



The  
Phantom  
of the  
Opera

Adaptation by Ionai Ramírez

## **SCENE 1 – The Opera’s Acquisition**

*Enter ARMAND MONCHARMIN, the new owner of the theatre and JOSEPH BUQUET, the stage manager. Cold light. During the following dialogue, ARMAND hands BUQUET gloves, cane, hat and accessories to hold while he checks the space.*

**Armand:** So this is the Garnier Theatre... *(greets audience)* Well, I guess it’s not bad.

**Buquet:** Indeed, sir...

**Armand:** Armand Moncharmin. Learn my name quickly, because you will be seeing me daily.

**Buquet:** Of course, Sir Moncharmin. The theatre has recently been refurbished. More seats have been added, the curtains have been fixed and the machinery has been oiled. It is ready for today's premiere.

**Armand:** Good, I am very happy with this purchase. I'm going to give a new life to this theatre, you'll see, sir...

**Buquet:** My name is Joseph Buquet, sir. I have been the stage manager at the Garnier Theatre for many years now. I am in charge of setting up scenery, repairing damages, lifting counterweights and props...

**Armand:** Very well, Mr. Duchet.

**Buquet:** Buquet.

**Armand:** Roquette.

**Buquet:** Buquet.

**Armand:** Whatever! And don't correct me again. The premiere of the opera "Faust" must be a success, in a great style. Everything must be perfect. The great Carlotta is going to sing.

**Buquet:** You have nothing to be worried about, sir Moncharmin.

**Armand:** Moncharmin.

**Buquet:** Moncharmin.

**Armand:** Moncharmin!

**Buquet:** Moncharmin... Good. I'm going to show you the layout of the theatre (he takes out an easel and puts up a painting with a layout of the theatre), but first... There's something you need to know.

**Armand:** Is the trapdoor usable?

**Buquet:** Huh? Oh, yes, sure. I have oiled it recently. But as I was saying...

**Armand:** Do the backstage areas close completely?

**Buquet:** Huh? Oh, yes, yes. I close them myself after each showing. But as I was saying...

**Armand:** Is the balcony section clean?

**Buquet:** Huh? Oh, yes, sure. Bolted down and all set for the performance. But I'd like you to listen to this...

**Armand:** In that case, all is well, Crochet...

**Buquet:** Buquet.

**Armand:** That. I see that you know the Garnier Theatre well, and therefore I want you to continue working here with me. Same salary, same conditions. Except double pay and paid holidays. Armand Moncharmin is not a charity. As long as there are no incidents or disturbances, you and I will get along fine. I'll run this place on numbers, you run the stage. And now I'm going to the box office to book the box seats for the aristocracy. Tonight's performance is very important, I'm looking forward to meeting the great Carlotta, the star of Paris...

**Buquet:** Wait, sir! Listen, please. That's what I wanted to talk to you about. Do you see box number 5?

**Armand:** Yes, I do. Good box seat, with good visibility. We will be hosting the royal family there when they come to...

**Buquet:** No! Box number five is reserved. The former owner of the Garnier Theatre had it permanently reserved. And I suggest you keep it that way.

**Armand:** Reserved for whom, and more importantly, for how much? It's not a cheap box...

**Buquet:** The guest in that box doesn't pay anything. He comes to see the performances for free.

**Armand:** I beg your pardon?

**Buquet:** Listen carefully. Every performance day, a presence takes up his seat in box number 5. Few of us know of his existence. Just me and a few other employees of the Garnier Theatre. This person... He has been here for a long time, almost as long as I have. He never lets himself be seen, never interacts. He only comes, attends the big operas, and at the end of the performance he disappears without a trace. The former owner had a cordial relationship with him, as he is said to be responsible for writing the great musical pieces that play at the Garnier, responsible for the glory of this theatre. Moreover, every month he received the generous sum of 20,000 francs for his services. They call him the Phantom of the Opera.

**Armand:** Are you insane? 20,000 francs a month to a stranger who doesn't even show his face and on top of that steals the best box seat in the theatre?

