



The Hunchback of Notre Dame

Author
Victor Hugo

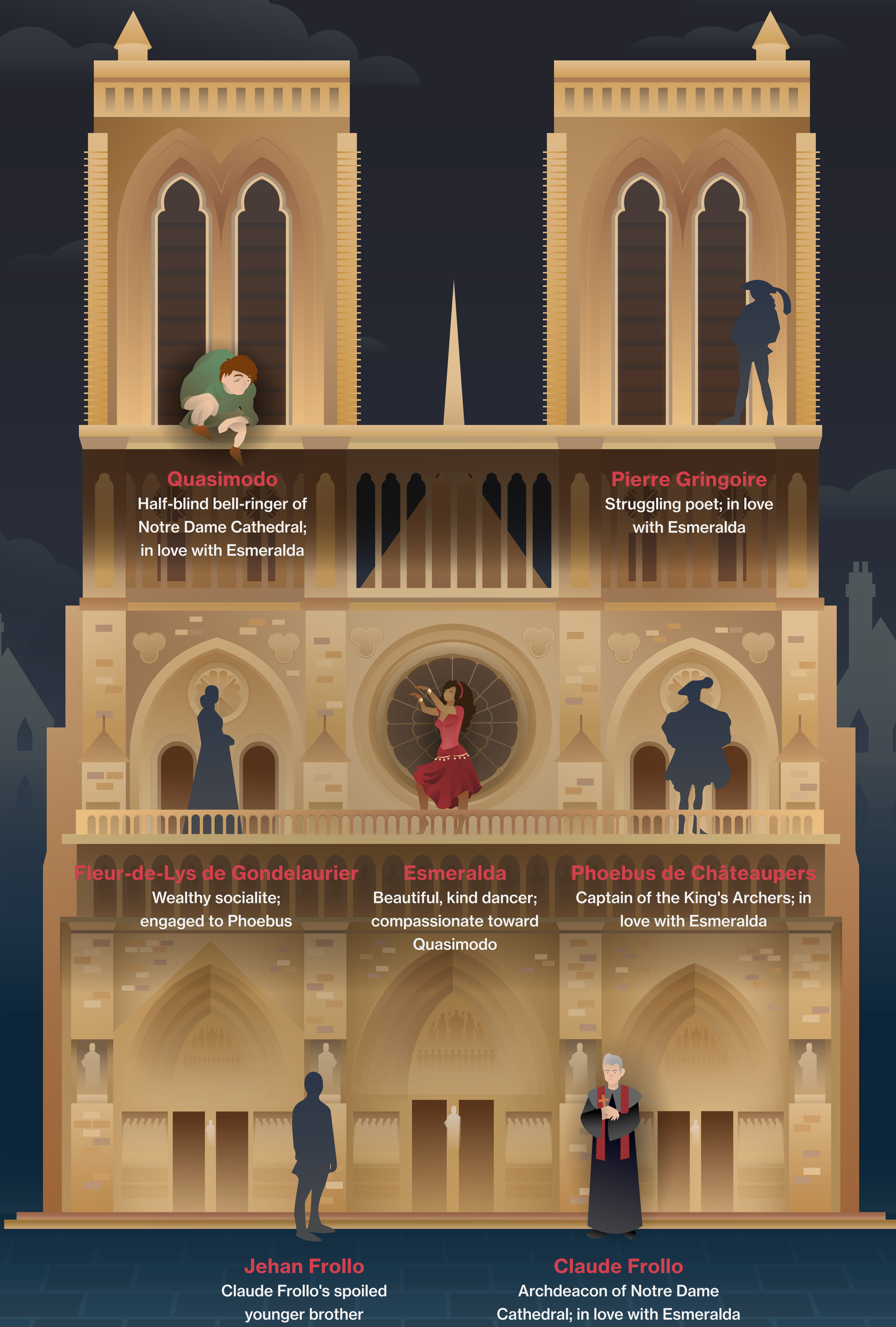
Year Published
1831

Original Language
French

MAIN CHARACTERS

Don't Let Looks Deceive You

Set in medieval Paris, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* tells the story of Quasimodo, the hunchbacked bell-ringer of the Notre Dame Cathedral. Shunned for his appearance, Quasimodo becomes devoted to a dancer named Esmeralda who takes pity on him. He must risk his life to save her, though both ultimately meet a tragic fate.



Themes

Symbols



Appearances

Many of the characters in the book are judged falsely based on their appearances.



Love & Lust

Love and lust drive some characters to desperate actions.



Fate vs. Free Will

The characters' fates are intertwined, but tragedy seems to stem from free will.

