

Title:

Erik: The Man Behind The Phantom

Word Count:

938

Summary:

Like most horror novel figures of his time, the Phantom of the Opera was a monster that bore a

Keywords:

fear and anxiety, status anxiety, emotional healing

Article Body:

In the literary world, there are few villains and monsters as sympathetic and as ^human~ as Erik

However, behind the mask was, ultimately, a man. Erik was not the overwhelming force of evil t

This face t

A mother's fear and loathing

A mask my first

Unfeeling scrap of clothing

From an early age, Erik instilled fear and anxiety in the people around him because of his def

Masquerade!

Paper faces on parade...

Masquerade

Hide your face,

So the world

Will never find you!

His social anxiety forced him into seclusion, though he was not completely without contact with

Those who have seen your face

Draw back in fear

I am the mask you wear...

It's me they hear.

It is easy to speculate that Erik's initial reasons for training Christine stemmed from his de

Pitiful creature of darkness

What kind of life have you known?

God give me courage to show you

You are not alone

There is little argument on whether or not Erik loved Christine, albeit he expressed that love

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