

The Phantom

By

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INT. BACKSTAGE, NIGHT

The PHANTOM, dressed like the Phantom of the Opera in a flowing black cape and white half-mask, is creeping around the backstage of a theater. His voice is dubbed over dramatic shots of him stalking around backstage.

PHANTOM

I have lived my whole life lurking
in the shadows of this very
theatre, rejected from society.
Waiting, oh so diligently, for the
day when I would take what is
rightfully mine! And-

Phantom is interrupted by FRANK, the director, who's trying to get the Phantom's attention.

FRANK

Devinn. DEVINN!

Devinn snaps back to reality.

PHANTOM

Uhhh yeah?

FRANK

I was just saying how it's opening
night and I just *really* need you
to not be weird and mess everything
up. Now. One more time. What are
you here to do?

The Phantom mumbles.

PHANTOM

Mop the floors.

FRANK

And what are you **not** going to do?

PHANTOM

Cling to the shadows, emerging only
to cause havoc and occasionally
take hostages.

FRANK

Because this is a...?

PHANTOM

Low budget community theater.

(CONTINUED)

FRANK

And not an...

PHANTOM

Opera.

FRANK

Great. Now where's your mop?

Phantom holds it up.

FRANK

Perfect. Now, hop to it, champ.

Phantom stares at Frank for a second too long before answering.

PHANTOM

... Kay.

Phantom jogs off, now speaking his monologue at full volume.

PHANTOM

The Phantom had once again avoided the detection of the stupid director, Frank! As I melted into the darkness from whence I came, I swore that the night would be mine!

He almost runs into BRITTANY, who is entering the room as Phantom leaves it.

PHANTOM

And also that I would get with that hot girl from makeup maybe, if there's enough time!

Brittany looks alarmed.

FRANK

We can hear you, Devinn!

PHANTOM

No you can't!

INT. MAINSTAGE, DAY.

Frank addresses a group of actors for final notes. As he speaks, we see the Phantom running around in the background, singing the Phantom theme music, dashing from shadow to shadow, knocking stuff over, etc.

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FRANK

Okay guys, just a couple final notes. Trees- I need more energy from you guys, okay? I'm still getting a shrub vibe, especially from you, Gary-

Frank turns around after Phantom causes a particularly loud crash.

Devin! what are you doing, man? The show's in two hours.

PHANTOM

I was swooping. It's meant to strike fear into your heart.

Shot of Frank's blank, clearly-not-scared face.

PHANTOM

It's no use putting on a brave face. I can smell your fear.

FRANK

What do you want, Devinn?

PHANTOM

Clearly you did not get my ultimatum, or you would know exactly what I-

Frank holds up a piece of paper written on in crayon.

FRANK

Is that what this thing is? Of course I didn't read it, it's disgusting. Why is it wet?

PHANTOM

...So you've chosen to incur the wrath of the Phantom. That's just fine with me. But be warned, I will have my revenge.

He starts to run from the room.

PHANTOM

REVEEENNGEEEE!

On his way out, he bumps into a lamp and breaks it.

PHANTOM

That was part of the revenge.
REVENGE!

INT. BACKSTAGE, NIGHT

Frank watches from the wings, looking incredibly tense. Phantom walks past and Frank jumps.

FRANK

Devinn I swear to God if you mess this up for me you're done, I don't care *how* close you and Aunt Josie are.

PHANTOM

Relax, okay? I'm not going to mess anything up. I got your message loud and clear. That whole "Phantom" thing was stupid. I'm over it. I'm all about mopping now.

FRANK

(suspiciously) You're still wearing the mask.

PHANTOM

Yeah, I've still got pretty terrible acne.

FRANK

(Calming down) Alright. Alright. Well, thanks for being weirdly cool about this, man.

Frank breathes a sigh of relief and looks almost triumphant until an actress onstage spills a large pitcher of chocolate milk. As the pitcher hits the floor, Phantom stiffens and begins to slowly turn towards the sound. Frank makes eye contact with the once-again-deranged Phantom and realizes all is lost.

FRANK

No. NO!

Phantom begins to sing his theme music while running to the scene of the spill.

PHANTOM

(singing) The Phaaaaaantom has a mop and he is going to save the day!

Phantom continues singing as Frank begins crying. The cacophony continues as two audience members watch, confused but mesmerized. Long pause.

(CONTINUED)

AUDIENCE MEMBER #1
.....I don't get it-

AUDIENCE MEMBER #2
Ssssh. Shh.