

NAXOS
AudioBooks

COMPLETE
CLASSICS
UNABRIDGED

Alexandre Dumas

THE COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO

Read by **Bill Homewood**



1	Chapter 1	4:05
2	'And how did this misfortune occur?'	5:02
3	'You see,' said Danglars...	4:42
4	At this moment the young man returned...	3:55
5	'Without her captain!' cried Dantès...	4:02
6	Chapter 2	5:31
7	'Yes, here I am,' said the young man...	3:30
8	The young man remarked the greedy glance...	4:14
9	Caderousse lingered for a moment...	3:51
10	Chapter 3	4:29
11	'You mistake, Fernand; it is not a law...	4:26
12	Fernand made no reply...	6:15
13	His hatred, like a powerless though furious wave...	4:32
14	'Oh, if you take it in that sense...'	4:24
15	Fernand, probably excited beyond bearing...	5:58
16	Chapter 4	5:48
17	Danglars saw in the muddled look of the tailor...	4:22
18	'Well,' resumed the Catalan...	3:53
19	'Yes,' said Danglars...	3:33
20	Chapter 5	5:21

21	Dantès himself was simply, but becomingly...	5:43
22	'Well, never mind that, neighbour Caderousse...'	5:22
23	'Oh, there was no harm meant,' answered Danglars...	5:12
24	The scene of the previous night now came back...	5:50
25	Mercedes, however, paid no heed...	5:12
26	"Tis well, Danglars – 'tis well!" replied M. Morrel...	5:58
27	Chapter 6	4:08
28	'Marquise, marquise!' interposed the old nobleman...	5:29
29	'Bravo, Villefort!' cried the marquis...	4:14
30	'Oh, M. de Villefort,' cried a beautiful young creature...	5:04
31	'Dear, good Renée' whispered Villefort...	4:38
32	'You were wishing just now,' said Villefort...	5:11
33	Chapter 7	5:26
34	As he had now arrived at the door...	5:19
35	As Dantès spoke, Villefort gazed...	5:27
35	'And what did you do then?'	3:47
36	'Oh,' said Dantès timidly...	4:53
37	Chapter 8	4:29
38	The soldiers looked at Dantès...	3:39
39	In spite of his repugnance to address the guards...	4:58
40	They halted for a minute...	4:23

41	'Well,' said the jailer...	4:08
42	Chapter 9	5:13
43	'The young man you speak of,' said Villefort...	3:01
44	Villefort rose, or rather sprang, from his chair...	4:27
45	Chapter 10	4:40
46	'Come in,' said Louis XVIII...	5:16
47	'Well, sir, go'; said Louis XVIII...	4:29
48	'M. de Villefort,' said Louis XVIII...	5:14
49	Chapter 11	4:17
50	Louis XVIII advanced a step...	5:15
51	The minister of police thanked the young man...	4:41
52	How strange,' continued the king...	5:27
53	Chapter 12	4:41
54	'I must refer again to the club...'	4:34
55	'Grenoble and Lyons are faithful cities...'	4:04
56	'Well,' he said, turning towards his wondering son...	5:22
57	Chapter 13	5:35
58	Villefort by a strong effort sought...	4:55
59	'Sit down there,' said Villefort...	3:47
60	Fernand understood nothing...	3:53

61	Chapter 14	5:15
62	The inspector listened attentively...	5:09
63	'No. 27,' said the inspector.	5:09
64	'On my word,' said the inspector...	6:07
65	Chapter 15	4:59
66	Rage supplanted religious fervour.	4:58
67	Dantès said, 'I wish to die...'	5:26
68	It was easy to ascertain this...	5:25
69	All night he heard the subterranean workman...	4:51
70	Dantès raised his eyes to heaven...	5:34
71	'You mistrust me, then,' said Dantès.	5:14
72	Chapter 16	4:48
73	The wall of which he spoke...	5:58
74	'But wherefore are you here?'	4:37
75	The abbé sank upon Edmond's bed...	5:11
76	'Tell me,' replied Faria...	4:13
77	'I had nearly five thousand volumes in my library...'	4:10
78	Chapter 17	4:53
79	Dantès examined the various articles shown to him...	5:36
80	The abbé smiled...	5:02

81	'I cannot believe such was the case.'	5:18
82	Besides,' said Dantés...	5:08
83	The abbé burst into a fit of laughter...	5:19
84	'You must teach me a small part of what you know...'	5:03
85	'Are you strong?' the abbé asked...	5:27
86	'Gracious heavens!' exclaimed Dantés...	4:34
87	The sick man was not yet able to speak...	3:45
88	'You are convinced now, Edmond, are you not?'	3:40
89	Chapter 18	5:12
90	'Well!' said Faria...	5:17
91	""The great wars of Romagna had ended...""	5:05
92	'Spada knew what these invitations meant...'	5:06
93	'Up to this point,' said Faria...	5:50
94	'But beneath my fingers, as if by magic...'	4:59
95	'Well, do you comprehend now?' inquired Faria.	4:34
96	Chapter 19	5:37
97	For fear the letter might be some day lost...	5:15
98	'There is not a hope,' replied Faria...	5:28
99	When he believed that the right moment...	5:39
100	The doctor analyzed the symptoms of the malady...	5:41

