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Phantom Of The Opera
Act I Scene 5
The Manager's Office
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Reference number PT0992

FIRMIN

"Mystery
after gala night,"
if says, "Mystery
of soprano's flight!"

"Mystified
baffled Surete say,
we are mystified -
we suspect foul play!"

(He lowers the paper)

Bad news on
soprano scene -
first Carlotta,
now Christine!
Still, at least
the seats get soldQ
gossip's worth
its weight in gold . . .

What a way to
run a business!
Spare me these
unending trials!
Half your cast disappears,
but the crowd still cheers!
Opera!
To hell with Gluck and Handel -
It's a scandal that'll
pack 'em in the aisles!

(ANDRE bursts in, in a temper)

ANDRE
Damnable!
Will they all walk out?
This is damnable!

FIRMIN
Andre, please don't shout . . .

It's publicity!
And the take is vast!
Free publicity!

ANDRE
But we have no cast . . .

FIRMIN (calmly)
But Andre,
have you seen the queue?

(He has been sorting mail on his desk. Finding the two letters from the PHANTOM):

Oh, it seems
you've got one too . . .

(He hands the letter to ANDRE, who opens it and reads):

ANDRE
"Dear Andre
what a charming gala!
Christine enjoyed a great success!
We were hardly bereft
when Carlotta left -
otherwise
the chorus was entrancing,
but the dancing was a
lamentable mess!"

FIRMIN (reading his)
"Dear Firmin,

just a brief reminder:
my salary has not been paid.
Send it care of the ghost,
by return of postQ

P.T.O.:

No-one likes a debtor,
so it's better if my
orders are obeyed!"

FIRMIN/ANDRE

Who would have the gall
to send this?

Someone with a puerile brain!

FIRMIN (examining both letters)
These are both signed "O.G." . . .

ANDRE

Who the hell is he?

BOTH (immediately realizing)
Opera ghost!

FIRMIN (unamused)
It's really not amusing!

ANDRE

He's abusing
our position!

FIRMIN

In addition
he wants money!

ANDRE

He's a funny
sort of spectre . . .

BOTH

. . . to expect a
large retainer!
Nothing plainer -
he is clearly quite insane!

(They are interrupted by the arrival of RAOUL, who brandishes another of the PHANTOM'S notes)

RAOUL
Where is she?

ANDRE
You mean Carlotta?

RAOUL
I mean Miss Daae -
where is she?

FIRMIN
Well, how should we know?

RAOUL
I want an answer -
I take it that you sent me this note?

FIRMIN
What's all this nonsense?

ANDRE
Of course not!

FIRMIN
Don't look at us!

RAOUL
She's not with you, then?

FIRMIN
Of course not!

ANDRE
We're in the dark . . .

RAOUL
Monsieur, don't argue -
Isn't this the
letter you wrote?

FIRMIN

And what is it, that we're
meant to have wrote?

(Realizing his mistake)

Written !

(RAOUL hands the note to ANDRE, who reads it)

ANDRE

"Do not fear for Miss Daae.
The Angel of Music
has her under his wing.
Make no attempt to see her again."

(The MANAGERS look mystified)

RAOUL

If you didn't write it, who did?

(CARLOTTA bursts in. She too has a letter, which has
cheered her no more than the others)

CARLOTTA

Where is he?

ANDRE

Ah, welcome back!

CARLOTTA

Your precious patron -
where is he?

RAOUL

What is it now?

CARLOTTA (to RAOUL)

I have your letter -
a letter which I
rather resent!

FIRMIN (to RAOUL)

And did you send it?

RAOUL
Of course not!

ANDRE
As if he would!

CARLOTTA
You didn't send it?

RAOUL
Of course not!

FIRMIN
What's going on . . . ?

CARLOTTA (to RAOUL)
You dare to tell me,
that this is not the
letter you sent ? !

RAOUL
And what is it that I'm
meant to have sent?

(RAOUL takes the letter and reads it)

"Your days
at the Opera Populaire are numbered.
Christine Daae
will be singing on your behalf tonight.
Be prepared
for a great misfortune,
should you attempt
to take her place."

(The MANAGERS are beginning to tire of the intrigue)

ANDRE/FIRMIN
Far too many
notes for my taste -
and most of them

about Christine!
All we've heard since we came
is Miss Daae's name . . .

(GIRY suddenly appears, accompanied by MEG)

GIRY
Miss Daae has returned.

FIRMIN (drily)
I trust her midnight oil
is well and truly burned.

ANDRE
Where precisely is she now?

GIRY
I thought it best
that she went home . . .

MEG
She needed rest.

RAOUL
May I see her?

GIRY
No, monsieur,
she will see no-one.

CARLOTTA
Will she sing?
Will she sing?

GIRY
Here, I have a note . . .

RAOUL/CARLOTTA/ANDRE
Let me see it!

FIRMIN (snatching it)
Please!