

The Gargoyle's Tale: A Modern Re-Telling of **Victor Hugo's Enduring Classic The Hunchback of Notre Dame**

By Robin Moore





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Seen through the eyes of a stone gargoyle perched high on the walls of the Cathedral of Notre Dame, this modern adaptation explores the improbable romance between Quasimodo, the deformed bell-ringer, and the beautiful Gypsy girl, Esmeralda.

How can a stone tell a story?

The Gargoyle tell us: "There is nothing I do not notice. There is no shout or moan, no whispered word or quiet footstep that does not reach my pointed ears. There is no sight that does not pass before my unblinking eyes. There is no smell, vile or pleasant, that does not drift up into my flaring nostrils. I am always awake, always listening and watching."

The stone statue delivers a stunning commentary on witchcraft and madness, confessions and betrayals, love lost and found and then lost again--set against the gritty background of Paris in 1467.

We watch as the "almost human" child Quasimodo is abandoned on the steps of the great cathedral and raised by Dom Frollo, a priest who has descended into a dark world of evil and sorcery. Outside the walls of the cathedral, Quasimodo is exposed to a strange collection of beggars, thieves, starving poets and musicians--and the breath-taking beauty of the dancing gypsy girl Esmeralda.

When Quasimodo is crowned King of Fools, he is swept up in a rebellion which inflames the common people of France and incites them to storm the cathedral to take back what is theirs. All of Paris, from the ruling class of monarchs, judges and priests to the lowliest peasants and prisoners, takes part in this great struggle.

By listening to the Gargoyle's tale, we glimpse the terrifying possibilities of becoming human. Robin Moore's fresh re-telling of this timeless classic is designed for everyone who is drawn to historical romance and epic adventure.

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