101	Chapter 20	5:24
102	He would have been discovered...	4:42
103	They deposited the supposed corpse on the bier.	4:18
104	Chapter 21	5:19
105	Suddenly the sky seemed to him to become still darker...	4:47
106	Dantès stood mute and motionless...	4:42
107	An instant after, the boat, rowed by two men...	4:31
108	'Take the helm, and let us see what you know.'	4:48
109	Chapter 22	5:39
110	To the elegance of a nervous and slight form...	4:29
111	Evening came, and Edmond saw the island...	4:38
112	Then in the long days on board ship...	4:45
113	Chapter 23	5:32
114	Edmond gazed very earnestly at the mass of rocks...	5:56
115	Meanwhile, by a cleft between two walls of rock...	4:30
116	But, instead of growing easier, Dantès' pains...	4:55
117	Chapter 24	4:39
118	Dantès dug away the earth carefully...	4:13
119	'Now that I expect nothing...'	4:33
120	Dantès struck with the sharp end of his pickaxe...	4:56

121	There was no longer any doubt: the treasure was there.	4:26
122	Chapter 25	5:44
123	The term for which Edmond had engaged to serve...	5:12
124	A week passed by.	5:58
125	The nasturtiums and other plants...	5:03
126	Chapter 26	5:02
127	The sobriquet of La Carconte had been bestowed...	5:01
128	At this unusual sound, a huge black dog came rushing...	4:58
129	'Such words as those belong to your profession...'	5:09
130	'A rich Englishman,' continued the abbé...	4:47
131	""You will sell this diamond...""	5:20
132	'Gaspard, Gaspard!' murmured the woman...	4:40
133	'And why among us four?' inquired Caderousse.	4:18
134	Chapter 27	5:13
135	'Ah, sir,' replied Caderousse...	5:32
136	The abbé, with a shaking hand...	5:21
137	'And what part did he play in this sad drama?'	5:46
138	'Some days before the return of the emperor...'	5:57
139	'Mercedes seized Fernand's hands...'	5:27
140	'And M. de Villefort?' asked the abbé.	5:59

141	Chapter 28	4:47
142	'That's no affair of mine,' replied the Englishman...	5:11
143	'And so,' continued the Englishman...	5:25
144	Chapter 29	4:36
145	Such was the state of affairs when, the day after...	5:17
146	'Yes, sir,' replied the Englishman.	4:53
147	'The <i>Pharaon</i> has gone down, then?'	4:23
148	His firm, sonorous, and unexpected voice...	4:54
149	'No more ships!' returned Penelon...	4:35
150	Chapter 30	5:14
151	August rolled by in unceasing efforts...	4:42
152	Morrel examined the ledgers...	5:26
153	This was the first time Morrel had ever so spoken...	5:12
154	While he was yet at the door of the study...	4:26
155	'My father,' said the young man...	4:55
156	When his son had left him, Morrel remained...	4:56
157	'Monsieur Morrel!' exclaimed a voice on the stairs.	4:37
158	Chapter 31	5:11
159	'Your excellency is mistaken; there are pirates...'	5:35
160	An hour had passed since the sun had set...	5:44

161	Everyone obeyed.	5:43
162	'Well,' said Franz, 'anything new?...'	5:19
163	Presently, by a change in the atmosphere...	5:37
164	'Well, then, Signor Aladdin,' replied the singular amphitryon...	5:41
165	'Because,' replied Franz...	4:40
166	'Did you ever hear,' he replied...	4:45
167	They both arose...	3:55
168	His body seemed to acquire an airy lightness...	4:41
169	Chapter 32	5:04
170	'What are your excellency's orders?' inquired Gaetano.	5:04
171	The boat sailed on all day and all night...	4:50
172	Chapter 33	5:43
173	They sat down to dinner.	5:38
174	'And pray,' asked Franz...	5:26
175	Every day Luigi led his flock to graze on the road...	4:36
176	'One day the young shepherd told the count's steward...'	5:56
177	'It so happened that night that Cucumetto had sent...'	4:40
178	'Their demand was fair, and the chief inclined his head...'	5:30
179	""Cucumetto had violated thy daughter..."	5:41
180	""Yes," replied the brigadier...'	4:39

