

GREAT ILLUSTRATED CLASSICS

**THE
PHANTOM OF
THE OPERA**

Gaston Leroux

Adapted by

Shannon Donnelly

Illustrations by Robert Schoolcraft

BARONET BOOKS, New York, New York

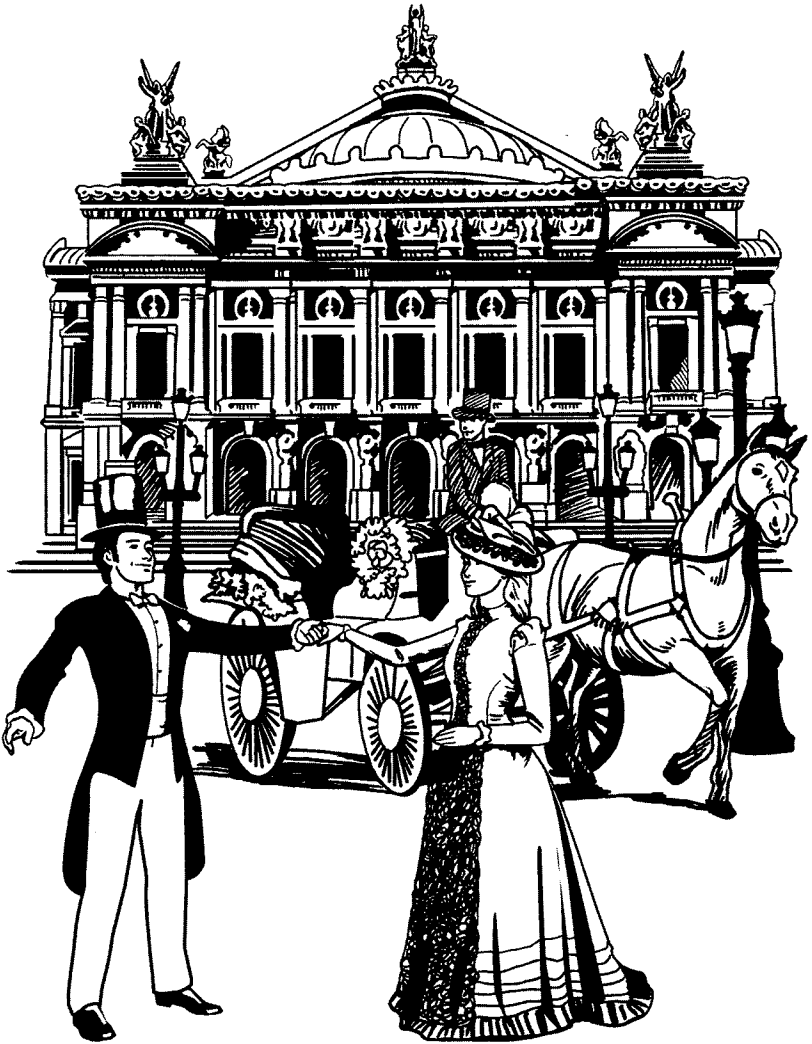
Cover Copyright (c) 2008
Waldman Publishing Corp.
New York, New York
All rights reserved.

Text Copyright (c) 2008
Waldman Publishing Corp.
New York, New York

BARONET BOOKS is a trademark of Waldman Publishing Corp., New York, N.Y.

No part of this book may be reproduced or copied in any form without written permission from the publisher.

Printed in the United States of America



The Great Paris Opera

CHAPTER 1

Is It the Ghost?

In Paris, there once was a time when everyone met at the Opera House. Fine carriages drawn by beautiful horses lined up before the huge stone building with its grand staircases and carpeted rooms, its vast stage, and the hundreds of hidden rooms behind the stage. Inside the Opera House, ladies in silk and diamonds and gentlemen in evening clothes strolled beneath gas-lit lamps, all as sparkling and rich as the theater itself.

So it was one evening, when the managers

THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA

of the Opera had planned a last grand show before they retired from their jobs.

Suddenly the dressing room of one of the chief dancers was invaded by six young girls of the ballet who had run upstairs from the stage. They rushed in, some almost crying in terror. Madam Sorelli, whose dressing room this was, looked around angrily at the girls.

"It's the ghost!" one girl told Madam Sorelli in a trembling voice.

Madam Sorelli shivered when she heard about the ghost. She called the girl a "silly little fool." But then she asked quietly, "Have you seen him?"

"As plainly as I see you now!"

"If that's the ghost, he's very ugly!" said Meg, another dancer.

"Oh, yes!" cried all the ballet girls. They all began to talk at once about the phantom they'd just seen. The ghost had appeared in the shape of a gentleman in black evening clothes,



“It’s the Ghost!”