Notre Dame Cathedral

Symbolizes the centrality of change and the passage of time



Esmeralda's Baby Shoes

Embody the hope that Esmeralda and her mother will be reunited



Author



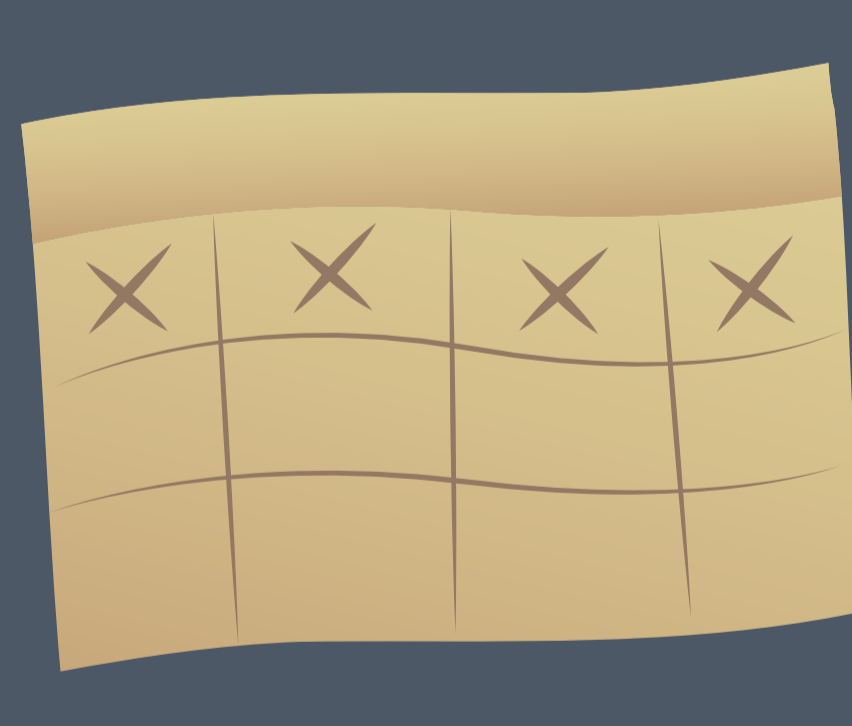
VICTOR HUGO
1802-85

A French poet, novelist, and playwright during the Romantic era, Hugo is perhaps best known for his novel *Les Misérables*. Hugo's work touches on many of the French political and social issues and upheavals of his time, brought to life in the story of Quasimodo in *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*.

The Hunchback of Notre Dame by the Numbers

4

Months it took Hugo to write the book



20

Pages Hugo wrote each morning



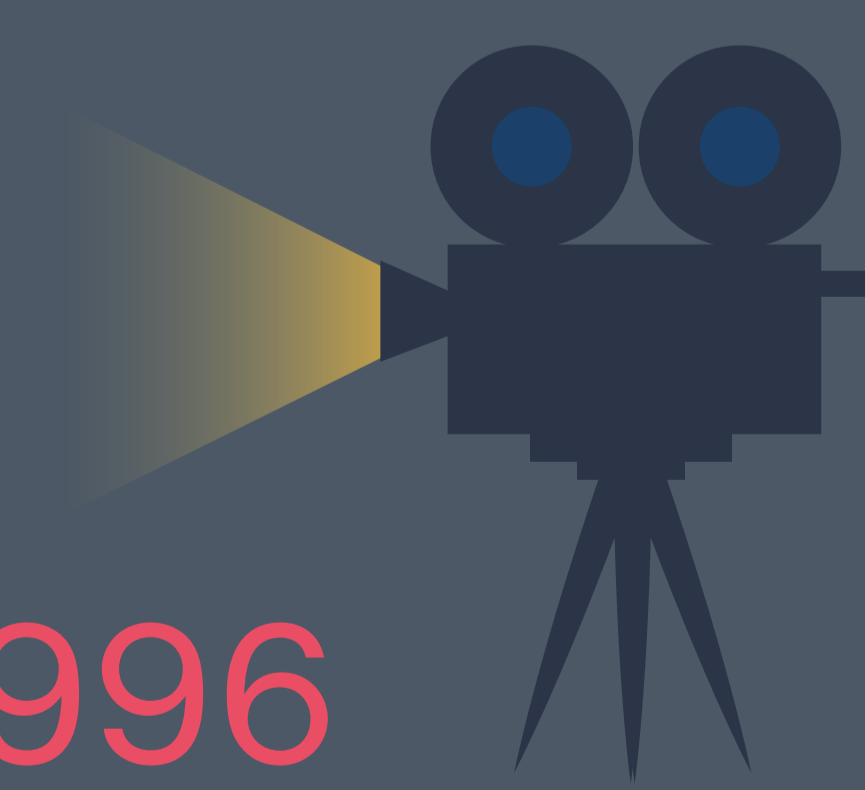
1163

Year construction began on the Notre Dame Cathedral



1996

Year Disney released an animated film based on the novel



A one-eyed man is much more incomplete than a blind man, for he knows what it is that's lacking.

Jehan Frollo, Book 1, Chapter 5