**Buquet:** Sir, please...

**Armand:** As I said before, Mr. Busquets...

**Buquet:** Buquet.

**Armand:** ...I am not a charity! Everyone here will pay for their ticket, and if they don't, they will be immediately expelled of MY theatre. (to the audience) You see all these good people? They have paid. And they have also paid a good amount to attend tonight's performance. I don't know who this mysterious operetta phantom is, but he's not going to steal a single seat at the Garnier from me, just so you know.

**Buquet:** I advise you to reconsider.

**Armand:** Do not tell me what to do, Floquet.

**Buquet:** Buquet.

**Armand:** Don't correct me! Go sweep the stalls. And you'd better leave it spotless. Things will soon start to change at the Garnier Theatre, you'll see.

**Buquet:** All right, sir. As you command.

**Armand:** Be gone! Ah, yes sir. I have made a good purchase. To tell you the truth, I don't give a damn about the theatre. I'm a man of numbers. But what the hell, it looks like a good theatre. And what's this? (a sealed note falls on the stage. He picks it up and reads it aloud) Dear Mr. Armand Moncharmin, I would like to congratulate you on your recent acquisition of the Garnier Theatre, an opera house with a long tradition of shows and performances, great artists and great successes...". Ah, a fan letter. They are adorable. Let's see what else it says: "I have learned that you..."

**ERIK's voice-over:** "...are a big businessman, concerned with numbers, financial solvency and success. I want you to know something. This theatre is not a safe in which to amass a fortune. It is a window to other realities, marvellous, terrifying and exciting, a mirror where you can see yourself and learn from great authors like Goethe, Shakespeare, Ibsen or Molière. I do not want to see your dirty money-stained hands corrupting the artistic purity of this temple of the human soul. But I offer you a deal. I will help you to keep the spirit of the Garnier Theatre. I will even give up my box and my pay if in exchange... You replace Carlotta Giudicelli with Christine Daaé in tonight's role. That's all I ask of you. I hope that you and I are on the same page. Yours sincerely: The Phantom of the Opera."

**Armand:** Disgraceful... To replace Carlotta Giudicelli with an outsider... Who is Christine Daaé? What this theatre needs is famous people, not amateur actresses. No deal, the Garnier Theatre is mine. Close box five! This phantom must be removed from the opera house...

## **SCENE 2 – Carlotta's accident**

*We are still in front of the curtain. Change to warm light. A soprano voice is heard warming up from the dressing room. CARLOTTA GIUDICELLI enters, she's getting ready.*

Carlotta: (*shouting offstage*) I told you I wanted "queen of the valleys" strawberries in my dressing room, not "carisma" strawberries. There's not even Don Perignon Rosé champagne in my dressing room! If you want the great Carlotta Giudicelli to sing on this stage, you'll have to give me something better. I've heard about the fame of the great Garnier, but this place is pitiful! I'm leaving right now! (to audience) I'm sorry, dear spectators, but tonight....

**Armand:** Tonight we are going to give the great Carlotta everything she asks of us so that we can enjoy her wonderful presence at the Garnier Theatre! My Lady Carlotta, you don't know what an honour it is for me to have you in my theatre. I am very sorry for the mistakes we have made with your requests. A thousand apologies.

Carlotta: Are you Sir... Armand Monmarmin?

**Armand:** Moncharm... Um... Yes, that is me.. I'm the new owner of the Garnier Theatre.

Carlotta: You know that the great Carlotta Giudicelli only performs in the most famous operas. I will not tolerate a single mistake, and you and your team have made several. One more slip-up and I won't sing.

**Armand:** Dear Carlotta, you have nothing to worry about. You are the best artist who has ever set foot in this theatre. I know that the former owner did not want your presence, your fame and your mastery, but I do. I know that you have real art, passion, soul in each of your songs. It shows in the ticket prices your audience pays.

Carlotta: Yes, some confuse the authentic with the mediocre, but I am simply a star. In my music and in my status.

**Armand:** Indeed, you are the best. We are delighted to have you at the Garnier. And now please dear Carlotta, will you sing for all of us? We are looking forward to hearing your sweet voice.