181	The young man looked, bowed in obedience...	5:17
182	'The young girl, much astonished...'	5:22
183	""Thank you," said Luigi...'	4:58
184	'Teresa was clothed from head to foot...'	4:17
185	At the end of ten minutes...	4:34
186	Chapter 34	6:16
187	Franz had remained for nearly a quarter of an hour...	4:39
188	'Say not a word about being late,' replied the stranger...	4:24
189	'Remember, the execution is fixed for the day...'	4:14
190	Franz let him proceed without interruption...	4:44
191	Sometimes Albert would affect to make a joke...	4:41
192	The truth was, that the anticipated pleasures...	5:08
193	The curtain at length fell on the performances...	4:07
194	Franz and the countess exchanged a smile...	5:35
195	'Perhaps you never before noticed him?'	5:26
196	'Let us only speak of the promise you wished...'	5:42
197	'Well,' said Franz, 'this time, Albert...'	5:45
198	Franz passed the night in confused dreams...	4:45
199	This was precisely what Franz had heard...	4:28
200	Chapter 35	5:23

201	'Yes, I passed the evening at the Cardinal Rospigliosi's...'	4:48
202	'Then you disapprove of duelling?'	5:10
203	'Besides, it is no reason, because you have not seen...'	5:33
204	Franz, Albert, and the count continued to descend...	3:56
205	A brotherhood of penitents, clothed from head to foot...	3:51
206	'For Peppino!' cried Andrea...	4:46
207	Chapter 36	4:47
208	The strife had fairly begun...	5:11
209	'On my word,' said Franz...	5:56
210	'Very well; I prefer complete histories...'	4:54
211	The young men wished to decline...	5:28
212	The next morning he saw Albert pass and repass...	4:54
213	Franz had by degrees become accustomed...	4:38
214	All these evolutions are executed...	5:01
215	Chapter 37	5:51
216	'Oh, pray be assured of that.' Franz took his hat...	5:18
217	'Then ring at his door, if you please...'	5:40
218	'What!' exclaimed Franz...	5:36
219	'Let us go on; Peppino will have warned...'	5:10
220	'Ground arms,' exclaimed the chief...	5:22

221	'My dear fellow,' replied Albert...	6:09
222	Chapter 38	5:15
223	'Connected by marriage, you mean,' said Franz, laughingly.	5:11
224	'I will confess to you, Albert,' replied Franz...	4:43
225	'My good friend, as in all probability...'	4:17
226	Chapter 39	5:56
227	On the walls, over the doors, on the ceiling...	5:45
228	'Come, do not affect indifference...'	5:45
229	Chapter 40	5:36
230	'Not worth speaking of?' cried Château-Renaud...	5:21
231	'Of whom?'	6:14
232	The two young men looked at Morecerf as if to say...	5:30
233	'My dear count,' replied Albert...	4:53
234	'Did you know me better,' returned the count...	6:02
235	'Ah,' said Monte Cristo...	4:45
236	'My dear count,' cried Morcerf...	5:23
237	'I do not know him,' returned Monte Cristo...	5:43
238	'No,' said Monte Cristo; 'I told you...'	4:40
239	Chapter 41	5:47
240	'Excuse my talking of family matters...'	5:55

241	Monte Cristo was engaged in examining this portrait...	5:19
242	'If I did not fear to fatigue you,' said the general...	5:34
243	'If you ask me for a day, count, I know what to anticipate...'	5:18
244	'I say that Monte Cristo is an island...'	5:27
245	Chapter 42	5:00
246	'And you are quite right,' said the notary...	4:57
247	Chapter 43	4:57
248	'Monsieur,' replied Bertuccio, 'it leads to the garden.'	5:39
249	'I do not deny it,' returned the count...	5:38
250	Chapter 44	4:56
251	""Monsieur," I said, "my brother was assassinated..."	5:42
252	'One evening, as I was looking over the wall...'	4:55
253	'When he was only a few paces from me...'	4:00
254	'I had not for a moment the idea of keeping it...'	5:13
255	'Philosophy, M. Bertuccio,' interrupted the count...	5:52
256	'We never knew who had revealed this fatal secret...'	5:31
257	'It was not their proximity that alarmed us...'	5:36
258	""Oh," returned she, "it was a gift of heaven..."	5:16
259	'There was evidently a severe struggle in the mind...'	5:43
260	'Caderousse and his wife again interchanged...'	4:57

261	Chapter 45	5:09
262	But as if to contradict his statement...	5:11
263	'To the fearful noises that had awakened me...'	5:12
264	'Then I saw that they took me for the assassin.'	4:30
265	'I had speedy proofs that the excellent abbé...'	4:22
266	'It unfortunately happened that our neighbour...'	4:58
267	'So be it,' responded Bertuccio...	4:47
268	Bertuccio bowed respectfully, and turned away...	4:24
269	Chapter 46	5:33
270	'Permit me to assure your excellency,' said Bertuccio...	5:47
271	'You seem incredulous,' said Monte Cristo...	5:47
272	It was to this apartment he had desired his guest...	5:54
273	Once more Danglars bit his lips.	5:22
274	'The money you desire shall be at your house...'	5:15
275	Chapter 47	4:59
276	'You have selected a most unfavourable moment...'	4:08
277	'I am much obliged by your kind intentions...'	5:11
278	Monte Cristo also wrote to Danglars...	4:37
279	Monte Cristo carried them both to the salon...	5:50
280	'Touch nothing, my little friend,' cried the count eagerly...	4:13

