

SOLDIER

We're looking for La Esmeralda.

(The SOLDIERS ransack the house.)

MADAM

Never heard of her. But maybe one of my girls can be of service?

(SOLDIERS bring out some of the PROSTITUTES. FROLLO arrives with PHOEBUS close behind.)

Ah, Captain Phoebus! Nice to see you again!

(PHOEBUS, embarrassed in front of FROLLO, deflects the attention.)

FROLLO

(to the MADAM)

Is this your establishment?

MADAM

Yes. And a man like you shouldn't be here sullyng your pristine reputation.

(FREDERIC emerges from the house.)

FREDERIC

No one else is left, Your Grace.

FROLLO

Then she must be cleverly hidden.

(to the MADAM)

If you want your house to remain standing, give us the Gypsy girl.

MADAM

I know nothing of Gypsy girls.

FROLLO

Very well. We'll set fire to it. And if, as you claim, it's empty, it won't matter if we bar the door as well.

MADAM

(covering)

No! No, you mustn't—

FROLLO

(looks at the lit torch in PHOEBUS's hand)

A lesson must be learned here. Burn it.

(PHOEBUS stands frozen.)