Carlotta: I don't know if I should... In the past, they were not very nice to me in this theatre...

**Armand:** Please, Milady Giudicelli. You will be my new muse, the goddess of this theatre.

Carlotta: (*silence*) Fine. I'll do it. I'll sing for all of you and I'll dazzle you with my voice.

**Armand:** Splendid!

Carlotta: I'm going to get ready. Oh, Sir Chonmarmin...

**Armand:** Moncharm... Yes, tell me Milady?

Carlotta: Is it true what they say about the Garnier theatre?

**Armand:** I beg your pardon, I don't know what you're talking about.

Carlotta: You know... the story of the Phantom of the Opera.

**Armand:** Oh... well... *(hesitates for a moment)* No, not at all, Milady. You have nothing to worry about. That's just a legend to give mystery and charm to a place as old as this. It's... pure marketing, if you know what I mean? I'm going to give the signal to start the show. Once again, thank you beautiful Carlotta.

Carlotta: Ok... I see. *(ARMAND exits. Leaves)* The propolis infusion!

*CARLOTTA approaches the end of the curtain and a gloved hand appears with a spray bottle. He hands it to her. She sprays her mouth, and the musical number begins.*

Voice-over: Ladies and gentlemen, it is a pleasure to welcome you all for the first time in the great Garnier Theatre, the great Carlotta Giudicelli.

*CARLOTTA starts to sing. Suddenly, she has a small musical off-key. She keeps going. The third time she goes off-key she lets out a horrible squawk. Embarrassed, she looks for the exit through the curtain behind her and it falls on top of her.*

Carlotta: Aaagh! Get me out of here! Chonmarmin, get me out of here!

**Armand:** Milady Carlotta! For goodness sake! Are you alright?

Carlotta: *(under the curtain, trapped)* Get me out of here, you fool! Shame on you! I'm going to ruin your theatre! You're a cretin, you're incompetent. You'll be hearing from me! *(CARLOTTA exits)*

**Armand:** My lady Giudicelli... *(to audience)* Ehm... We are very sorry for the inconvenience, ladies and gentlemen. We will continue with the show shortly. Don't move. *(signals to the technician to change the lights)* Oh God... What a mess! Damn Muquet... He must not have greased the curtain rails properly... This is a catastrophe. The audience wants to see Carlotta but she's gone. We need to find a new leading actress right now, or this theatre will go down, and me with it.

*ARMAND takes the hand-held microphone and goes down to the audience for a live casting.*

**Armand:** Good evening ladies and gentlemen. In view of the events I would like to propose a live casting in which we are going to try to find the new star of tonight's show, Faust. Would anyone like to sing anything live? It has to be quick, we don't have much time. Oh, and a song in English, please.

*Three or four volunteers are chosen who want to sing live on the microphone, even for 10 seconds, and ARMAND judges them.*

**Armand:** I'm sorry, but we're looking for a more polished voice. I'm sorry, this is not the right song for you. I'm sorry, but we need someone taller to fit the costume - I insist, it must be an English song!

*CHRISTINE enters the stage and picks up the curtain during the casting number. When ARMAND returns, the stage is all tidy.*

**Armand:** It's useless, no one is good enough for this role. Who are you?

**Christine:** Oh, I'm a supporting actress and an extra in the operas at the Garnier Theatre. I was looking forward to meeting you Mr Moncharmin, you are our new boss.

**Armand:** Yes, yes. Very good. Wait, wait, wait, wait, wait. You say you're an actress.

**Christine:** That's right.

**Armand:** And... what's your name?

**Christine:** Oh, I'm not famous. I don't think my name rings a bell. My name is Christine Daaé.

**Armand:** *(silence)* Christina Daaé. Oh, God! The Phantom was serious. He finished Carlotta off.

**Christine:** Pardon, sir Moncharmin?

**Armand:** Here *(gives her costume items that Carlotta was wearing and that have been left on stage)* Put this on and get out there. Save the show before the audience leaves.

