

CLOPIN

My apologies, gentlemen, for your imminent demise. Any last words?

(PHOEBUS and QUASIMODO try to speak through their gags.)

I thought not!

IT'S ALWAYS SAD WHEN A LIFE'S AT ITS FINISH
I HAVE TO ADMIT TO A BIT OF A PANG
BUT WE MUST PROTECT AT ALL COST OUR SECRET
IT'S OUR LIVES OR YOURS—

CLOPIN, GYPSIES

SO YOU'RE GOING TO HANG!

(ESMERALDA appears.)

ESMERALDA

Stop! These men are my friends.

CLOPIN

(furious)

More than we are, apparently! How could you betray us like this?

ESMERALDA

I haven't betrayed you!

CLOPIN

Oh, no? What would you call telling them our hiding place?! Esmeralda, I knew you were trouble...

(ESMERALDA has pulled the gags off PHOEBUS and QUASIMODO.)

PHOEBUS

You should be grateful to her. We've come to warn you. Frollo knows your hiding place. He plans on attacking at dawn.

(The GYPSIES begin to panic.)

CLOPIN

All right, all right, keep calm! How do you know this?

QUASIMODO

Master — told me...

CLOPIN

And why should we believe either of you? You're Frollo's slave and him — he's a soldier! And we don't trust soldiers.

ESMERALDA

He's not a soldier anymore.

PHOEBUS

I'm now as much an outcast as you.

GYPSIES

Clopin, if this is true—
We don't have much time!
We need to get ready to leave!

(The GYPSIES hurry to collect their belongings.)

CLOPIN

I hoped this time we might have had a few years here. Yes! We must move quickly!
Yásha! [YAH-sha - Let's go!] Esmeralda, go pack now.

PHOEBUS

Pack? You're going with them?

CLOPIN

Of course. No matter what, we won't leave one of our own behind.

ESMERALDA

Thank you, Clopin.

PHOEBUS

No, Esmeralda.

ESMERALDA

What else would you have me do?

PHOEBUS

Come with me.

ESMERALDA

Where?

PHOEBUS

I don't know. We could start a life together.

(ESMERALDA looks at him.)

ESMERALDA

You really are a dreamer, aren't you.

(ESMERALDA starts to move off.)

QUASIMODO

Esmeralda. I take you. I... keep safe.

ESMERALDA

(gently)

Quasimodo...