

**Title: The Books**

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**The Phantom of the Opera, by Gaston Leroux. 1910**

The book that started it all, a Phantom fan must-read. Find out Erik's original background and deepen your understanding of the story. Gaston Leroux's novel was originally published in France in 1910, and the narrative takes a semi-journalistic form, claiming that the events it describes really happened (and evidence has been found which points towards some real people with similar stories, and real families). Some might find the book melodramatic, but it is also profoundly touching in parts.

[UK - The Phantom of the Opera](#)

[USA - The Phantom of the Opera](#)

**The Phantom of the Opera, by Gaston Leroux. Edited by Leonard Wolf.**

Another edition of Gaston Leroux's original novel, with a different translation and extensive notes by Leonard Wolf. Wolf's commentary is variable, in places fascinating, in others frustrating by not addressing points we'd like to see examined, and occasionally ill-informed (to the fanatical fan, anyway). The translation includes paragraphs inexplicably cut out of most editions of the book, so I recommend picking this one up.

[UK - The Essential Phantom of the Opera](#)

[USA - The Essential Phantom of the Opera](#)

**Phantom, by Susan Kay.**

It would be heretical to say that Susan Kay's magnificent Phantom is an even more essential read than Gaston Leroux's, but many fans list it as their favorite version of the story. It deals with the story from multiple viewpoints, from before Erik's birth to after his death. It is, quite simply, everything any Phantom fan could hope it could be. It is rich, beautifully written, true to Leroux's characters whilst adding far more layers of depth, and heart-breaking. You **will** need a box of tissues when you read this book.

[UK - Susan Kay's Phantom](#)

[USA - Susan Kay's Phantom](#)

**The Complete Phantom of the Opera, by George Perry**

Written to go with the London show, this is a look into the background of the story, the author, the Paris Opera House, and of course Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical. There's the libretto of the original cast recording, loads of photographs, and it should be part of every fan's collection.

[UK - The Complete Phantom of the Opera, by George Perry](#)

[USA - The Complete Phantom of the Opera, by George Perry](#)

**The Phantom Of The Opera: Film Companion**

This is basically sections of the George Perry book, together with a section on the new movie and its screenplay. It also includes many photos from the film, as well as a couple of pictures from other productions around the world.

[UK - The Phantom of the Opera: Film Companion](#)

[USA - The Phantom of the Opera: Film Companion](#)