**Christine:** How? But... I've only ever done chorus and supporting roles here I've only done chorus and supporting characters... I don't know if I can do Faust.

**Armand:** Put this on and get out on stage! Don't argue with me!

**Christine:** Oh... okay.

*Change from light to show. CHRISTINE finishes the performance properly. Final applause. During the final applause, the PHANTOM appears behind her and kidnaps her. Blackout and tension music.*

### **SCENE 3 – In the lair**

*Scene changes to Phantom's Lair. It is a dark place with antique appliances, lots of candles and dim lighting. At the end of the change, CHRISTINE enters first, confused and frightened.*

**Christine:** Hello? Where am I? Is anyone there?

**Phantom:** This theatre was built over an underground lake beneath the city of Paris...

**Christine:** Hello? Who are you? Why did you bring me here? I don't know you at all.

**Phantom:** I have been waiting many years for this moment. I hadn't planned it like this, but it was the only way to see your art on stage, Christine Daaé.

**Christine:** How do you know my name?

**Phantom:** I know everything about this theatre. This is where I live (he pulls out the same layout of the previous theatre, unfolds it and we see a crypt drawn underneath the theatre pit). I've spent many years here. Waiting to meet you. I've watched you from box seat five, since your very first performance. I've seen your sensitivity, your art. I've seen how you respect the theatre more than yourself. And from that very first moment I wanted to see you perform my music. It takes courage to defend a supporting role from the shadows with the love that you have put into it. I also have been defending the theatre from the shadows. That's why I had to get rid of that ridiculous Giucidelli.

**Christine:** It was you who sabotaged Carlotta's number? You almost killed her!

**Phantom:** I have all the time in the world to wander around this theatre. Loosening curtain screws, sabotaging her infusions... A measly little showbiz star can never take away the greatness of the art. Besides, I sent a letter to Armand and told him to make you the new leading lady.

**Christine:** Why did you do that?

**Phantom:** Because I don't have a face, unlike you actors. I am just a ghost. A phantom but today I've shown the audience what a real actress is. Thanks to me you have succeeded.

**Christine:** I didn't ask you to! You have no right to do that to Carlotta, nor to Armand.

**Phantom:** They don't have the right to take over the art either, to use the stage as if it was their toy for everyone to applaud them and tell them how wonderful and rich they are. That's not fair. You know it well. It breaks my heart when someone corrupts art in such a way. When the audience pays and applauds an idiot. I'm a ghost... but I'm not a monster.

**Christine:** You're the Phantom of the Opera everyone's talking about. Who are you... (she comes up behind him and takes off his mask. His back is turned to the audience so we don't see his face, but we see CHRISTINE's reaction) My God!

**Phantom:** What are you doing? Give me that back! (*silence*) Yes... Maybe I am a monster. Maybe I deserve not to live among people and linger in my crypt.

**Christine:** I didn't say that.

**Phantom:** But there is one thing that has proved to me that I am not a monster.

**Christine:** What is it?

**Phantom:** I'm in love with you.

**Christine:** What are you saying? I don't even know your name.

**Phantom:** My real name is Erik. I'll lead you out of here if you promise to come back again to see me. It's the only place where we can talk without masks.

**Christine:** I see you have a sensitive soul and you really love art. All right, Erik... I'll come back. I promise.

**Phantom:** Here. Keep this map of the theatre so that you know how to find your way back to my lair. It will be a test. I'll be waiting, writing music for you.

#### ***SCENE 4 – Raoul's arrival***

*Dressing rooms. A small table with a dim light and mirror. Christine arrives, distraught.*

**Christine:** The phantom is real... Should I tell Mr Moncharmin?

*RAOUL enters with a bouquet of roses.*

**Raoul:** Christine Daaé?

**Christine:** Yes, that 's me. Who are you?

**Raoul:** I am Viscount Raoul de Chagny. It is a pleasure to meet you. I have been looking for you at the Garnier Theatre for some time. I attended your performance today as an audience member. I thought you would have left by now.