281	Scarcely had the first congratulations...	4:26
282	Chapter 48	4:33
283	The procureur entered with the same grave and measured step...	5:39
284	Villefort's astonishment redoubled at this second thrust...	4:56
285	'Your pardon, sir,' replied Villefort...	5:18
286	'But can you not say that, sir?'	5:34
287	'Sir,' continued Villefort...	5:26
288	Chapter 49	4:20
289	She wore a blue and white-striped vest...	4:18
290	Monte Cristo took the delicate hand of the young girl in his...	5:02
291	Chapter 50	5:24
292	'I am sorry to see,' observed Monte Cristo...	6:06
293	'And God has poured balm into your wounds...'	5:28
294	'Then is it not probable that this Englishman...'	5:42
295	Chapter 51	5:26
296	On the evening of one of the warmest days...	6:01
297	'How can you for an instant entertain...'	5:20
298	'You see me devoted to you, body and soul...'	5:24
299	'Don't speak of Marseilles, I beg of you, Maximilian...'	4:12
300	'Brutal politics, I must confess.' said Maximilian...	4:10

301	Chapter 52	5:17
302	'I do not think it likely, sir...'	5:13
303	'Oh, madame,' said the count, when Valentine had left...	5:21
304	'Oh, I am aware of that,' said Madame de Villefort...	5:02
305	'Amongst us a simpleton, possessed by the demon...'	5:28
306	'Do you suppose that the real savant addresses himself...'	4:40
307	'Now, the cabbage had not the slightest appearance...'	5:31
308	Madame de Villefort listened with avidity...	5:41
309	Chapter 53	4:51
310	'True as day. The fact was...'	5:47
311	But this counsel effectually decided Mademoiselle...	5:43
312	'I trust and hope you never repeated to the count...'	5:16
313	'My dear fellow,' said Debray...	5:33
314	'I quite agree with you,' said Morcerf...	5:03
315	'No, thank you. Your orchestra is too noisy.'	4:40
316	'No, mademoiselle,' said Monte Cristo...	4:04
317	Chapter 54	4:47
318	'I confess,' observed Monte Cristo...	4:59
319	'But you who are a reasonable being...'	5:28
320	'I will do better than that,' said Albert...	4:50

321	'By no means. He is a perfect nobleman...'	5:38
322	Chapter 55	5:19
323	'Yes, indeed but one!' said the major with a sigh.	4:59
324	'So, sir, you lived at Lucca, did you?'	5:10
325	'Ah, indeed?' said the major...	5:13
326	'I should quite imagine that to be the case,' said Cavalcanti.	4:00
327	Chapter 56	5:09
328	'Yes,' replied Andrea...	5:12
329	'This is the kind of difficulty which I wished...'	5:04
330	'Go, then, into the drawing-room, my young friend...'	4:59
331	'You think, then, that I may rely on the count's promises?'	5:09
332	'Ah, your excellency, I am overwhelmed with delight.'	4:16
333	Chapter 57	5:13
334	'Yes, but girls tell each other secrets...'	5:13
335	'Dear Valentine, you are a perfect angel...'	5:50
336	'Me?' said the young girl...	5:26
337	'I see that you are right, logically speaking...'	5:20
338	Chapter 58	5:37
339	Noirtier's face remained perfectly passive...	5:13
340	Noirtier had succeeded in mastering his emotion...	5:28

341	'Alas, you, who would have been such a powerful...'	5:22
342	Chapter 59	5:43
343	'Well, sir, what do you require of me...'	4:50
344	'Your fortune exceeds 300,000 francs, does it not?'	5:14
345	'What have we all done, then, dear grandpapa?'	4:56
346	Chapter 60	4:48
347	'Do you think,' said Madame de Villefort...	5:22
348	'It was a sublime and charitable thought,' said Monte Cristo...	4:59
349	'Sir,' said the count, 'the world, unjust as it is...'	3:49
350	'Yes, a telegraph. I had often seen one placed...'	4:26
351	Chapter 61	5:18
352	'Certainly, it is wrong,' said Monte Cristo...	5:26
353	'I was saying it was very interesting.'	4:44
354	The shot told; red with fever...	3:55
355	Chapter 62	5:00
356	'Will your excellency deign to open it?'	4:53
357	'I do not know; I have only heard that an emperor...'	4:34
358	'The son has been educated in a college in the south...'	4:49
359	Chapter 63	4:48
360	'This one is, I think, a sterlet,' said Château-Renaud.	4:17

