

# The Phantom of the Opera, by Gaston Leroux

## Book Review

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Objective: Reading motivation



Garnier Palace, Paris Opera House

A phantom “lives” underground, beneath the Opera House in Paris (why would a ghost hide? Would he fear humans?) Madly in love with Christine Daaé, a singer and actress who worked in the Opera House, the Phantom will do everything so that she will return his love. The very ghost’s life depends on this, as do the lives of Raul Chagny, Christine’s true love, and the existence of the opera itself, which can be reduced to powder, its greatest spectacle, as the ghost’s final act of madness and revenge.

The phantom will try to get rid of whoever stands in his way, preventing him from going ahead with his fiendish plans. Obsessed by this love, he will spare no efforts so that Christine will be his bride. Then The Persian comes onto the stage. He is an old friend of the phantom’s, to whom the ghost owes his own “life”. Now The Persian is for him both a friend from the past and a rival, someone who may be able to save everybody or lead the phantom to sheer madness and unprecedented destruction, all in the name of love, always ill-fated love and its tragedies.

To save everybody’s lives, must Christine Daaé give up on Chagny, her true love, and give in to the phantom’s demands, becoming his eternal bride?

Unravel this exciting mystery by reading “The Phantom of the Opera”, written by the great French writer Gaston Leroux.

For more information, go to

<http://www.penguin.com/static/pages/classics>

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