**Christine:** No, I wasn't gone. I was... talking to... a friend.

**Raoul:** I just wanted to congratulate you on today's performance. (hands her the bouquet) You saved the show. The best version of Faust I have ever seen. Monsieur Armand took the right decision by casting you instead of Carlotta Giudicelli.

**Christine:** Do you think so? I don't think he took the decision alone... Maybe I didn't even deserve that role.

**Raoul:** Why do you say that? I think you were wonderful.

**Christine:** Thank you. Sorry, I'm a bit tired after today's performance.

**Raoul:** Opening night jitters?

**Christine:** Something like that.

**Raoul:** What is this map of the Opera? I've never seen this part before...

**Christine:** *(she takes it away from him)* It's nothing! Nothing important.

**Raoul:** I see it's been a hard night for you. I don't want to bother you any more.

**Christine:** No, wait. Don't go. Let's go for a drink, I want to clear my mind tonight. (Leaves)

**Raoul:** Oh... okay. I didn't expect that to work out so well. (goes to leave but stops and checks the map) What is this area? There's a crypt under the pit, five floors below the

Garnier theatre...

*RAOUL leaves and we see time lapse scenes of RAOUL and CHRISTINE getting to know each other, falling in love, getting engaged.*

*Undetermined time jump (maybe about 6 months). CHRISTINE is finishing a performance that matches the end of the changeover music. ARMAND enters.*

**Armand:** Christine, the press is raving about you. You have become the star of Garnier. Here it says "the great Christine Daaé has once again dazzled us with a great performance of Faust, leaving behind even former stars such as Carlotta Giudicelli, who is not currently active in show business".

**Christine:** Yes, thank you sir Moncharmin...

**Armand:** Remember, tonight is the great masquerade ball. It was my idea to gather all the aristocracy to celebrate the success of the Garnier Theatre. And you will be the star of the ball. You'll give us good advertising.

**Christine:** Sure, Sir Moncharmin...

**Armand:** And with the recent news of your wedding, you're on all the front pages.

**Christine:** That's right, Raoul and I are getting married.

**Armand:** Viscount Raoul de Chagny, no less. You are very lucky. You will officially announce it today at the masquerade ball. Ah, all credit to me, of course. If I hadn't bet on you, you wouldn't have had this success. I have an eye for talent. And for numbers. I don't think the Garnier Theatre has ever been so thriving since I arrived.

**Christine:** That's right, Mr Moncharmin (to the audience) You miserable wretch. This man is not interested in art, only in money. If I've been successful, it's thanks to...

**Armand:** Christine?

**Christine:** Yes, sir Moncharmin?

**Armand:** I hope you will never forget what I have told you. You know that now I am the one who decides who gets on stage and who grovels for recognition..

**Christine:** Sir... let me tell you something. You are not interested in theatre. You are only interested in getting rich from opera and theatre.

**Armand:** Watch your mouth, Christine. I can take you off the stage whenever I want.

**Christine:** Theatre is much more than success or failure. It is life. As a friend once told me, you use the stage as if it was your toy so that everyone applauds you. Just like Carlotta Giudicelli did.

**Armand:** Silence...

**Christine:** You are the scourge of art.

**Armand:** Silence!

**Christine:** You just want money, look for it elsewhere but not in the theatre!

**Armand:** You'd be nothing without me!

**Christine:** That's not true! I was put on stage by the Phantom of the Opera!

**Armand:** *(silence)* You know...

**Christine:** Yes, I have met him. He is real. He has given up his box seat and his salary as a musician to try to give this theatre a soul, while you fill your pockets and walk around as if you were the emperor of the theatre.

**Armand:** You know what? You asked for it. Tonight you'll be replaced. Your career is over, Christine Daaé. You're fired!