361	'Indeed,' said Château-Renaud...	5:38
362	'What is there more?' said Debray...	5:04
363	'There has been a crime,' said Monte Cristo.	3:30
364	Chapter 64	4:33
365	As for Andrea, he began, by way of showing off...	4:46
366	'Let me ask you why you deceived me?'	5:41
367	'Since you interest yourself in my affairs...'	4:12
368	Chapter 65	5:30
369	'Good-evening, madame,' said the banker...	4:46
370	'Oh, make yourself easy!...'	4:15
371	'Well, since I gave you a fourth of my gains...'	4:17
372	'Do I know M. Debray?...'	4:14
373	Chapter 66	4:56
374	'Then you do not speculate?'	5:29
375	'I think I may aspire to that honour,' said Danglars...	6:07
376	'Ah, that boy will find out some Bavarian...'	5:36
377	Chapter 67	5:28
378	'I am accustomed to brave difficulties...'	4:45
379	'You recollect that sad night...'	5:16
380	'Night arrived; I allowed it to become quite dark...'	5:54

381	'Then I renewed the search.'	3:56
382	'I ran to the hospital...'	4:35
383	Chapter 68	4:35
384	'You know my opinion of my mother, count...'	5:00
385	'M. Cavalcanti's father will be gone.'	4:42
386	Chapter 69	5:12
387	'The mission with which I am charged, sir...'	5:12
388	'What is his name?'	5:03
389	Then began the questions...	4:25
390	Chapter 70	4:48
391	Albert bowed to Madame Danglars...	4:49
392	Meanwhile he advanced through the assemblage...	4:59
393	'Indeed?' said Danglars, becoming pale.	5:14
394	Chapter 71	4:48
395	'You live alone, then?'	4:28
396	Chapter 72	5:28
397	'Why, what can have happened?' he exclaimed...	5:13
398	Valentine found her grandmother in bed...	5:41
399	'You, madame?'	5:06
400	More than once she thought of revealing all to her...	5:36

401	Chapter 73	5:36
402	'What would you have proposed, Maximilian...'	4:31
403	'Has your resolution changed, Valentine?'	5:42
404	'Truly,' murmured Valentine...	5:46
405	Morrel went also to the notary...	5:52
406	At last the half-hour struck.	5:35
407	'I did. Madame de Saint-Méran had three successive attacks...'	5:30
408	'What do you propose to me, d'Avrigny?'	4:21
409	Meanwhile, Morrel had traversed the anteroom...	4:43
410	'I imagined it must be,' said Morrel.	4:37
411	Valentine arose, placed a chair for Morrel...	4:10
412	'But delay may ruin our plan, sir,' replied the young man.	4:41
413	Chapter 74	5:15
414	Among the groups which flocked towards the family...	5:16
415	Thus, the future father and son-in-law...	5:16
416	'Are you M. Franz de Quesnel, baron d'Épinay?'	5:25
417	Chapter 75	5:12
418	'But it was on leaving this club,' said he...	5:20
419	""Excuse me, gentlemen," said the general...'	5:25
420	""Now am I at liberty to retire?" said the general.'	5:12

421	Franz read these last words in a voice so choked...	4:32
422	Chapter 76	5:36
423	'Have not the ladies invited you...'	5:57
424	'But should he come and find that young man...'	5:23
425	'Well, I acknowledge it annoys me...'	5:37
426	Chapter 77	5:13
427	Monte Cristo took the gong, and struck it once.	6:06
428	'Agreed.' Ali reappeared for the third time...	5:15
429	At this moment two women entered...	5:15
430	'It is very strange,' said Albert...	5:19
431	Albert, without knowing why...	5:21
432	'Near the barrels stood Selim...'	6:00
433	'As for me, I had been forgotten...'	5:34
434	'My mother experienced the same sensations...'	5:39
435	'Oh, how our hearts palpitated...'	5:48
436	At this crisis the whole flooring suddenly gave way...	5:17
437	Chapter 78	5:36
438	'We are saved!' said Valentine.	4:46
439	Danglars was balancing his monthly accounts...	5:03
440	'These are all so many empty words...'	5:08

441	'Then, sir, I am patiently to submit to your refusal?'	5:09
442	'No, thank you, I am thinking of other things...'	5:31
443	'Because, my dear fellow, you must understand...'	4:47
444	'We will say no more about it, then. Good-by, count.'	5:17
445	'But what is there to investigate, sir?' said Albert...	5:55
446	Chapter 79	5:48
447	'Until that time,' continued the young girl...	5:38
448	Noirtier, burning with impatience and terror...	5:05
449	Valentine looked at M. d'Avrigny with astonishment...	5:39
450	'Who brought it into this room, then?'	5:50
451	Chapter 80	4:45
452	'I would swear to it; what I heard of his symptoms...'	4:45
453	Villefort, suffocating, pressed the doctor's arm.	4:39
454	Chapter 81	4:22
455	'But,' said Danglars thoughtfully...	5:21
456	'Confound you and your punctuality!' said Andrea...	5:18
457	'Come, your jealousy represents everything...'	5:20
458	'Come, Caderousse, no nonsense!' said he.	4:53
459	'It must be worth one's while to stoop, Andrea...'	5:37
460	'Well, leave them with your porter...'	4:39

