

Before You Read

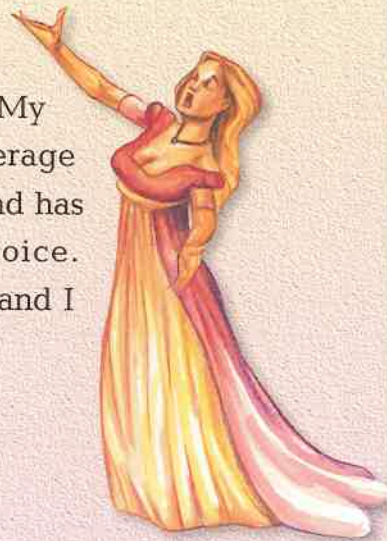


Erik (the Ghost)

I was born with a very ugly face. No one can look at me with love, not even my own mother. Even though my face is very ugly, I have a beautiful voice and I am very smart. I built the Opera House, with its many secret doors and passageways. Most people at the Opera House think I am a ghost.

Christine

I am a singer at the Opera House. My voice was not great, so I was an average singer. One night, Erik came to me and has helped me to improve my own voice. However, Erik wants me to love him, and I cannot. I love another man.



Raoul

I am a young man who is about to join the French Navy. When I was young, I was in love with Christine. However, I lost contact with her. One night in Paris, I saw her again as she sang at the Opera House. During this story I find out what happened to her and that she really does still love me!



The Persian

I used to be a policeman in Persia. I have known Erik for a long time. I feel sorry for him, but I know he can be very dangerous. So I live in Paris and keep an eye on Erik.



The Opera Ghost¹

Sorelli, one of the most important dancers at the Opera, sat in her dressing room². She was getting ready for³ the gala⁴ performance⁵ for the two retiring⁶ managers⁷ of the Opera. She was enjoying the peace and quiet, but was suddenly interrupted⁸ when a group of young girls came running into her room. The girls were talking excitedly⁹.

1. ghost [gəʊst] (n.)

鬼魂；幽靈

2. dressing room

化妝室；更衣室

3. get ready for 準備好……

4. gala [ˈɡeɪlə] (n.)

慶祝；盛典

5. performance [pəˈfɔːməns]

(n.) 演出；表演

6. retiring [rɪˈtaɪərɪŋ]

(a.) 退休的

7. manager [ˈmænɪdʒə(r)]

(n.) 經理

8. interrupt [ˌɪntəˈrʌpt]

(v.) 打斷；阻礙

9. excitedly [ɪkˈsaɪtɪd]

(adv.) 興奮地；激動地

10. superstitious [ˌsuːpərˈstɪʃəs]

(a.) 迷信的

“The Ghost! We’ve seen him!” one of them cried out. “We’ve seen the ghost!”

Sorelli was very superstitious¹⁰.

She was easily frightened¹¹ by stories of the ghost, but she tried to be brave.

“That’s ridiculous¹²!” she told the girls. “You are just being foolish.”

“No, no! It’s true. We really all saw him,” the girls cried out. The chorus¹³ girls all claimed¹⁴ to have seen him. In fact¹⁵, whenever anything unfortunate¹⁶ happened in the building, the girls always said, “It was the ghost!”



11. frightened [ˈfrɑːntɪd]

(a.) 驚恐的

12. ridiculous [rɪˈdɪkjələs]

(a.) 荒謬的；可笑的

13. chorus [ˈkɔːrəs] (n.) 合唱團

14. claim [kleɪm] (v.)

聲稱；斷言

15. in fact 實際上；的確

16. unfortunate [ʌnˈfɔːrtʃənət]

(a.) 不幸的

中 譯



p. 12-13 艾瑞克 (魅影)

我生來便長得一副嚇人的臉孔，沒有人會愛上我的外表，包括我母親在內。雖然我的外表醜陋，老天卻賦予我美好的嗓音與極高的智慧。我建造了歌劇院，裡面有無數的暗門與秘密通道，歌劇院裡的人大都還以為我是幽靈。

克莉絲汀

我是歌劇院裡的歌手，我的聲音並不完美，因此在劇院裡我只是一名普通的歌手。某天夜裡，艾瑞克來到我面前，調教我唱歌。他希望我能愛他，但是我做不到，我心另有所屬。

勞爾

我是個即將加入法國皇家海軍的青年，我在年輕時愛上了克莉絲汀，但是後來我卻與她失去聯繫。某一天夜晚，我在巴黎見到她在歌劇院裡演唱，在這次的邂逅中，我得知了她的遭遇，也明白她還是深愛著我的！

波斯人

過去我曾經是波斯的警察。我認識艾瑞克已經很長一段時間了，我對他的遭遇深感同情，但是我知道有時候他是個危險分子，因此我定居巴黎，隨時監視他的一舉一動。

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[第1章] 劇院魅影

莎薔莉，歌劇院裡舉足輕重的舞者，坐在她的化妝室裡，正打點好一切，準備為即將退休的兩位劇院經理獻上一場表演盛宴。就在她放鬆平靜的這一刻，卻被突然闖進她房裡的一群年輕女孩給打斷了，這些女孩們正興致勃勃地討論著。

「是幽靈！我們看到他了！」其中一人高喊道，「我們見到劇院魅影了！」

莎薔莉非常迷信，就連說個小小的鬼故事都能把她嚇得半死，但她還是壯了壯膽子。「別胡扯了！」她對女孩們說道，「真是一派胡言。」

「不，才不是呢！是真的，我們大家的確都看見了。」女孩子們連忙喊道。

這些歌舞女郎全都聲稱見過魅影。實際上，只要這棟建築物裡發生任何一點不好的事，這些女孩都會說：「一定是魅影做的！」

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一段時間之後，許多人不再相信這些女孩所說的話，直當是她們自己在那裡胡思亂想。但這一切在喬瑟夫·布克，這位布景人員開口後就改變了，他說：「我曾經在走廊上見過最恐怖的東西，那是個穿著大禮服的身影。一開始我以為他只是觀眾，但當我靠近，仔細一看，卻發現這個人竟然沒有臉——一個骷髏頭！他皮膚蠟黃，眼睛是兩個黑洞，整個身影瘦得嚇人。」喬瑟夫是個老實人，所以沒人懷疑他說的話。

沒多久，歌劇院裡的每個人都遇到一些奇奇怪怪的事。一位火伙派平說：「昨天早上我去地窖，我一走到那兒就遇到生平見過最可怕的東西，我看到一個冒著火的人頭朝我飛過來！它的確就在那裡，我到現在還記得一清二楚，那是個冒著火的人頭，頭的下面完全沒有身體！」