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# The Hunchback of Notre Dame

Victor Hugo

Read by **Bill Homewood**

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<b>1</b>	<b>Preface</b>	2:40
<b>2</b>	<b>Book 1, Chapter 1</b>	7:31
<b>3</b>	Around the hall, along the lofty wall...	7:28
<b>4</b>	In the middle of the hall, opposite the great door...	7:32
<b>5</b>	At length one of these, as fat, short, and venerable as himself...	8:02
<b>6</b>	Meanwhile, the sworn bookseller of the university...	6:39
<b>7</b>	<b>Book 1, Chapter 2</b>	7:50
<b>8</b>	'And for the refreshment of the passers-by,' continued Gisquette...	8:16
<b>9</b>	A tattered mendicant, who could not collect any coins...	7:27
<b>10</b>	<b>Book 1, Chapter 3</b>	8:32
<b>11</b>	It was this justly acquired popularity, no doubt...	7:54
<b>12</b>	There was one exception, however.	1:08
<b>13</b>	<b>Book 1, Chapter 4</b>	7:57
<b>14</b>	From that moment, Master Coppenole enjoyed in Paris as in Ghent...	7:40
<b>15</b>	Both parties were forced to resign themselves.	8:17
<b>16</b>	<b>Book 1, Chapter 5</b>	6:04
<b>17</b>	As for Gringoire, the first moment of depression having passed...	5:44
<b>18</b>	One would have pronounced him a giant...	5:57
<b>19</b>	<b>Book 1, Chapter 6</b>	5:39
<b>20</b>	<b>Book 2, Chapter 1</b>	7:12

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<b>21</b>	<b>Book 2, Chapter 2</b>	6:05
<b>22</b>	<b>Book 2, Chapter 3</b>	6:03
<b>23</b>	The young girl, stopped at length...	6:44
<b>24</b>	Her voice was like her dancing, like her beauty...	5:03
<b>25</b>	After the kingdom of the Argotiers...	7:27
<b>26</b>	<b>Book 2, Chapter 4</b>	6:02
<b>27</b>	The young girl's attention had been attracted to him...	4:14
<b>28</b>	<b>Book 2, Chapter 5</b>	5:17
<b>29</b>	<b>Book 2, Chapter 6</b>	6:57
<b>30</b>	That said, he turned his back upon the blind man...	7:16
<b>31</b>	'Holy Virgin!' murmured Gringoire...	7:07
<b>32</b>	Gringoire shuddered.	7:10
<b>33</b>	Trouillefou made a sign...	7:30
<b>34</b>	'Death of the devil!' objected Gringoire...	7:13
<b>35</b>	But he paused, as though struck by a sudden thought.	6:46
<b>36</b>	<b>Book 2, Chapter 7</b>	6:50
<b>37</b>	'Mademoiselle Esmeralda,' said the poet...	6:07
<b>38</b>	She remained thoughtful for a moment...	5:00
<b>39</b>	'So it was,' said Gringoire...	6:44
<b>40</b>	<b>Book 3, Chapter 1</b>	7:35

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41	And if we ascend the cathedral...	8:06
42	Notre-Dame de Paris is, in particular, a curious specimen of this variety.	8:29
43	<b>Book 3, Chapter 2</b>	7:49
44	The Town, which was the largest of the three fragments of Paris...	8:01
45	Now, what aspect did this whole present...	7:17
46	This side of the Seine was, however, the least mercantile of the two.	7:53
47	But that which attracted the eye most of all...	6:32
48	Continuing to mount the stories of this amphitheatre...	7:30
49	Thus, immediately adjoining the park des Tournelles...	8:09
50	It was not then merely a handsome city...	8:07
51	An edifice ought to be, moreover, suitable to the climate.	7:45
52	<b>Book 4, Chapter 1</b>	5:49
53	Dame Aloise de Gondelaurier, a rich and noble woman...	4:23
54	<b>Book 4, Chapter 2</b>	6:44
55	This catastrophe was a crisis in Claude's existence.	6:59
56	<b>Book 4, Chapter 3</b>	6:45
57	If now we were to try to penetrate to the soul of Quasimodo...	6:59
58	After these first caresses...	7:11
59	<b>Book 4, Chapter 4</b>	3:21
60	<b>Book 4, Chapter 5</b>	6:06