461	Chapter 82	5:20
462	The count signified his intention of dining alone...	5:30
463	The glass-cutter had entered...	5:37
464	'The abbé, the abbé!' murmured he...	4:57
465	'Benedetto the count's son?'	4:30
466	'I ask you what can I do?'	4:04
467	Chapter 83	5:43
468	'Listen,' continued the abbé.	4:26
469	'Silence,' said the abbé...	5:05
470	Chapter 84	5:44
471	Albert cast his eyes on the passport...	4:29
472	Albert seized them with a convulsive hand...	3:57
473	Chapter 85	4:45
474	'Some provincial, it appears.'	5:07
475	'Do not fear, I have little to prepare.'	5:48
476	Albert found in his anteroom two guns...	5:30
477	Chapter 86	5:43
478	The article having been read...	4:53
479	Albert felt his heart bursting at these particulars...	5:37
480	""Yes, sir.""	5:17

481	“‘I, El-Kobbir, a slave-merchant...’”	5:47
482	‘These words had been pronounced...	4:42
483	Chapter 87	5:40
484	‘When such resolutions are made...’	4:35
485	‘ <i>Pardieu</i> , it was the most simple thing in the world.’	4:23
486	Chapter 88	5:49
487	An ironical smile passed over Albert’s lips.	5:28
488	‘I am not difficult of access, sir...’	5:37
489	‘Sir,’ said M. Beauchamp...	4:58
490	Chapter 89	4:31
491	‘Madame, you are mistaken...’	4:59
492	‘I am satisfied, madame...’	4:27
493	‘Edmond,’ continued Mercedes...	4:15
494	‘But the duel will not take place, Edmond...’	5:09
495	Chapter 90	5:19
496	Seizing a pen, he drew a paper from a secret drawer...	5:50
497	‘The wise man, my child, has said...’	5:34
498	‘I will tell you, Morrel,’ said the count...	4:45
499	‘Oh, M. Beauchamp, if you assure me...’	4:17
500	‘Sir,’ said Albert, at first with a tremulous voice...	4:40

501	Chapter 91	5:12
502	At the beginning of this work...	5:27
503	'I will fulfil all your wishes, my dear mother...'	5:15
504	Chapter 92	5:40
505	'Here I am,' said the young girl...	5:56
506	'To the Champs-Élysées,' said the general...	5:00
507	'Oh,' cried the general...	5:47
508	Chapter 93	5:25
509	'The sun is not shining,' said Morrel...	6:18
510	'Excuse me,' said the implacable young girl...	5:36
511	Chapter 94	5:58
512	'Count, will you allow me to send Baptistin...'	4:35
513	'Perfectly well, my good friend...'	5:55
514	Monte Cristo raised his head once more...	5:15
515	'We have no time to lose...'	5:31
516	Chapter 95	5:01
517	Danglars leaped from his chair...	5:10
518	'My daughter,' continued Danglars...	5:15
519	'Then,' said Danglars...	5:44
520	Chapter 96	5:37

521	'You are completely mistaken, sir...'	6:05
522	'Well,' said Andrea, 'let it be as you wish.'	5:04
523	He first advanced towards the baroness...	4:38
524	'But it is not my fault, as I shall endeavour to prove.'	5:20
525	Chapter 97	4:27
526	'Well,' said Eugenie cheerfully...	4:47
527	'Oh, I think you swore, Eugenie.'	4:36
528	Chapter 98	6:30
529	He sat down by the side of the moat...	5:20
530	Once past the frontier...	4:57
531	Andrea was indebted for this visit...	6:00
532	The brigadier, followed by the commissary...	5:26
533	Chapter 99	5:08
534	'Mademoiselle Eugenie,' said the maid...	5:06
535	Madame Danglars involuntarily shuddered...	4:54
536	Villefort bowed. 'When I hear misfortunes named...'	5:13
537	'Woman, siren that you are...'	3:50
538	Chapter 100	5:48
539	'It is not he,' she murmured...	5:49
540	'Hush, my child,' said Monte Cristo...	5:23

