

A Christmas Aria

By Annabelle T.

Written for Quinn B.

(It is Christmas Eve at Phantom's apartment building. Everyone is incredibly busy, yet some are a bit more...ahem, productive than others...)

Raoul- (Lies in the middle of the living room floor with a pen and a Barbie catalogue.) Hmm...what do I want? That Mr. and Mrs. Clause outfit and igloo set looks interesting, but Barbie can't accompany temperatures under 45 degrees...

Phantom- (Carrying huge basket of laundry) Must you lie in the middle of the floor to look at a catalogue?

Raoul- Yup. I'm comfy, and we're all right in front of the heater, so all the heat is blowing on us.

Phantom- (Is puzzled) Us? We?

Raoul- Uh-huh!

Phantom- Do you mean---

Raoul- Yeah!

Phantom- Oh, god...

Bob- Merry Christmas, Phantom! (Hops on top of laundry) What do you want from the Jolly Ole Elf?

Phantom- Good question...hey, people, what do you want for Christmas?

Bob- Um, excuse me, Phantom, but I asked what you wanted.

Phantom- Bah! Humbug! I don't need any more cheap junk! I've got too much of it, anyway...(Eyes Barney)

Barney- (Halfway through a bag of potato chips) Hey!

Annabelle- (Appears wearing her fuzzy penguin pants, blue pajama top, and short, blue bathrobe) Come on, Phantom. Don't be a Grinch!

Maya- Or an Ebenezer Scrooge, for that matter!

Phantom- (Turns green) Who're you calling a Grinch?

Annabelle- Uh, nobody, sir!

Phantom- Good.

Christine- (Walks into living room, plops into recliner, and puts up footrest) I do agree that the holidays have been a bit hectic recently...with three kids and who knows how many tagalongs---no offense.

Raoul- But-but-but...you only have Charlotte and Liam!

Christine- Dear Raoul, you forgot to include yourself.

Annabelle- (Tries to break a fight before it starts) We actually don't have too many guests...only Maya and I so far. Where's Viktor, Meg, Madame Giry, Quinn, Joel, Benji, or Billy?

Phantom- I can answer that. Joel, Benji, and Billy are out touring with Good Charlotte, and probably aren't taking to us very kindly considering we set their stage on fire and melted Benji's favorite guitar pick. Meg and Madame Giry should be here tomorrow, as they have to sort things out with those two fools who run my theatre. Quinn is probably testing out her stupid Leo-Tracking device she made from Cheerios boxes, paper clips, and rubber bands. As for Viktor, he might as well just be wherever he is.

Christine- Erik, be reasonable.

Phantom- (Glaring at Bob, who is currently chewing on a sock, to Raoul, who is throwing Barbie dolls at the wall, to Barney, who is spilling crumbs all over the floor) I've had enough of this! "Merry Christmas?" Out with Merry Christmas! I'd say that any idiot who goes about singing, "Merry Christmas" should be boiled with his own cranberry sauce and buried alive with a stake of holly stabbed through his heart! OUT WITH SANTA CLAUS!

Christine- Erik! We need to take this time to be cheery and drink hot chocolate.

Phantom- Grr! I'm going to bed.

Annabelle- (Hugging Billy doll) Phantom, dine with us!

Phantom- Bah! Why, why do you want to get married?!?!

Annabelle- Why, because I fell in love with a wonderful person, Billy!

Phantom- And I with solitude. Good night.

Annabelle- Thanks to Christine, Billy will always be with me...

Phantom- (Heats up)

Annabelle- We'll have mashed potatoes...

Phantom- Good night...

Annabelle-...and pudding...

Phantom- GOOD NIGHT! (Slams door to room)

Christine- (Sigh) This happens every year...it's about time I put a stop to it! (Sings Angel of Music with Maya and Annabelle piping in here and there) Good! Now, be asleep by midnight. Your dreams will need to be open...

Maya- Yes ma'am

Christine- Good, good. Now help me with dinner!

(They eat and go to bed)

Phantom- (Tossing and turning in bed. The clock strikes Midnight. Suddenly, he wakes up to see Maya in front of him) Wha---Maya, you should be in bed!

Maya- (Smiles) I am the Ghost of Christmas Past. I'm here to remind you why you're so bitter about Christmas. (She is wearing a flowing white gown)

Phantom- Er, why?

