



The Complete Phantom of the Opera

George C. Perry, Clive Barda (Photographer), Jane Rice, Andrew Lloyd Webber (Creator)

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This is the lavishly illustrated, definitive account of *The Phantom of the Opera*, tracing the Phantom legend from its origins in historical fact through Gaston Leroux's heartrending classic novel and other artistic incarnations to the present day and Andrew Lloyd Webber's incredibly successful musical.

The Complete Phantom of the Opera Details

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Download and Read Free Online The Complete Phantom of the Opera George C. Perry , Clive Barda (Photographer) , Jane Rice , Andrew Lloyd Webber (Creator)

From Reader Review The Complete Phantom of the Opera for online ebook

The Sleepy Wonderland says

Our villain who was abused and used as a freak show attraction in a gypsy circus, finds it easy to inflict pain on others. I had never read the book (before now), I had only seen the movies so I never really thought about Erik as a hideous beast. I thought of him more as a poor soul who was disfigured and deformed, a man with a poor lot in life. After reading the story, I found that he was much more intelligent and skilled, and his story was much more sorrowful. I want him to have a happy ending, but he is so broke. It is much too easy for him to choose the easiest/darkest choices (torture or killing) to obtain his goals.

I think that anyone who has seen the play or watch the movies might have a hard time connecting to this version (the original) of Erik. I know I did. I want to like him and have him win in the end of the movies/plays. Not here. Here I feel he still deserves love, but he needs someone who doesn't care if they might get a little abused or come home and find a dead body. You know the average girl. Yeah right.

??? says

In Chinese, we name it <<????>>. But it completely subverts the impressions of Phantom we've gotten from western culture. He is charming, warm, creative and genius, but he is a tragic human being, he can't be accepted by the others, living like a ghost, but he still can't break away from the opera he loves in life, he deeply loved Christina. The world is unfair to him. In fact, if I'm the Christina I will love him, even he is poor, even we can't go out a while just for a walk. But the ending is so real and tragic, That's the world often going to be...

Cecily Erker says

It was nice to read about this ubiquitous musical that I am kind of ambivalent towards. I liked reading about when it was fresh and new and had the joy of invention and collaboration with talented people who were making it for the first time. The historical backstory of the Paris Opera House and Gaston Leroux's novel were edifying, and the inclusion of the original libretto was especially generous. Definitely enjoyed looking at the pictures of the show before it became this giant bloated repetitive megathread in pop culture. Kind of makes me wish it wasn't as successful as it turned out to be.

Annette says

Exquisito, sentí en su narración una mezcla del jinete sin cabeza cruzado con la bella y la bestia y hasta Scooby Doo en la parte del fantasma al órgano. Me encantó la narrativa, la forma de explicar los eventos y de describir las escenas.

Definitivo que el amor todo lo puede.. Más que recomendado!

Donald says

A very nice, compact look at the origins of the novel and its subsequent forays into film and musicals, with focus on the Andrew Lloyd Weber version. This edition came out in 1988, just after Weber's "Phantom" hit theaters, so there isn't anything about any other versions after that or much about the continuing impact of that show or its success, which would have been nice. But, a nice easy read with lots of photos; the photos of the ALW cast, costumes, set, decorations, and so forth (especially the Phantom make-up!) are very nice.

Kara says

More of a 4.5 rating. This book offers a glimpse into the past of the Phantom. Mainly delving into the origins of the Paris Opera House and the mad genius of its architect Charles Garnier, the interesting life of the Phantom's maker, Gaston Leroux, and how the compelling story went from book to silver screen and to the theatre where it reigns to this day.

I loved learning all of the little details about the most singular Opera House. Indeed, it doesn't hold the biggest auditorium and has limited seating, but it is the largest in the world. What a grand setting! How could Leroux go there and not create such a fantastic story. They shouldn't have replaced the ceiling covers though, the 'new' one looks out of place here.

I find Gaston Leroux a fascinating man in his own write. Not so much his career as a writer, since most start out as journalists. But more so for the little tidbits about him. Like the fact that he was born in an undertaker's business complete with his own dramatic quote about his birth: "There, where I sought a cradle, I found a coffin."

