

BOOK TITLE: *Phantom of the Opera*

AUTHOR: Gaston Leroux

POINT OF VIEW: Varies

SETTING:

Time: Not specified but probably early 1900s

Place: Paris, specifically the Opera House and the catacombs beneath it

Mood: Dark and somber, forbidding with overtones of impending doom

Plot Stage 3

Climax: During another performance, Erik kidnaps Christine again and gives her an ultimatum: marry him or he will blow up the entire opera house. Christine refuses, but then she finds out that Erik has kidnapped Raoul as well as the Persian. In order to save them, as well as the occupants of the opera house, Christine agrees to marry Erik. Erik releases the Persian but locks Raoul up in the most remote dungeon, where he will die. Christine pleads for Raoul's life. Erik kisses Christine on the forehead and she does not shrink back.

Plot Stage 2

Conflict, Rising Action: The **Conflict** is introduced when Erik declares that Christine must love only him. **Will Christine and Raoul ever be free to marry?** The **Rising Action** begins when Erik, who has been giving Christine voice lessons as "the Angel of Music," wreaks havoc on the Opera to promote Christine, then kidnaps her. When Christine unmasks him out of curiosity, his ugliness shocks her. Erik decides to keep Christine prisoner for the rest of her life, but then he allows her to leave after she promises to wear his ring and remain faithful to him. Christine later tells Raoul that she was kidnapped by the Phantom; Raoul promises to run away with her, both unaware that Erik has been listening to their conversation

Plot Stage 1

Exposition: There are rumors that the opera house is haunted by a masked phantom who makes himself known by sending letters to the managers and by causing disturbances. On the retirement gala for the old opera managers, opera singer Christine attracts the attention of her childhood sweetheart, Raoul. The Phantom, Erik, becomes jealous.

CHARACTERS:

Protagonist: Christine Daae, an Opera singer

Antagonist: Erik, The Phantom of the Opera/"Angel of Music"

Others:

Raoul, Christine's true love;
Philippe, Count de Chagny (Raoul's older brother);
Madame Giry, the usher for Erik's box seats;
Meg Giry, her daughter;
Debienne and Poligny, the outgoing managers of the Opera;
Armand Moncharmin and Firmin Richard, the new managers;
The Persian, a past acquaintance of Erik;
Carlotta, the company's self-obsessed prima donna
Joseph Buquet, a stagehand
La Sorelli, the Opera's star dancer



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Plot Stage 4

Denouement: They cry together. This touches Erik and he tells Christine she can marry Raoul.

Plot Stage 5

Conclusion: The Phantom dies from love. Christine and Raoul are finally married.

THEMES

Alienation
Fear of Rejection
The "Mask" of the True Self
Problems with Social Classes

CONFLICT

Man vs. Man

Will Christine and Raoul ever be free to marry?