

The Phantom of the Opera

The characters

Erik

Erik, otherwise known as the Phantom, is the tragic titular character of the novel. He is physically deformed and may be interpreted either as a tragic hero or a tragic villain. Erik falls in love with Christine but expresses his feelings in harmful and at times disastrous manners, such as sabotaging performances and taking Raoul captive. He is childish and gives the impression that he is usually one to have things his way.

Christine Daaé

Christine is the main female protagonist of the novel. Christine is originally from Sweden. Her mother died while she was young; her father, with whom she had a very close relationship, died a few years later, but he passed down his passion for music to Christine and told her tales of an angel of music. Erik manipulates Christine into thinking he is the angel of music, and is thus able to gain her trust. Christine is the love interest of both Erik and Raoul, and Erik's jealousy over her love for Raoul is a major source of conflict throughout the novel.

Raoul de Chagny

Raoul is the Viscount of Chagny and Christine's childhood friend. When they meet years later, after Raoul watches Christine's performance at the Opera, they fall in love, get engaged, and make plans to elope. However, Erik, who also loves Christine, grows jealous of Raoul; conflict arises as the two men compete for her, despite Erik's feelings being unrequited. He is rash, impatient, and often speaks his mind without considering the relationships that he has built with the people around him, particularly in regard to his brother Philippe and his lover Christine.

Philippe de Chagny

Philippe is Raoul's older brother. As both of their parents have died, Philippe is owner of the family estate and wealth, and takes care of Raoul. He opposes Raoul and Christine's relationship and marriage, causing them to keep their engagement secret.

Madame Girya (Mme. Girya)

Madame Girya is the box keeper of the Opera. She is loyal to Erik and even displays fondness for him, as he leaves her gifts and promises to help her daughter succeed if Madame Girya obeys him. At one point, the managers of the Opera fire her, but she regains her position after Erik intervenes.

Meg Girya

Meg is Madame Girya's daughter. She is Christine's friend, but she also helps her mother in doing Erik's bidding. She is described as being relatively self-centered, with black eyes and hair, and a very thin body.

The Persian

The Persian is a figure from Erik's tragic past that provides information about him. He helps Raoul recover Christine from Erik, but is only somewhat successful (Erik gives up Christine on his own accord). Eventually the Persian was relieved of his duties for helping Erik, but nonetheless he continued to receive a pension after having moved to Paris to keep an eye on Erik. He is skeptical of Erik's promise to do no more harm and so resolves to help Raoul find Christine before Erik does anything else. At the end, Erik, in a very weakened state, comes to him and tells him that he has reunited Raoul and Christine, and wishes to give him some of his most important possessions after he dies.

Carlotta

Carlotta is the spoiled and vain Spanish prima donna whose performance is sabotaged by Erik. At Erik's demand, Christine replaces her.

M. Armand Moncharmin and M. Firmin Richard

The new managers of the Opera House. When their predecessors attempt to explain the conditions laid down by Erik (that he receive a monthly payment of 20,000 francs and that Box Five be reserved for him), they wave it off as a joke. They do not take these warnings seriously: instead, they decide to sit in Box Five themselves one night and replace Mme. Girv with Richard's concierge as the box keeper of Box Five. As a result, Erik uses the hollow walls (unbeknownst to them) of Box Five to scare them by projecting his voice; he drops the chandelier onto the crowd, killing Richard's concierge. He also makes Carlotta croak like a toad while performing, embarrassing, horrifying, and scaring both Moncharmin and Richard. They eventually make their payments and acquiesce to Erik's demands, albeit very skeptically.

M. Debieenne and M. Poligny

The old managers of the Opera House. On the final night of their tenure they are thrown an extravagant farewell ceremony, in which all the Parisian social and artistic elites are present. Shortly before they leave, they warn Moncharmin and Richard, their successors, to follow Erik's conditions.

La Sorelli

The lead ballet dancer.