

MACMILLAN READERS

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**BEGINNER LEVEL**

GASTON LEROUX

# The Phantom of the Opera

Translated from the French  
and retold by Stephen Colbourn

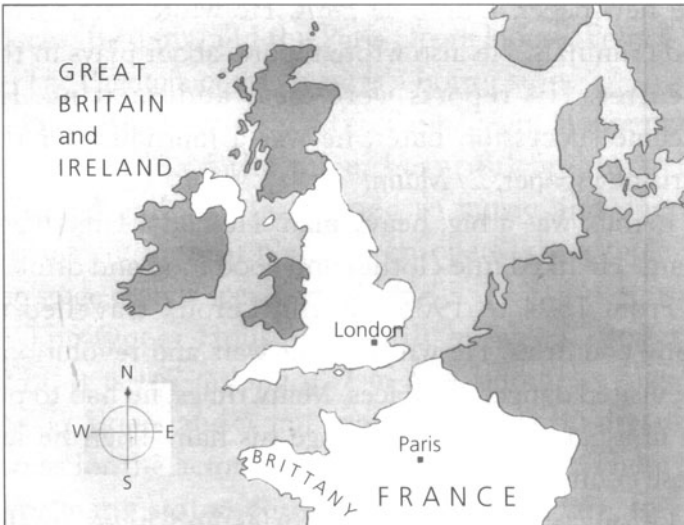


**MACMILLAN**

# Contents

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|                                   |    |
|-----------------------------------|----|
| <i>A Note About the Author</i>    | 4  |
| <i>A Note About This Story</i>    | 5  |
| <i>The People in This Story</i>   | 8  |
| 1 The Angel of Music              | 9  |
| 2 A Party at the Opera House      | 13 |
| 3 Raoul Goes to the Opera         | 18 |
| 4 Box Number 5                    | 24 |
| 5 The Mirror in the Dressing-room | 30 |
| 6 The Masked Ball                 | 34 |
| 7 The Persian's Story             | 39 |
| 8 Christine Disappears!           | 42 |
| 9 Under the Opera House           | 46 |
| 10 The Lake and the Tree          | 50 |
| 11 The Phantom of the Opera       | 58 |



## The Angel of Music

The place was the coast of Brittany, in northern France. The time was a summer evening in 1880. Two people were sitting by the sea. They were sitting on a sandy beach, near an old church. They were a young girl and an old man. The girl was singing and the old man was playing a violin.

The young girl's name was Christine. The old man was her father. Christine and her father were travelling musicians. They travelled through all the countries of Europe. Sometimes, they performed music in hotels. Sometimes, they performed in the streets. Christine had a beautiful voice. In every country, people loved Christine's voice.

On that evening in 1880, Christine was looking at the sea. She was singing a sad song. It was a song about the sea, and about love. A man and a young boy were walking on the beach. They stopped near Christine and her father. They listened to the music.

The boy's name was Raoul. He was eleven years old. The man was Raoul's brother, Philippe. Philippe was much older than Raoul. He was thirty-one.

The two brothers stood near Christine and her father. Christine sang and her father played his violin. Raoul and Philippe listened to the music.

Christine was wearing a long blue scarf. Suddenly,

the wind blew the scarf from Christine's neck. The wind blew the scarf into the sea.

'I'll get your scarf,' said the young boy. 'Stay there. I'll bring it to you.'

'No, Raoul, No!' said Philippe. 'Don't go into the sea.'

But Raoul did not listen to his brother. He ran into the sea. He took the blue scarf from the water. He ran back to the beach and he gave the scarf to the young girl.

'Thank you,' said Christine. 'Thank you. I will always remember you.'

Raoul's clothes were wet. And Raoul's brother was angry.

'We must go home immediately,' Philippe said. 'You must put on some dry clothes.'