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61	He had taken his place by turns...	6:33
62	There were no great proofs of sorcery...	5:26
63	<b>Book 4, Chapter 6</b>	2:22
64	<b>Book 5, Chapter 1</b>	7:38
65	He was, so far as the feeble light of the lamp permitted one to judge...	6:29
66	'Dominum nostrum,' added Gossip Tourangeau...	6:59
67	Claude assumed the majestic and pontifical attitude of a Samuel.	8:00
68	<b>Book 5, Chapter 2</b>	7:59
69	All civilization begins in theocracy and ends in democracy.	7:57
70	Then whoever was born a poet became an architect.	7:51
71	The invention of printing is the greatest event in history.	5:49
72	Nevertheless, when the sun of the Middle Ages is completely set...	7:19
73	A book is so soon made, costs so little, and can go so far!	7:06
74	<b>Book 6, Chapter 1</b>	7:25
75	Nevertheless, with so many reasons for taking life patiently...	7:33
76	'What fellow is this?'	7:17
77	'So this is as much as to say...'	7:32
78	<b>Book 6, Chapter 2</b>	6:42
79	The piety of that age, not very subtle...	4:37
80	<b>Book 6, Chapter 3</b>	8:10

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81	Plump and worthy Oudarde was preparing to retort...	8:06
82	'La Chantefleurie had been a poor creature...'	7:58
83	'Then the whole band camped with good grace...'	8:15
84	"'Tis in truth, a frightful tale,' said Oudarde...	8:12
85	She proceeded alone to the window.	8:12
86	It is certain that if the soul had not already quitted...	7:12
87	<b>Book 6, Chapter 4</b>	6:28
88	There was wild laughter among the crowd...	6:47
89	We have already shown that Quasimodo was generally hated...	6:18
90	This exclamation of distress...	6:10
91	<b>Book 6, Chapter 5</b>	2:02
92	<b>Volume 2, Chapter 1</b>	6:30
93	From the smiles and significant gestures of Dame Aloise...	7:00
94	At that moment Bérangère de Champchevrier...	6:44
95	'Fair cousin Phoebus,' said Fleur-de-Lys suddenly...	6:19
96	'You left me in your stead, my beauty,' ...	6:30
97	'Holy Virgin!' she suddenly exclaimed...	7:09
98	<b>Book 7, Chapter 2</b>	7:37
99	When they had advanced a few paces...	6:53
100	La Esmeralda, in the judgment of Gringoire...	8:05

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<b>101</b>	<b>Book 7, Chapter 3</b>	6:29
<b>102</b>	<b>Book 7, Chapter 4</b>	7:39
<b>103</b>	Something very similar to Faust's cell...	7:34
<b>104</b>	'Others have thought,' continued the dreamy archdeacon...	7:37
<b>105</b>	'Enter!' cried the archdeacon...	7:00
<b>106</b>	'And then,' pursued the sagacious Claude...	6:38
<b>107</b>	<b>Book 7, Chapter 5</b>	6:53
<b>108</b>	'Yes,' replied the priest...	5:23
<b>109</b>	'Thou wert flying towards learning, light, the sun.'	5:19
<b>110</b>	<b>Book 7, Chapter 6</b>	5:15
<b>111</b>	Meanwhile, the archdeacon, who had abandoned...	5:15
<b>112</b>	<b>Book 7, Chapter 7</b>	6:53
<b>113</b>	'Well, scholar of Antichrist...'	6:59
<b>114</b>	The rages of men like Phoebus are milk-soups...	6:12
<b>115</b>	<b>Book 7, Chapter 8</b>	8:20
<b>116</b>	The captain rose to please her...	7:23
<b>117</b>	But Dom Claude saw everything.	7:29
<b>118</b>	<b>Book 8, Chapter 1</b>	8:19
<b>119</b>	One evening I was spinning on my wheel...	8:38
<b>120</b>	The president bent down to a man at his feet...	8:16

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<b>121</b>	<b>Book 8, Chapter 2</b>	6:15
<b>122</b>	At the clanking of their frightful irons...	6:54
<b>123</b>	<b>Book 8, Chapter 3</b>	8:43
<b>124</b>	<b>Book 8, Chapter 4</b>	7:52
<b>125</b>	At length...	8:16
<b>126</b>	Both remained silent for several minutes...	8:22
<b>127</b>	He made another pause and went on...	8:10
<b>128</b>	He opened his cassock...	5:20
<b>129</b>	She interrupted with a terrible and thrilling laugh.	3:49
<b>130</b>	<b>Book 8, Chapter 5</b>	6:55
<b>131</b>	'Alas! Lord my God.'	5:14
<b>132</b>	<b>Book 8, Chapter 6</b>	7:24
<b>133</b>	Phoebus, who had seen nothing in the line of beauty...	7:28
<b>134</b>	Meanwhile, the good mother...	7:12
<b>135</b>	'What Bohemian with the goat?' he stammered.	7:42
<b>136</b>	At the moment when he made his appearance...	7:17
<b>137</b>	'Phoebus!' she cried wildly...	7:25
<b>138</b>	<b>Book 9, Chapter 1</b>	6:00
<b>139</b>	And when he sought to picture to himself...	7:26
<b>140</b>	The monotonous rocking of the boat...	5:42



