

Phantom of the Opera



Raoul confronts the dread spectre.

SYNOPSIS OF PRECEDING CHAPTERS: The Paris Opera House is supposed to be haunted. The managers receive letters signed "The Opera Ghost" making outrageous demands, but believe it is only a practical joke. Christine Daae, a young singer, tells her lover she has been taught to sing by the "Angel of Music" whom she never has seen, but whose voice she hears in the dressing-room. Raoul accompanies her to the country to visit her father's grave and at midnight an apparition appears and plays on a violin. Raoul tries to capture him, but he vanishes.

CHAPTER THREE

ON Saturday morning the managers of the opera, when they reached their office, found another letter in red ink, signed O. G. which read as follows:
My Dear Managers:
So it is to be war between us?
If you desire peace you must obey these conditions:
1. You must give me back my private box.
2. The part of Marguerite in "Faust" tonight shall be sung by Christine Daae. Never mind about Carlotta. She will be ill.
If you refuse, you will give "Faust" tonight in a house with a curse on it! Take my advice and be warned in time!
—O. G.

At about the same time Carlotta, reading her mail in bed, found a letter addressed in red ink, which ran:

"If you appear tonight, you must be prepared for a great misfortune—misfortune worse than death."
The letter took away her appetite. She assumed it had come from Christine's friends, and she determined that nothing should stop her from singing that night. Later in the day, M. Richard's private secretary called to inquire after her health. She assured him that, were she dying, she would sing that night. It was five o'clock when another letter arrived, in the same hand as the first:

"You have a bad cold. If you are wise, you will see that it is madness to try to sing tonight."
Carlotta asserted, sent one or two notes to reassure herself, and sent word to all her friends to be on hand that night and be ready in case of any disturbance.

Her friends were faithful to their favorite, and long before the time for the curtain the great opera house was filled to capacity. The only unusual thing was the presence of the managers in Box Five, where they had determined to sit to put an end to the joke. And when the curtain rose they had almost forgotten their worries.

The first act passed without incident, and the managers looked at each other smiling.

"That's one," said Monchardin. "The ghost is late," answered Richard. "It's not a bad house, for a house with a curse on it!" And the second act also went pleasantly enough.

In the third act, Carlotta sang the

jewel song more beautifully than she had ever sung it before. Thenceforth, certain of herself, certain of her friends in the house, fearing nothing, Carlotta threw herself into the part wholeheartedly. She was applauded all the more—the audience was at a top-pitch of excitement—when suddenly . . . a terrible thing happened! Carlotta croaked like a toad! "Cro-ack!"

The two managers in their box turned pale. They began to feel the ghost was near them. Yes, the ghost was there, around them, behind them, they felt his presence without seeing him. They trembled. They thought of running away. They dared not. They heard the ghost chuckling behind their backs.

And suddenly a voice filled the whole house—a resonant, monstrous voice that came from nowhere, crying:

"Her singing will bring down the chandelier!"

With one accord, the entire audience raised their eyes upward and uttered a terrible cry. The chandelier, the immense mass of the great crystal chandelier, hundreds of feet above them in the ceiling, was shaking—it was swinging from side to side! And while the crowds below frantically tried to leave their seats and escape, the chandelier plunged from the ceiling down into the orchestra pit, amid a thousand screams of terror.

CHRISTINE DAAE disappeared after that tragic performance and was not seen at the opera for two weeks. Raoul, of course, was the first to be astonished at her absence. But one day he received a letter.

"Distress: Go to the masked ball at the Opera. Wear a white domino and don't tell anyone of this appointment."
"CHRISTINE."

On the night of the opera ball Raoul disguised himself in the white domino as requested and joined the gay masks on the grand staircase of the Opera. The ball was an unusual affair, gay, noisy, more Bohemian than even the most Bohemian balls usually were. Thousands of masks thronged the staircase in their bright costumes, creating a tremendous din. Raoul pushed his way through the crowds and waited beside a pillar. After a moment a black domino passed and squeezed his fingers. She put her finger to her lips, and went on ahead. Raoul followed her in silence.

(To be Continued)



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A SPLENDID MEETING.

Of the Inverary Ladies' Aid at Mrs. H. Arthur's.

Inverary, Jan. 15.—The recent thaw has spoiled all the farmers' plans to get up their wood and do other tanning. Miss Harriet, Leeman is engaged as clerk in C. H. Arthur's store. Mrs. James Dixon and daughter Myrtle, are spending a few days in Kingston, guests of Mrs. Lennox.

Mrs. Melvyn Williams has returned after spending a week with her sister, Mrs. Harvey Hawkey, Glenburnie. Melville Patterson, after an absence of several years is here renewing acquaintances.

