



Hunchback of Notre Dame

The Hunchback (of Notre Dame)

Paris 1482

At birth, villagers label the deformed, QUASIMODO, a demon. To save their child's life, his parents flee to an isolated farm. At age 6, the young Hunchback's mother and father are brutally murdered by an unscrupulous greedy landlord, CLOPIN who hopes to sell Quasimodo as a freak to a circus.

Narrowly escaping Clopin's clutches, Quasimodo is left near death.

Archdeacon Dom Claude Frollo first discovers the dying Quasimodo cowering in a hole. Disgusted by the boy's deformity, Frollo abandons the "demon child" to his fate. That is until Bishop Mont Morency investigates a noise. Discovering Quasimodo, the Bishop immediately reprimands Frollo and as a penance, decrees Frollo is to look after the hunchbacked child, as though it were his own son. From this day forward, Frollo resents not only Quasimodo, but also Mont Morency.

We meet Esmeralda as a child just as her mother is arrested for being in a witch's coven. Alone, Esmeralda joins a troupe of Gypsies while desperately searching for her lost mother.

In 1482, the now adult, Esmeralda is in Paris with her adopted Gypsy family, entertaining Parisians with song and dance. PIERRE, a cunning poet hoping to perform in Paris, stumbles across Esmeralda's Gypsy show. Smitten, Pierre watches the eclectic troupe perform until SYFER, Paris' Head of Laws, orders his men to violently arrest the Gypsies for witchcraft and debauchery.

In the melee, Pierre aids Esmeralda's escape. She then saves Pierre's life from a rowdy group known as the Argotiers, ruled by Clopin. The Argotiers and Clopin want to string up Pierre for trespassing. Pierre tells Esmeralda he knew her mother. To save Pierre from the noose, Esmeralda interrupts the hanging by stating she will marry Pierre under Gypsy law.

Now grown into a strong young man, the hunchbacked bell-ringer, Quasimodo is held captive in Notre Dame Cathedral. Frollo forbids him to step outside its walls. But during the Festival of Fools, Quasimodo escapes to join the boisterous Parisian crowd, who dub him, King of the Fools. He is treated badly by everyone, except the enchanting Gypsy girl, Esmeralda.

Seeing Esmeralda, Frollo becomes obsessed with her beauty. His tormented desires overpower his vows to the Church; Frollo baits Esmeralda to come to Notre Dame Cathedral where he frames her for Mont Morency's murder. On Frollo's testimony, Esmeralda is sentenced to death. Frollo offers Esmeralda a final ultimatum – be with him or burn at the stake. Rejecting his offer, Esmeralda accepts her fate.

Scorned, Frollo cries for his soul to be saved from perdition as SYFER prepares to burn Esmeralda. With the help of the Gypsies and the Argotiers, Pierre rushes to save Esmeralda. With Frollo and Syfer vowing to kill anyone who gets in their way, Quasimodo pulls Esmeralda to safety, claiming sanctuary in the church.

The gates of hell have opened in the house of God and painful sacrifices must be made in order to put a stop to the evildoers of the troubled city of Paris. Quasimodo sacrifices himself to save Esmeralda.