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141	'Grève, aboie, Grève, grouille!'	6:47
142	For one moment, he was relieved.	5:44
143	<b>Book 9, Chapter 2</b>	5:56
144	He gazed at her with anxiety...	4:35
145	<b>Book 9, Chapter 3</b>	8:20
146	<b>Book 9, Chapter 4</b>	7:34
147	The unhappy bellringer fell upon his knees...	7:27
148	Meanwhile, the windows of the Gondelaurier mansion...	7:31
149	'The gypsy!' he exclaimed, almost frightened.	8:15
150	<b>Book 9, Chapter 5</b>	5:27
151	<b>Book 9, Chapter 6</b>	6:05
152	The priest, who was overwhelming the deaf man...	2:18
153	<b>Book 10, Chapter 1</b>	6:14
154	The priest laid his hand on his brow.	6:04
155	'I will tell you more,' cried Dom Claude...	6:05
156	'A head fit for a mule bell!' muttered the archdeacon.	7:06
157	<b>Book 10, Chapter 2</b>	5:09
158	<b>Book 10, Chapter 3</b>	7:12
159	'Be quick! Make haste...'	6:43
160	'Trade is incompatible with nobility.'	6:13

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161	<b>Book 10, Chapter 4</b>	6:14
162	The throng seemed to increase every moment in the church square.	7:01
163	'To you, Louis de Beaumont...'	6:17
164	'To work, locksmiths!' shouted Trouillefou.	6:38
165	Meanwhile, the beggars did not grow discouraged...	7:55
166	'By the Pope's whiskers!'	7:21
167	Before a second assailant could gain a foothold...	8:00
168	<b>Book 10, Chapter 5</b>	8:10
169	All were uncovered except the king.	8:21
170	'These be dear beasts,' said Louis XI.	8:15
171	The lamentable voice which had proceeded from the cage...	7:55
172	Once he raised his voice...	8:10
173	'Bless me!' said the king...	7:31
174	'I protest to you, my sovereign lord and master...'	7:37
175	'Pulsus creber, anhelans, crepitans, irregularis,'...	7:49
176	'Ah, yes, the physician!' retorted Louis XI...	8:05
177	At that instant...	8:47
178	<b>Book 10, Chapter 6</b>	2:09
179	<b>Book 10, Chapter 7</b>	5:04
180	<b>Book 11, Chapter 1</b>	7:59

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181	Beside them, the enormous towers of Notre-Dame...	8:00
182	'There is also a pleasant garden...'	7:43
183	'Listen!' he said to her...	8:03
184	'Oh! I shall fall upon the pavement...'	8:12
185	A guttural laugh replied...	8:00
186	The gypsy had just drawn from the bag...	7:45
187	At that moment...	7:33
188	Always and everywhere people are to be found...	7:21
189	Phoebus was no longer there.	7:20
190	The recluse had gone and seated herself by her daughter...	7:05
191	'Oh! If you have had a mother, monsieur!'	6:56
192	<b>Book 11, Chapter 2</b>	8:14
193	When he reached the summit of the tower...	7:52
194	The spout, above which he had stood...	7:59
195	<b>Book 11, Chapter 3</b>	2:09
196	<b>Book 11, Chapter 4</b>	5:34

**Total time: 22:28:08**

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**Victor Hugo**

**(1802– 1885)**

# The Hunchback of Notre Dame

When Victor Hugo was born in 1802, his father, General Leopold Hugo, apparently exclaimed, 'He looks like the gargoyles of Notre Dame!' When he died in 1885, he might have been taken instead for one of the marble saints which also decorate the great cathedral, such was the reverence in which he was held amongst the French people. This was because he belonged to a long line of French authors and intellectuals, from Voltaire to Jean-Paul Sartre, who took the ideals they espoused in their writings into the political arena, the courts of justice and even onto the barricades, without in any way compromising their artistic integrity.

In fact, Hugo's political career consisted of little more than a few bold

skirmishes, but as a writer he commanded the heights for half a century. He was the greatest lyric poet of the French romantic movement. He also carried the romantic assault on the classical ideal to the very bastion of the old aesthetic despotism – the theatre – and triumphed. This was despite unprecedented scenes of violence amongst the audience at the first night of his play *Hernani* as long-haired romantics traded blows with outraged defenders of the classical dramatic unities.