The Ladies' Aid at Mrs. Richard Arthur's home drew an unusually large crowd. A very pleasant afternoon was spent. Mrs. Gordon Perry sang in her usual sweet voice. A recitation and instrumental music by Miss Zella Darling were very much enjoyed. Delicious refreshments were served by the hostess, assisted by Mrs. Tina Chrysler, Mrs. Taylor, Miss Darling and the daughter of the house, Miss Margaret Arthur.

Miss Dorothy Dixon spent the week-end with her friend Miss Mina Gibson. Owing to illness Miss Mary Corkey will not be able to attend Rydenham High School this week.

The storm flew over the village and left a baby girl at R. Mustard's home Miss Hester Gibson's organized S. S. class met with Miss Gyneth Bleeth on Tuesday night.

CAMDEN EAST NEWS.

The Parish Hall Will Be Reopened at Early Date.

Camden East, Jan. 20.—The roads are very icy at present. John Saul, Winnipeg, has been visiting his niece and nephews in this village and at Perth, Harrowmuth and Napanea. He is eighty-five years old, is hale and hearty, only for hearing facilities. The Mission Circle held a social evening at Mrs. Perry's on Friday evening last. A very enjoyable time was spent.

Several attended the euchre and dance held in the Standard Bank hall, Newburgh, on the same evening. Miss Lizzie Saul, Kingston, spent a week-end recently at her cousin's Mrs. S. Williams and to visit her uncle, John Saul, J. W. Amey is confined to his bed. Miss Nina Wright returned home from Toronto on Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. S. Rogers and family have returned home after spending a month with their children who reside at Toronto. Miss Hazel Barry is improving after her recent illness. The Parish Hall has undergone extensive repairs and improvements and now promises to be up-to-date in every detail. The 22nd will be

the formal opening. Service will be held in the church first, conducted by the Bishop of Ontario and other clergy.

A meeting of the Public Library Board was held at R. Longmore's on Monday evening, Stanley Allore, who underwent an operation for appendicitis, in the Hotel Dieu, a week ago Wednesday, is improving nicely.

A YOUNG WOMAN DIES

Following an Operation For Appendicitis in Hospital.

Oso Station, Jan. 18.—On Monday, Jan. 11th, Miss Ruby Larmon passed peacefully to rest at the General Hospital, Kingston, after an operation for appendicitis. The remains were brought to her father's home, at Oso, on Monday afternoon. She leaves her father and one brother, Austin. The funeral service was held in Zealand Anglican church on Wednesday morning. Rev. H. K. Coleman officiated, and a large crowd of her friends attended.

The farmers are getting their wood cut and drawing it in. The

dance held in Oso hall, last Monday night, was a success and a large crowd attended. A very large crowd of people attended the dance at Sharbot Lake on Friday night and all report a good time. Samuel Swain and Mr. Salisbury, Kingston, are visiting friends here.

A large crowd of young people spent a very enjoyable evening at Joseph Warren's on Saturday night skating on the ice. Mr. Lloyd McPherson spent Thursday night with James Warren, Wilfred Bourk and John Crawford.

Henderson McPherson is visiting friends at Harriamith. Henry Bourk, Richard and Alice, spent a day in Kingston last week. Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Ried, and Vera and John Crawford, spent Thursday evening at Joseph A. Bourk's. William Warren and John made a business trip to Mountain Grove on Friday.

Canadian Pacific. City ticket office, 136 Wellington street, report the following arrivals of their steamships:

Empress of Scotland, from Bombay, due Colombo, Jan. 20th.
Montreal, from Liverpool, due New York Jan. 24th.
Montrose, from Liverpool and Greenock, due St. John, Jan. 23rd.
Montcalm, from St. John, due Liverpool, Jan. 23rd.
Empress of Asia, from Hong Kong, due Vancouver, Jan. 28th.

Rev. Thomas Scott, Prescott, seriously ill in Hepburn Hospital, Ogdensburg, N.Y., following an operation, is now making a good recovery.

Hockey results on Monday: Altona 5, Smith's Falls 9; Carleton Place 2, Perth 1; Arnprior 5, Renfrew 2.

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(Signed) Miss Gladys Pahl, 255-21st St., N. Milwaukee, Wis., Sept. 28, 1924.
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Miss C. C. M. Smart, South Battleford, Sask., writes—"A while ago I was troubled with facial blemishes, especially pimples, and was really ashamed to go out with such a bad looking face.
I tried 2 or 3 different remedies, but they didn't help me any, so one day a friend, who had been troubled the same as I was, advised me to use
Burdock BLOOD BITTERS
After I had taken two bottles there wasn't a pimple of any kind left on my face, and I now have a clear, smooth and velvety complexion."
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