Some of the pictures were lovely. It was wonderful to see the makeup transformation up close and the sketches of the clothes and costumes and wigs. I would totally kill to have one of Maria Bjornson's models of the set. I could probably make one but damn they're beautiful!

It was also nice to find out more about the people who helped create the show behind the scenes. I was really surprised that so many people came from the opera, but I guess that should have been obvious. "Phantom of the ...oh, what was it?"

I really liked that the libretto was included. The differences between the stage version and recent movie version might confuse some other people, but I enjoyed reading it and looking for the differences. It was much easier to read this one than to stare at the one provided with the original cast recording. It's always fun to be able to read the correct lyrics or just to see what all of the characters have to say during the really big numbers. In the 2004 movie, some parts get drowned out.

Overall, a very enjoyable book and worthy of a phan's collection.

Andrea Zuvich says

I've been in love with Phantom of the Opera since I was three years old and this book is a must-have for people who love the Gaston Leroux book and the Andrew Lloyd Webber musical. Full of information and beautiful photographs, it's a gem!

Sarah says

This book is one of my favorites. It's an epic, haunting classic that is a must read.

Kristina says

This is my 500th read book on goodreads and HOW perfect is that! I love Phantom of the Opera, so it was really fascinating to see photos from the original 1986 production with Michael Crawford and Sarah Brightman. I've never seen those images before! I enjoyed reading about the musical's origins, the decisions Webber made to omit certain characters of the novel to centralize the main three (Christine, Phantom and Raoul), and the closeups on the costume designs and sketches.

It was a nice companion book to the musical illustrating many behind the scenes elements. Now maybe I'll listen to the music...

Lorryn Woodward says

This was really cool. There is so much about the Opera House, the many many different Phantom adaptations, Gaston, and of course the Weber version. Plus the pictures are amazing.

C.J. Edmunds says

Phantom was always memorable for me as it began my re-discovery of musical theatre.

All I knew then of musicals were the old Rodgers and Hammerstein movie versions that we all used to watch when we were growing up. But when I saw the video of All I Ask of You with the divine Sarah Brightman and Cliff Richard back in 1986 and learned that it was from a stage musical, my curiosity got piqued.

I have never seen any footage from that musical after seeing the video but the melody stuck with me then. And when my cousin from Canada gave her friend a copy of the cast recording on tape and a photocopy of the libretto, I was ushered into a new world.

I didn't know that cast recordings embodied so much heart and passion of a show even if you haven't seen it live. Since then I have always imagined how the scenes would be on stage, collecting articles and scouring for anything on the show and on Lloyd Webber that I can get my hands on; from a betamax copy of the BBC

Documentary, to cast recordings of his past shows like Evita, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, Cats (which I still feel should be seen than listened to), and others.

This Phantasmagorical experience led me to appreciate his future shows (Aspects of Love, Sunset Boulevard), to other composers like Schonberg and Boublil of Les Miserables and Miss Saigon and later to an American composer who would influence me greatly and who goes by the name of Stephen Sondheim. :)

Joel Manuel says

A good overview of depictions of the Phantom story on the page, the screen, and the stage; published in connection with the hit musical.

Isaac Baldwin says

THE PHAAAAAAAAAAAAAANTOM OF THE OPERAAAAAAAAAAA IS
HEREEEEEEEEEE

INSIDE YOUUUUUUUUUUUUUR MIIIIIIIND

Ali Mandala says

So much darker than I had expected. Before reading the book I had seen the show on broadway and I think I expected something similar. However, the basic plot is really the only thing the two have in common. The book is much darker with more back story and explanation. Although it was so different, I enjoyed it immensely and loved the twists and turns as well as the high drama. I also really enjoyed the narrator and his outsiders perspective.

Chandra Boulden says

Excellent collection of stories that comprise the whole story of the Phantom of the Opera. Loved the history and all learning all the little tidbits. An excellent compliment to watching the Opera in person.