541	Chapter 101	4:21
542	On recognising her step-mother...	4:47
543	'But why is my grandfather allowed to live?'	5:31
544	Chapter 102	5:40
545	The clock striking eight awoke her...	4:11
546	Madame de Villefort was overpowered...	4:30
547	Chapter 103	5:51
548	'You are mistaken, sir,' exclaimed Morrel...	5:47
549	'Do you wish me to leave?' said Morrel, sadly.	5:30
550	'Alas,' said d'Avrigny, 'she is indeed dead, poor child!'	4:15
551	Chapter 104	4:35
552	'Poor girl,' said Debray...	5:07
553	'So rich, dear sir, that your fortune...'	5:37
554	'I never joke with bankers,' said Monte Cristo...	4:06
555	'It is magnificent! I will set before him...'	3:58
556	Chapter 105	6:05
557	Monte Cristo concealed himself...	5:22
558	'My friend,' exclaimed Monte Cristo...	5:48
559	Monte Cristo endeavoured also to leave...	4:47
560	He then saw that he must make another struggle...	4:16

561	'Then have a care, I repeat...'	5:25
562	Chapter 106	4:59
563	Debray continued...	5:14
564	'Certainly; as M. Danglars says, you are rich...'	5:56
565	Debray was, for a moment, surprised...	5:08
566	Mercedes had never known misery...	4:52
567	'What is this?' asked Mercedes.	5:05
568	'But let us not yield to gloomy apprehensions...'	5:05
569	Chapter 107	5:36
570	The thieves looked at one another...	5:38
571	'What is that?' asked Andrea.	6:07
572	Chapter 108	5:49
573	Villefort, drawn by an irresistible attraction...	5:02
574	'Madame de Villefort wishes to remind you...'	4:39
575	'Ah, sir,' exclaimed Madame de Villefort...	4:10
576	Madame de Villefort uttered a wild cry...	4:03
577	Chapter 109	4:41
578	'Bah,' said Beauchamp...	4:31
579	'Young Edward!'	4:14
580	Chapter 110	4:52

581	'At Auteuil, near Paris.'	4:49
582	Several persons hurried up to M. de Villefort...	5:23
583	'But your mother?' asked the president.	5:14
584	Chapter 111	6:26
585	The carriage stopped at the door of the house.	5:31
586	Villefort was no longer the civilized man...	6:16
587	'Ah, I recognise you...'	4:55
588	Chapter 112	5:08
589	'His carelessness and indifference...'	5:18
590	The count stood alone...	5:23
591	As the distance increased between the travellers...	5:13
592	The woman whom the count had seen leave the ship...	5:11
593	'Years of grief have created an abyss...'	4:58
594	'The most dreadful misfortunes...'	4:12
595	'Your son shall be happy, Mercedes,' repeated the count.	3:58
596	Chapter 113	5:33
597	Clear sky, swift-flitting boats...	5:06
598	'The result was that the two men communicated...'	5:15
599	'Yes,' he said, 'there is the stone...'	4:59
600	'Go and fetch it, my good fellow...'	5:41

601	'Alas,' said Monte Cristo...	5:39
602	Chapter 114	5:20
603	'Yes,' was the laconic reply.	5:18
604	He had scarcely advanced three leagues...	6:04
605	' <i>Mon dieu!</i> ' cried Danglars...	4:26
606	'A friend, a friend!' said Peppino...	4:41
607	Chapter 115	4:12
608	But the mysteries of nature are incomprehensible ...	5:23
609	'I said they would skin me,' thought Danglars...	4:51
610	Chapter 116	4:35
611	'As your excellency pleases,' said Vampa...	4:11
612	'Take my last gold,' muttered Danglars...	4:15
613	Chapter 117	5:18
614	'Oh, yes,' said the count...	4:56
615	'Be it so,' said the count, 'come.'	5:07
616	'Oh, I entreat you,' exclaimed Morrel...	5:31
617	'Friend,' he cried, 'I feel that I am dying; thanks!'	5:31
618	Haidée became pale, and lifting her transparent hands...	4:49
619	The next morning at daybreak...	6:17

Total time: 52:43:38

Alexandre Dumas

(1802–1870)

THE COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO

*And now farewell kindness, humanity
and gratitude! Farewell to all those
feelings which nourish the heart!
... Now may the God of Vengeance
yield to me his power to punish the
wicked!*

With these words the sailor Edmond Dantès, soon to become 'The Count of Monte Cristo', embarks on a journey of revenge.

As a young man, the world had been at his feet. Noticed for his great skill and authority at sea, he had just been promoted to Captain by his grateful patron; he was about to marry his love, the beautiful Mercedes from a nearby Catalan village, and was at last to have the means to take care of his beloved, ageing father. Taken summarily from the pre-nuptial celebration and arrested that

night on a trumped-up charge of treason, he has spent many years languishing in a dungeon of the dreaded Chateau d'If, built on a rock near the port of Marseille. During that time, always grieving at the loss of Mercedes, always anxious about his old, weak father, he has not only planned an ingenious escape and plotted a terrible vengeance against the cabal of jealous conspirators he had believed to be his friends, but, with the help of a learned Abbé imprisoned in an adjoining cell, he has also become expert in many things: history, philosophy, chemistry, medicine, languages and literature. In addition, he has become the master of disguise and has learnt to appreciate artistic beauty in all disciplines with an expert's eye. Now free, and, thanks to the Abbé, with secret access to unlimited wealth, he rejects ordinary compassion, and, like Shakespeare's Lady

Macbeth, dehumanizes himself, becoming invulnerable to pity or remorse, before gathering around him a loyal crew of men and setting out on his odyssey of revenge.

