: You know, I think I am getting towards middle age. I'm starting to see Scrooge's point of view.

RONNIE: (*forceful*) I NEED that Phantom Electron!

CHRIS: Humbug. See, I'm going to keep this one for myself. It will not only be good for me, it will be good for you. Why don't you save your money? Instead of feeding your self-gratification, do something for someone else. Give the money to charity.

RONNIE: I'm not giving the money to charity. Because I know what they'd do with it.

CHRIS: What's that?

RONNIE: They'd come down here and buy The Phantom Electron Mixmaster Phone.

CHRIS: This unit is much too sophisticated for you. It has features that you will never use. For example, I'm going to have this teach me how to play the piano.

RONNIE: It can teach you how to play the piano?

CHRIS: Press the "mode" button 7 times, then press the black and white keys. You see ... it used to be that when I sat down at the piano to play, my friends made fun of me.

RONNIE: So, you got the Phantom Electron?

CHRIS: No, I got new friends. But I'm getting tired of the turnover, so I've decided to learn how to play the piano. And the Electron is my tutor. Oh, it will also teach you how to play the trumpet. It's your toot-er. Get it? Tooter?

RONNIE: (*stares at Chris*) (*pause*) Is this the only department that has these for sale?

CHRIS: We're the only store in town and this is the only department. If we had any for sale, this would be the place.

RONNIE: (*looks around*) Where's the manager? I want to talk to the manager.



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