However, while he was producing *Hernani* in 1829, his publisher was becoming increasingly impatient for the delivery of a substantial historical novel for which royalties in advance had already been paid. Hugo finally sat down to it on 25 July 1830, and finished the novel in six

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months, while the streets of Paris echoed to one of its periodic revolutions and his wife gave birth to a daughter.

The title he gave it was *Notre Dame de Paris*, and its impact was immediate and far-reaching, not least upon architecture. In fact, the preservation of examples of the gothic style in France began as a direct result of the public digestion of Hugo's picturesque paean to the cathedral. However, the second of four separate English translations of the novel that appeared in the 1830s gave it the title *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*. This was an astute bit of marketing, drawing attention from matters of architecture to the fantastically conceived range of characters instead. The French critics were sniffily dismayed by the gothic plot, but not so at least one English reviewer of the time: 'The concluding passages offer some of the most pathetic pages we ever remember to have bedewed with (irresistibly flowing) tears.'

From the grotesque Quasimodo and the terrifying spiritual gargoyles, Claude Frollo, to the angelic gypsy girl, La Esmeralda and the absurd poet,

Gringoire, Hugo invented not everyday credible mortals of the imagination, but characters with a truly mythic resonance that effortlessly cross the boundaries of time and nationality. Hugo set the agenda for this novel when he wrote, concerning Walter Scott's *Quentin Durward*: 'After the picturesque but prosaic romance of Walter Scott, a different romance remains to be created...at once both drama and epic, picturesque but poetic, real but ideal, true but great, which will enchain Walter Scott in Homer.' If in taking up his own challenge, Hugo was over-reaching himself (in standard romantic fashion) no one could claim that his attempt was less than magnificent.

### **Notes by Duncan Steen**



**Bill Homewood**'s West End credits include leads in *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Grand Hotel*, *Phantom of the Opera*, *The Boys From Syracuse*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Twelfth Night* and *The Hollow Crown* (Royal Shakespeare Company). His innumerable television series include *The Professionals*, *Berkeley Square*, *A Wing and a Prayer*, *The Renford Rejects*, *London's Burning*, *Casualty*, *Coronation Street*, *Crocodile Shoes*, *The Bill* and *Spy Trap*. Bill also directs theatre in the USA, the UK and France, where he runs a ranch with his wife Estelle Kohler. His other recordings for Naxos AudioBooks include *She*, *Tom Jones*, *Allan Quatermain*, *The Red & the Black*, *The Three Musketeers* and the *Four Just Men* series.

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## **Credits**

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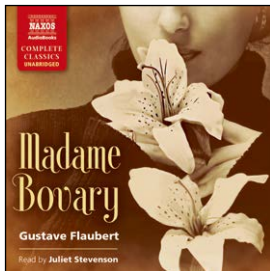
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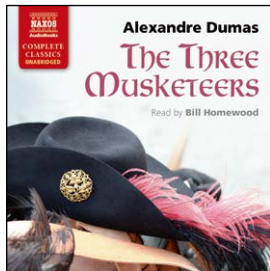
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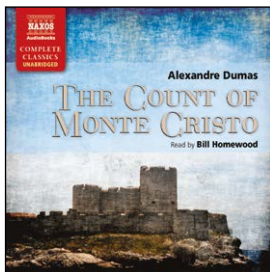
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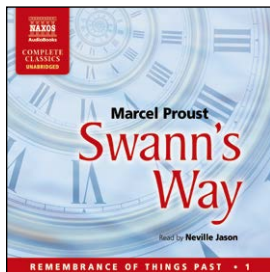
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**Victor Hugo**

# The Hunchback of Notre Dame

Read by **Bill Homewood**

In the grotesque bell-ringer Quasimodo, Victor Hugo created one of the most vivid characters in classic fiction. Quasimodo's doomed love for the beautiful gypsy girl Esmeralda is an example of the traditional love theme of beauty and the beast. Yet, set against the massive background of Notre Dame de Paris and interwoven with the sacred and secular life of medieval France, it takes on a larger perspective. The characters come to life: the poet Gringoire, the tormented priest Claude Frollo, the upright, fun-loving captain Phoebus and above all Quasimodo and Esmeralda themselves. It is a tale peppered with humour but fuelled by the anguish which unfolds beneath the bells of the great cathedral of Paris.



**Bill Homewood** is well known for his innumerable television performances and leading credits in the West End and for the RSC. His other recordings for Naxos AudioBooks include *She*, *Tom Jones*, *Allan Quatermain*, *The Red & the Black*, *The Three Musketeers* and the *Four Just Men* series.

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