

APPENDICES

Synopsis of Victor Hugo's The Hunchback of Notre Dame

The novel tells about the life in Medieval Paris in the year 1482. The protagonist, Quasimodo, is the adopted son of Claude Frollo, the Archdeacon of Notre-Dame cathedral. For all his life, Quasimodo lives alone inside the cathedral because of his ugly appearance and physical deformities. Claude Frollo himself, although being a priest, has been secretly lusting after La Esmeralda and believes her to be a witch sent to deceive him into evil. Therefore, on the night of the Feast of Fools, he orders Quasimodo to kidnap her. But he fails to do so, because Quasimodo is captured by The King's Archers, led by Phoebus de Chateaupers.

Later on, Claude Frollo plans to trap La Esmeralda by stabbing Phoebus while he is together with La Esmeralda, so that La Esmeralda will be accused of the crime. When she is going to be hanged in public, Quasimodo saves her and hides her inside the cathedral. But eventually Claude Frollo succeeds to get her out of the cathedral during the attack of the vagabonds and she gets punished for the crime she has never done. Quasimodo becomes very angry because of that and he throws Frollo down to his death and then Quasimodo disappears for years until his skeleton is found curled around La Esmeralda's remains.

Synopsis of Gaston Leroux's The Phantom of the Opera

This novel tells a story about a ghost who haunts the luxurious building of the Paris Opera House at the end of the 19th century. The Phantom character, also known as the “Opera Ghost”, blackmails the two opera managers, MM. Debienne and Poligny, to pay him a monthly salary of 20,000 francs and to reserve a private concert booth, Box 5, just for him.

Meanwhile, the Phantom begins to fall in love with a Christine Daae, a rising young prima donna who later meets and gets close with her childhood sweetheart, Vicomte Raoul de Chagny. The Phantom then becomes envious of Christine’s relationship with Raoul and he brings her to his place deep under the opera house. There Christine finds out that the angel of music—the one who teaches her to sing—is actually the Phantom himself, who hides his ugly face under a mask.

Christine feels sympathy for the Phantom, but when she realizes that the Phantom is responsible for the accidents and murders in the opera house, she makes a secret plan to run away from Paris with Raoul. Unfortunately, the Phantom knows about their plan and he kidnaps Christine during her stage performance.

Raoul, befriended by a character named the Persian, then decides to go deep down into the Phantom’s lair to free his lover. There, they get involved in a final confrontation with the Phantom. Finally, Erik or the Phantom releases Christine and Raoul after he knows how Christine really feels for him and how much she loves Raoul.

Biography of Victor Hugo (1802-1885)

Victor Hugo is a French poet, novelist, and playwright, whose works greatly influenced the Romantic Movement in France.

Victor Hugo was born on February 26, 1802. He was educated both privately and in Paris schools. Since early age, he decided himself to be a writer. In 1817, he was honoured by the Académie Française for his poem.

The period 1829-1843 was the most productive of Hugo's career. His great historical novel *The Hunchback of Notre-Dame*, a tale set in 15th-century Paris, made him popular. His other famous works are *Claude Gueux* and *Les Misérables*.

Hugo's works set a standard for the rhetorical and poetic taste of generations of French youth, and he is still considered one of the finest French poets. He died on May 22, 1885, in Paris.

Adapted from: Microsoft Encarta 99 Encyclopedia Deluxe Edition CD-ROM.

Biography of Gaston Leroux (1868-1927)

Gaston Leroux was a French mystery novelist, playwright and journalist best known for his *The Phantom of the Opera* (1910). The novel has been a source for several films and stage adaptations.

Gaston Leroux was born on May 6, 1868 in Paris as the son of a wealthy storeowner. He attended school in Normandy and studied law in Paris, receiving his degree in 1889. Then Leroux started to work as a theater critic and reporter for

L'Écho de Paris. By 1890 Leroux had become a full-time journalist. From 1909 Leroux devoted himself entirely to writing, focusing on plays and novels of mystery and detection.

Leroux started to write novels in the early 1900s. His breakthrough work was *Le Mystère de la chambre jaune* (1907, *The Mystery of the Yellow Room*), which introduced the teenager crime reporter Joseph Rouletabille.

In 1919 Leroux established his own film company called Cinéromans. Leroux died in Nice on April 15/16, 1927, as a result of an acute urinary infection.

Adapted from: <http://www.online-literature.com/leroux/>