Maya- Don't ask, don't tell. Take my hand; we're about to do some traveling...

Phantom- I'd prefer to stay here, thanks...WHOA!!! (He looks below him to see Paris) Oh, I recognize this place! It's the...fairgrounds...

Maya- Ring any bells?

Phantom- Um...

Maya- I thought so.

Phantom- Wait, hold up. Why are you showing me this again?

Maya- Because you're bitter and you need to understand why.

Phantom- Well, anyone with Raoul in the house would be bitter...

Maya- This is pre-Raoul. Come. We still have another stop...we have just 30 minutes.

Phantom- Fine, hurry up...I wanna go to bed.

Maya- Le Opera Populaire.

Phantom- It's so...dusty.

Maya- I wonder why...

Phantom- Hey, this is post-Raoul! He ticked me off so badly, it's not even funny!

Maya- Why did he tick you off so badly?

Phantom- Well, because...he turned Christine again me...(Looks forward) This doesn't mean anything! I'm married to Christine! Can we go home?

Maya- (Huffy voice) Fine, fine...(Snaps fingers. They appear back at the house. Maya has disappeared.) Phantom- One o'clock...(Quinn appears in front of him) Joy, just what I need...another spirit. Quinn- Yeah, but I'm a cool spirit! I'm the Ghost of Christmas Gift! (Is wearing a red robe over her Hairspray pajamas)

Phantom- This could go either two ways. You could mean "Gift" as in "present", therefore being the Ghost of Christmas Present, or you could

mean "Gift" as in the German word for "poison", which would mean you want to poison me. What even is Christmas Poison? Eggnog?

Quinn- Whatever. Take a guess.

Phantom- Present.

Quinn- Right-o! Aaand...WELCOME TO THE SIXTHIES!

Phantom- Let's just get on with this! I really would rather be in bed...

Quinn- Well, fine, be that way...come on, you should see this...

Phantom- All right...(They fly over to the other side of town) Hmm. Viktor's house. Pretty nice for someone who doesn't have a job besides raking leaves...

Quinn- Let us go in! Yaaay! Eavesdropping!

Phantom- But-but-but-but-

Quinn- They can't hear or see us. Don't be a worrier! Hakuna Matata!

Phantom- This is getting really annoying...(They go in) Rather small...dirty...ew...

Quinn- How'd you think it'd be like?

Phantom- Rather Durmstrang-like: Orderly, full of greens and golds...velvetish...

Quinn- Mm-hmm. Listen.

(They listen into the, ahem, conversation)

Viktor- (Talking to himself) Deeeck da holes vith bons ov hol-ly...FVA LA LA LA LAAA LA LA LALAAA! Oh, vait! Let's find a candy cane...and FRY IT! In celebration ov da BIG! Par-ADE! Of MEEE!

Phantom- Ugh! I'm surprised he's not in an asylum yet.

Quinn- Actually, he's number one on the list.

Phantom- But what does this have to do with me?

Quinn- Doesn't Viktor work for you?

Phantom- Yeah, he mows the lawn.

Quinn- How much do you pay?

Phantom- I thought a dollar would be enough---

Quinn- And which is more expensive: asylum or long-term multi-therapy?

Phantom- Um, therapy?

Quinn- YES! What do you suppose might happen?

Phantom- Well, um, I---this has no use to me! Take me home!

Quinn- I'm afraid I can't do that quite yet, good sir!

Phantom- Well, why not?

Quinn- We're not finished!

Phantom- Well, finish us up then!

Quinn- I think I will! (Takes him to a street corner) Recognize them?

Phantom- The Baudelaires?

Quinn- Mm-hm. Sunny should be cooking shrimp with you, Klaus reading a dictionary by the fire, and Violet...well, being Violet.

Phantom- Well, why do you show me?

Quinn- Don't you try your best for your friends and neighbors?

Phantom- Well, yes, but-

Quinn- No buts! One last stop!

Phantom- No! I want to go home...it's dark and cold!

Quinn- It's rather dark and cold for them, too, 'dontcha think?

Phantom- Bah! Leave me be!

Quinn- Fine! Merry Christmas, and God save you! (Salutes and disappears)

Phantom- (Looks around him. He's alone) Oh, lovely, JUST what I needed. And listen! The bells toll two...which must mean...(Lightning strikes. Annabelle appears in front of him) The Ghost of Christmas Yet To Come, am I not mistaken?