**Christine:** Fine. I'd rather leave the stage than comply with the wishes of an ignorant despot like you. I'm leaving.

*The body of JOSEPH BUQUET appears, his throat has been slit. Flash of suspense.*

**Armand:** Aaaaagh! The stage manager! Joseph Crochet!

**Christine:** My God! Buquet! The phantom is taking his revenge.

**Armand:** You and the ghost are in on it together! You want to ruin me! You want to sabotage the masquerade ball!

**Christine:** Shut up and get a doctor!

**Armand:** A murder at the Garnier Theatre. You will pay for this. You and your friend the phantom, I swear you'll pay for this! *(runs out. Changes to RAOUL)*

**Christine:** Erik... Why did you do it? Joseph Buquet was not a bad person. Not everything is fair in your romantic war. What is this? *(finds an envelope in the clothes of BUQUET's corpse, the same as the first envelope we saw)* A message from Erik. "Dear Christine, I don't expect you to understand what I've done. It hurts me too to go this far. But you have broken our promise.

**Phantom's Voice-over:** You haven't come back to visit me. I have been living hidden away in my crypt all this time, watching how the Garnier Theatre fell back into artistic corruption, how they gradually turned you into their new decoration, their toy. And if that wasn't enough, I've watched you fall in love with another man and forget me. I don't think anyone but you can understand my motives. I am going to destroy the Garnier Theatre and I have begun with Joseph Buquet, the best manager in the theatre. Art is lost and I belong to art, so my life is no longer of any value. I wish you great happiness with Raoul and may you find a new place where they want your voice and your art. But remember, never sell your soul to applause. Tonight, at the masquerade ball, I'm going to kill the audience and so the Garnier will have to close."

**Christine:** Oh, Erik, why did you do it?

**Raoul:** *(entering)* Christine, my love! What happened? I saw Mr. Moncharmin run out of the theatre. Oh my god!

**Christine:** Raoul, there's something you should know. The Phantom of the Opera is real. He lives under the theatre and he is responsible for all the success of the Garnier Theatre. And for my success too. I am a fraud.

**Raoul:** Don't say that, you're a great singer.

**Christine:** No, listen to me! Armand Moncharmin put me in Carlotta's place only because the Phantom asked him to. Because... he was in love with... With art. With theatre and music.

**Raoul:** So the map... *( checks the map)* It's real. The Phantom lives in this crypt beneath the theatre.

**Christine:** Yes. He is threatening to destroy the Garnier Theatre.

**Raoul:** But how do you know all this?

**Christine:** The day of Carlotta's accident... The same day I met you... I met him. He took me to his lair.

**Raoul:** Why? What did he want from you?

**Christine:** There's no time to tell you about it.

**Raoul:** Tell me! Tell me the truth.

**Christine:** He... He said he was in love with me. That he'd been watching me for a while at my old performances. He's obsessed, Raoul.

**Raoul:** My love, that Phantom is dangerous. *(listens to masquerade music)* The ball guests are coming in.

**Christine:** He must be found and stopped or he will continue to kill people at the masquerade ball until the Garnier Theatre closed. I'm going after him, I'll find a way.

**Raoul:** Wait. Here *(gives her a gun)*. Don't let him hurt you. I'm going to get Buquet out of here.

**Christine:** Don't trust anyone tonight, Raoul. Any mask could be him.

*Change from RAOUL to PHANTOM.*

### ***SCENE 5 – The Masquerade Ball***

*Spooky masquerade music. This scene is played for the audience. PHANTOM appears on stage and comes down to the audience with several masks just like his own.*

*He puts them on the audience. Between 5 and 6 masks. In the meantime, CHRISTINE changes scenery to the lair.*

*When the masks are in place, PHANTOM returns to the stage and CHRISTINE comes down armed into the audience. She lifts up those wearing masks and points the gun at them to get them to take their masks off. She rules out suspects until they are all uncovered and returns defeated to the dark, candle-lit ghost's lair.*

**Phantom:** *(from outside)* You have forgotten me, Christine...

**Christine:** Erik... Where are you?

**Phantom:** I have always been here. You know that. You promised me you'd come back. I've been waiting for you.

**Christine:** Erik, you are out of control. You've killed someone. You're taking this too far.

**Phantom:** Christine, you haven't understood anything yet. I have lived my whole life behind a mask in the shadows. The only truth I have lived is that of the theatre. I can't tolerate anyone to destroy that reality.

