

Penguin  Readers

Gaston **LEROUX**

The Phantom of the Opera



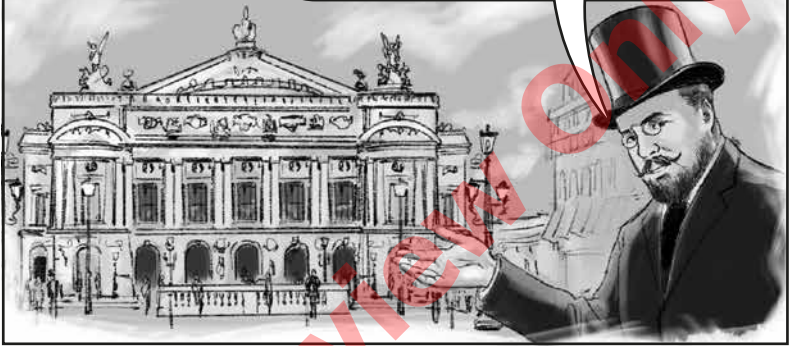
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CHAPTER ONE
The Opera House

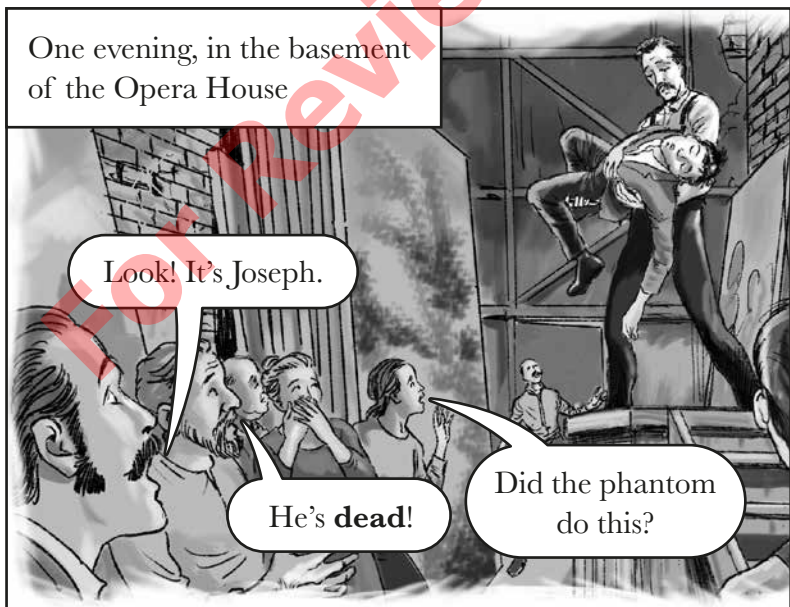
Paris, France,
1910

I am the writer of *The **Phantom** of the **Opera***. In 1880, beautiful people watched operas at the new Opera House.



There were stories about a phantom. But was he a phantom?
Or was he a man?





The same evening, there was a new, young singer in an opera.

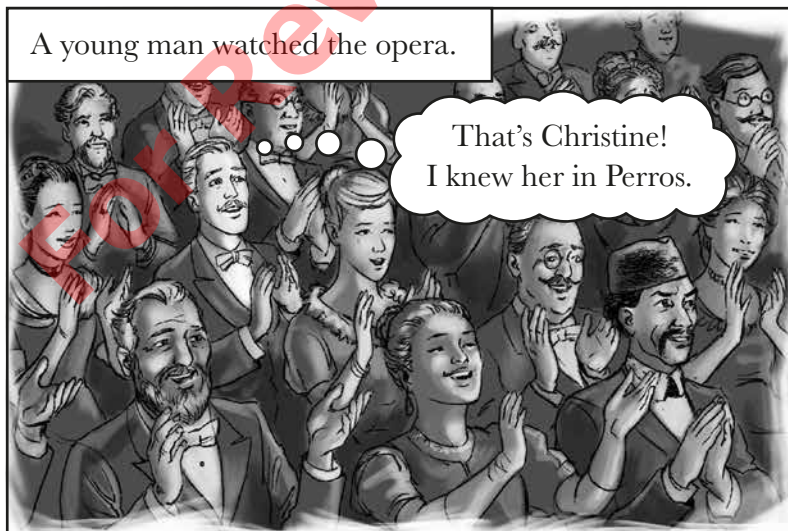
She's a great singer!

What's her name?



A young man watched the opera.

That's Christine!
I knew her in Perros.





Christine, you sang beautifully.

I'm Raoul.
We met in Perros.

I remember him, but I can't tell him now.

I don't remember you. I'm sorry.



The same evening

You are the **director** of the Opera House now. I must tell you about the phantom.

What?

Box Five is the phantom's box.

Yes, it is!

No!

Read this!

You're **mad!**

To the Director,
Box Five is mine.
Remember! I can do
bad things!

Eric S. P.
P. of the Opera