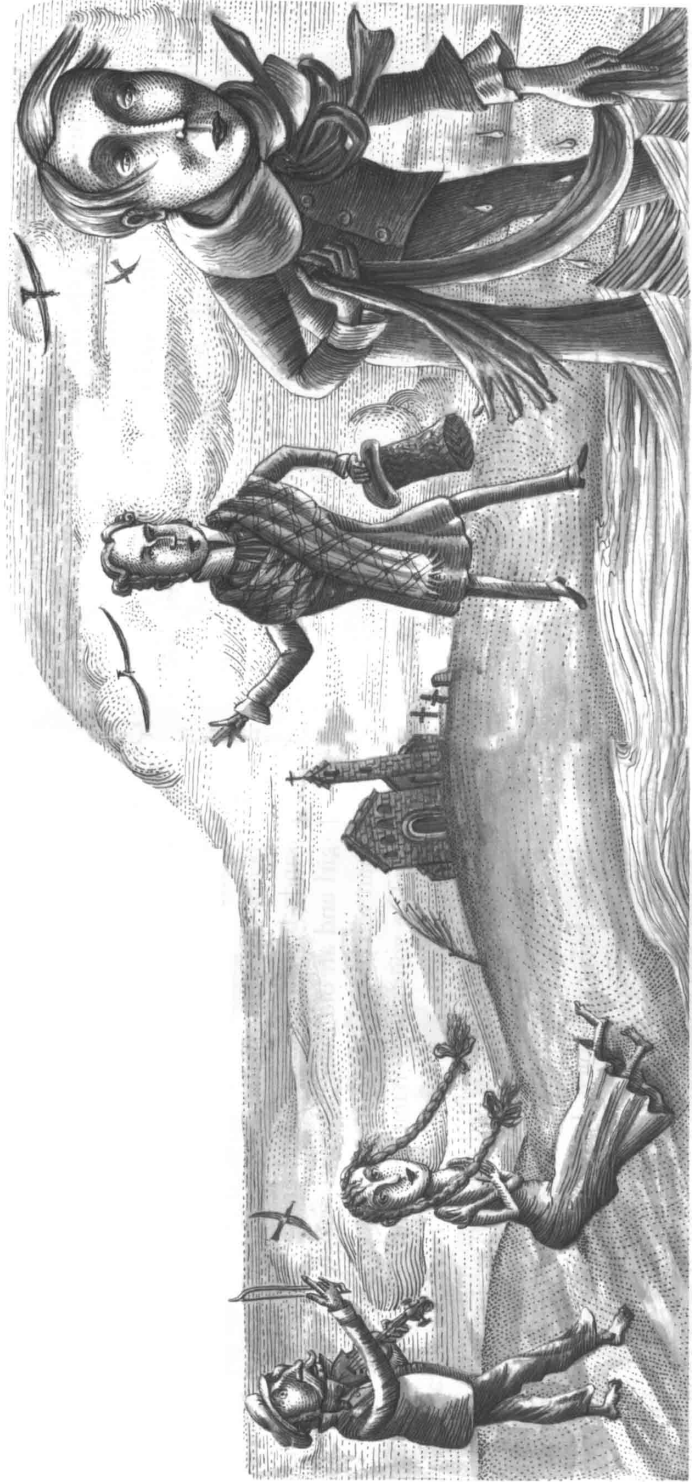
But Raoul did not want to go home. He wanted to talk to the young girl.

'Will you sing a song for me?' Raoul asked Christine.

'Yes,' said Christine. 'Yes, I will sing for you.'

Again, the old man played the violin and Christine sang. She sang a sad and beautiful song. It was a song about love and about the stars.

'You have a beautiful voice,' said Raoul. 'You sing very well.'



'My father teaches me very well,' said Christine.

'No, Christine,' said the old man. 'I am not a good teacher. You will have a better teacher soon.'

'Don't say that, father,' said Christine. 'You are a wonderful teacher.'

The old man spoke to Philippe and Raoul.

'Christine will have a better teacher,' he said. 'I will die soon. Then I will send a wonderful teacher to my daughter. I will send the Angel of Music to her.'

'Don't say that, please, father,' Christine said again.

But the old man said, 'Yes, Christine, I will die soon. I will send the Angel of Music to you.'

Suddenly, everybody heard a very beautiful sound. It was the sound of another violin. The sound came from the old church, near the beach.

Christine turned her head. Her eyes were shining. There were tears in her eyes.

'Oh,' she said. 'That is beautiful! Is that the Angel of Music?'