



SPOILER

Victor Hugo, *The Hunchback of Notre-Dame*

Book X: Gringoire has rescued Esmeralda from the church, but she subsequently falls into the cruel hands of Frollo. She again decisively refuses him, and he puts her in the temporary charge of the recluse mother of the abducted baby until the police can arrive. During this encounter, however, the hateful recluse discovers, by the mated shoe that Esmeralda owns, that this girl is her long-lost daughter Agnes. They are afforded a few minutes of rapture before Esmeralda is ripped away by the police and taken to the scaffold. Quasimodo, in a panic after finding the girl missing, eventually sees her being hanged in the distance. He realizes it is the work of his foster father. He then kills Claude Frollo by throwing him down from the tower. As both Frollo and Esmeralda die, Quasimodo sighs “There is all I ever loved!”. Quasimodo later finds the grave of his beloved, and dies clutching it. Years afterwards, when people try to pry Quasimodo from the grave, his skeleton crumbles to dust.