Annabelle- (Wearing all black, including black nail polish and eye shadow. It would appear to be a sorry attempt to look like the Ghost of Christmas Future or the Grim Reaper, but it's also kind of obvious what look she was going for) Billyyyy...(Clutches Billy doll)

Maya- (Runs in) Hey! You're at the wrong part!

Annabelle- Oops, sorry! (Darth Vader breathing)

Phantom- Well, aren't you going to answer me? (She says nothing) Well, take me wherever you need to! (The first stop is his house) Oh, look! It's 2070. Fancy that! Christine still looks lovely...wait, why is she acting so nice to Raoul? (Listens in)

Christine- Oh sir!

Raoul- (Norman Richmond voice)- Ah miss!

Christine- I always did feel sorry for you...Phantom knocking you around and such.

Raoul- Um, yeah, it was horrible. Marry me!

Phantom- WHAT?!?! I am NOT mean to Raoul...

Annabelle- (Darth Vader breath. They fly over to a corner, where Quinn is standing all sad-looking)

Phantom- Now what?

Quinn- (Cradling Leo-tracking device. Soft, scratchy voice) Leo! (Sings to "Beadle" tune) Leo, Leo, Leo, Leo, Leo, Leo, Leo, Leo Dum, dum! Leo dum, dum! (Spoken) Where is Leo?

Phantom- Oookay...last stop? (They fly over to a dark, dank fortress) Ugh, what's that screeching? And that real voice...it's freaky!

"Mr. Togg"- (To guest) Welcome, welcome to my asylum! These are my children...yes, yes, we're all one big happy family...I'm the daddy, and I

consider all these angels my children! They're punished when they're naughty...and get a sweetie when they're good! MWAHAHA!

Phantom- All right, what does this have to do with me---oh, dear...

Viktor- (In corner) Green fench and leenet bird, nightingaaal blaaack vord, 'ow iz it you ziiing?

Phantom- Oh my! Viktor? In an asylum? This isn't good! Take me home! I wish to see no more of this! (Suddenly appears back in bed) 8 AM...wow, this has all happened in one night? Interesting...ah! It's morning! Christmas Morning! Oh, joy! (Runs out to living room) Everyone, it's Christmas morning! Hoo-ray!

Maya- (Asleep on the couch) Ugh....my head hurts.

Annabelle- (Waking up in a chair) Yeah...hey, why aren't I wearing my PJ's? I'm in regular clothes...BILLY CLOTHES! (Hugs self)

Phantom- I just had the most MARVELOUS dream! I was taken around by three spirits, and I saw all these depressing things, and now I'm alive at last, and I'm full of JOOOY!

Annabelle- Very nice.

Quinn- (Comes in from bedroom) Hey, everyone...why's Phantom so happy?

Phantom- Quinn! How about I help you with your Leo-Tracking device today? Just the two of us...we'll upgrade it and you'll find Leo!

Quinn- Wow, really?

Phantom- Really really!

Viktor- (Tumbles in through front door) Ugh...

Phantom- (Gasp) Viktor, buddy old pal! We've always been friends, haven't we?

Viktor- Uh, sure...vateva...

Phantom- How about some speech and social therapy? Christmas present, my treat. Get rid of that accent once and for all!

Viktor- WHOOOT!

Phantom- I feel all perky and happy today! Hooray, hooray, hooray!

Christine- (Wearing bathroom and slippers. Yawns) Good morning, Phantom...you seem to be in a good mood...an unusually good mood.

Phantom- (Fixing tracking device) Done! Try it out, Quinn!

Quinn- OK...(Presses button) Oh....mymymyMYYY! He's right outside!
(Runs out door, slides down banisters, and returns 3 seconds later) Ta daaa! Leo has come to me!

Leo- All righty then...

Phantom- Christmas joy!

Annabelle- And Hanukah, too!

Quinn- Don't forget Kwanzaa!

Maya- Or Boxing Day...

Klaus- Saint Nicholas Day is celebrated in Germany...

Annabelle- Group hug!

Everyone (Even Leo)- Aww! (Hug)

Phantom- I feel all happy and giddy! Merry Christmas---

Raoul- (Jumps on Phantom. Sings) And a hap-py new yeaar...

Merry Christmas 2007!