

(PHOEBUS and FREDERIC enter and stop when they see ESMERALDA.)

(ESMERALDA)

BUT I KNOW SO MANY
LESS LUCKY THAN I

ESMERALDA

PLEASE HELP MY PEOPLE
THE POOR AND DOWNTROD
I THOUGHT WE ALL WERE
THE CHILDREN OF GOD
GOD HELP THE OUTCASTS
CHILDREN OF GOD
CHILDREN OF GOD

PARISHONERS, CHOIR

AMEN

CHOIR

AH

AH

AH

PHOEBUS

(to FREDERIC)

It's all right. I'll take care of it.

(FREDERIC nods and exits. PHOEBUS approaches ESMERALDA.)

I thought you disappeared in a puff of smoke.

ESMERALDA

Don't believe everything you see.

(ESMERALDA attempts to exit.)

PHOEBUS

And where do you think you're going?

(PHOEBUS reaches out, but ESMERALDA swiftly puts her knife to his throat.)

Calm down. Give me a chance to apologize.

ESMERALDA

For what?

PHOEBUS

This.

(PHOEBUS grabs ESMERALDA and forces her to release the knife.)

Still, I'm impressed. You fight almost as well as a man.

ESMERALDA

Funny, I was going to say the same thing about you.

(ESMERALDA elbows PHOEBUS in the lower gut and retrieves the knife, keeping her distance. He buckles, then recovers.)

PHOEBUS

Look, it's my job to protect this Cathedral.

ESMERALDA

From dirty Gypsies like me?

PHOEBUS

You said it, I didn't. But I do have my orders to follow.

ESMERALDA

And if there's one thing a good soldier knows, it's how to follow orders.

PHOEBUS

(laughs)

Who said anything about my being a good soldier?

ESMERALDA

Are you saying you're not?

PHOEBUS

I'm saying I have a job to do. It's much better than the one it got me out of.

ESMERALDA

Burying your comrades in unmarked graves?

(PHOEBUS stares at ESMERALDA for a moment, then turns away.)

You can look me in the eye, you know. We don't cast spells.

PHOEBUS

I know that.

(a beat)

Where are you from, anyway?

ESMERALDA

You're asking a Gypsy? All I know is I've come from nothing. Just like you.

(QUASIMODO, who has been watching, inadvertently makes a noise then runs off.

ESMERALDA starts after him.)

#11 – Transition to the Bell Tower

Statues, Gargoyles

PHOEBUS

Where are you going?

ESMERALDA

To see that boy.

PHOEBUS

Why can't you mind your own business?

ESMERALDA

It has to be somebody's business.

(as she starts up to the bell tower)

Hello? Are you up there?