

The Phantom of the Opera, Gaston Leroux

(Review)

I have just finished a wonderful book that truly captivated me with the power and depth of its plot! The Phantom of the Opera is a classic tale of love and obsession. And if you are a fan of gothic, horror and romance at the same time, then this book is for you.

This haunting tale is set in the Paris Opera House and at the heart of the story is Erik, the Phantom, a disfigured and mysterious man who lives and lurks beneath the opera house. He becomes obsessed with Christine Daaé, a gifted young opera singer with a beautiful voice, whose father, a famous musician, dies, and she is raised in the opera. As Erik's love for Christine grows, so too does his jealousy and isolation, leading him to cruelty and commitment of crimes to protect her from the world.

The atmosphere of the opera house is haunting, suspense and mysterious, because of the Phantom's presence, the dark setting, with its hidden secrets and the architecture of the opera. The Phantom himself, with his haunting voice and appearance is feared by those who work in the opera.

Christine struggles to resolve her feelings for both Erik and her childhood friend, Raoul. This exposes the themes of love, loyalty, and the power of illusion. And the Phantom's obsession with Christine is a dark reflection of his own isolation and despair.

In the ending, the Phantom decided that the happiness of Christine lies with Raoul and not with him. In an act of love, he lets her go. But the Phantom has a happy ending too. It's clear that he wanted her and was obsessed with her, but for the first time in his life he felt compassion and love, and in response, he returned that compassion and love to Christine and Raoul.

Thumbs up!

I liked the way the characters expressed their feelings and the way the atmosphere of the opera house made me feel, with its haunting and mysterious elements. I felt like I was in the book and was one of them. The plot twist was surprising and unexpected, which I really liked because it kept me in suspense until the end.

Thumbs down!

Some of the words in the book are not used these days and are difficult for me to read and understand them. The events in the book were described in more details than they need to be which was kind of tiring to read, especially at the beginning of the novel.

The novel explores the themes of love, loss, obsession, isolation and the power of music that evoke both fear and fascination. In the end, this haunting tale left a lasting impression on me and probably on those who read it.