**Christine:** That doesn't give you the right to kill Joseph Buquet or anyone else. Turn yourself in today and stop it at once.

**Phantom:** I can't turn myself in, because I'm nobody, Christine. And do you know why? Because you don't love me. The love I felt for you was the only thing that anchored me to your "real" world. But it's been a useless hope because you've given your heart to someone else.

**Christine:** How could I give my heart to a murderer?

**Phantom:** Don't be mistaken, Christine, I did not kill anyone before I met you. Nor have I ever pretended to be reciprocated. Theatre is exactly that, a person with whom you are completely in love, and who is not in love with you. But when that person betrays you and puts on a mask of frivolity and ignorance, the best thing to do is to keep them away from you. That's why I'm going to kill them all and close the Garnier Theatre forever.

**Christine:** You are obsessed, not in love.

**Phantom:** Maybe that's it. Maybe you've turned me into a monster.

**Christine:** That's not fair. If you kill them it means you don't love theatre either.

**Phantom:** Don't say that!

**Christine:** Give up!

**Phantom:** Stop! You have disappointed me, Christine *(he runs off)*.

**Christine:** No, you have disappointed yourself. I know there's a sensitive soul behind that mask, I heard it long ago, in your lair, the night of my premiere. Come back here!

*(sound of angry crowd, red light of torches)* The masquerade ball... Armand must have spread the word. Erik doesn't deserve to die, I have to do something *(exits, changes to PHANTOM)*.

*RAOUL enters with an oil lamp and map in hand.*

**Raoul:** This is it. This is his lair. It was all true... Erik! I am Viscount Raoul de Chagny. All Paris knows you're hiding here, under the pit of the Garnier Theatre. Surrender yourself at once and we'll show you mercy. Come out of your hiding spot!

**Phantom:** *(from outside, Voice-over)* Raoul... Christine's beloved...

**Raoul:** Show yourself!

**Phantom:** You are a lucky man, Raoul de Chagny. But tell me something: would you have noticed the unknown Christine Daaé if you had seen her in one of her former supporting characters?

**Raoul:** Don't you dare question my feelings for her.

**Phantom:** I put her at the head of this theatre. And then you went looking for her, bewitched by her fame.

**Raoul:** That is not true. I love her for real.

**Phantom:** For real, you say? How can you know? You're just one of the many fans who follow her. A lucky one.

**Raoul:** Come out at once, show your face!

**Phantom:** You are the who has taken the most advantage of her fame. Christine has been a toy for you.

**Raoul:** That's not true! Come out and fight!

*PHANTOM appears. Fights RAOUL - PHANTOM. At one point in the fight, Raoul violently attacks PHANTOM's face and his mask drops. They continue to fight and Raoul is wounded. He falls and the PHANTOM is about to kill him.*

**Phantom:** My love is true!

**Christine** *(from outside): Raoul! (gunshots)*

**Phantom:** I've only been a mask, and behind it there was a ghost. But you... you'll never know if your love is a mask. *(exits)*

**Raoul:** Christine...

*Blackout*

## **SCENE 6 - The end**

*We return to the dressing room, but in disarray. On the stage CHRISTINE and RAOUL. He is seated and she is putting bloody bandages on him. The Phantom's mask is on the table.*

**Christine:** Are you feeling better?

**Raoul:** Yes, thank you Christine, did he hurt you?

**Christine:** I'm fine (*picks up the mask*) Raoul, Erik is gone.

**Raoul:** Now the Granier Theatre no longer has anyone to threaten it.

**Christine:** Nor anyone to defend it....

**Raoul:** Christine. You know I love you, right?

**Christine:** What are you saying, Raoul? Of course, I love you too.

**Raoul:** But what the phantom told me... What if it was true? What if we can't be certain if we really love someone? I wouldn't have met you if you hadn't succeeded that night on this very stage.

**Christine:** What difference does it make? Maybe we just love the masks we are.

*CHRISTINE and RAOUL hold between them the mask of the PHANTOM. They stare at it. Blackout.*

*THE END.*