It is rare in dramatic literature for the novelist simply to chart the battering-about by Fate of the hapless central figure. It can be done – Dickens's *Nicholas Nickleby* and Swift's *Gulliver's Travels*, for example, are nonetheless compelling reads, in which the breathless reader usually knows more than the hero at any given point. However, most romantic heroes are in pursuit of a goal. Countless examples spring to mind: Homer's heroic *Odyssey*, charting Odysseus' long journey home, Cervantes' ludicrous *Don Quixote* on a quest for romantic love, Voltaire's naive *Candide* in search of 'the best of all possible worlds', Bunyan's *The Pilgrim's Progress*, among others. These are heroes with an agenda, who push the plot along on their own terms. The Count of Monte Cristo is one such. His agenda is clear, and linear: revenge.

The 'God of Vengeance' has an almost pagan ring to it. With his talent for observational psychology, Dumas manages

somehow to reconcile the Count's tender, compassionate nature with his darker side. Attending a public execution in the Piazza del Popolo in Rome, Monte Cristo is at his most bizarre:

The count alone seemed unmoved – nay, more, a slight colour seemed striving to rise in his pale cheeks... His nostrils dilated like those of a wild beast that scents its prey, and his lips, half opened, disclosed his white teeth, small and sharp like those of a jackal. And yet his features wore an expression of smiling tenderness... his black eyes especially were full of kindness and pity.

The detail is horrific, as Dumas takes us close to the scaffold:

The criminal strove to rise, but, ere he had time, the mace fell on his left temple. A dull and heavy sound was heard, and the man dropped like an ox on his face, and then turned over on his back. The executioner let fall his mace, drew his knife, and with

one stroke opened his throat, and mounting on his stomach, stamped violently on it with his feet. At every stroke a jet of blood sprang from the wound...

...The count was erect and triumphant, like the Avenging Angel!

Yet Monte Cristo describes himself as an 'emissary of God'. Indeed, his cold revenges are leavened with great acts of kindness and generosity. Towards the end of his novel, his invulnerability to the pain of others, and his belief in himself as a Godly agent of justice, are both challenged when the unexpected death of a child shows us, for the first time since the early chapters, the 'human' and almost Christian face of the man:

Monte Cristo became pale at this horrible sight; he felt that he had passed beyond the bounds of vengeance, and that he could no longer say, 'God is for and with me.' With an expression of indescribable anguish he threw himself upon the body of the child...

Perhaps the Old Testament 'God of Vengeance' had become the New Testament 'God of Forgiveness'? The Count is forensically fascinated by compassion and revenge, increasingly examining these instincts in himself as in others. Well into the book, in a discourse on 'conscience' he says:

After every action requiring exertion, it is conscience that saves us... Richard III, for instance, was marvellously served by his conscience after the putting away of the two children of Edward IV... Thus was Lady Macbeth served by her conscience... Ah, maternal love is a great virtue, a powerful motive – so powerful that it excuses a multitude of things, even if, after Duncan's death, Lady Macbeth had been at all pricked by her conscience.

As Monte Cristo is addressing a murderess here, there may be dramatic irony in the speech, but it is forged through with sincerity. As he ages, and – piece by piece, ever changing his disguise, his dialect, even

his language – calculatedly achieves his aims, we are moved by his reflections on justice, by his developing conscience and exponential philosophical growth and by his increasing humility. In *Les Misérables*, Victor Hugo gives us the exemplary, heroic, ever-humble, almost Christ-like Jean Valjean, and his sworn pursuer and tormentor Javert. In Dumas' *The Count of Monte Cristo*, we have the Avenger and the Conciliator in one man, though the journey from the one to the other is hard-won. Late in the book, Monte Cristo describes himself as:

... a man who like Satan thought himself for an instant equal to God, but who now acknowledges with Christian humility that God alone possesses supreme power and infinite wisdom.

However, despite these surprising flashes of vulnerability which Dumas is at pains to include, despite the Count's stupendous acts of kindness to deserving friends, and despite our sympathy for the betrayals and subsequent dreadful agonies he has

endured, in the end it is Monte Cristo's final, decisive act of true love and loyalty to one woman which redeems him for us, which brings goose-pimples to our skin and makes this thrilling book difficult to close even after we have read the last words. This may well be because we know that, for the first time in his life since the terrible betrayal which led to his odyssey of revenge, the Count is happy.

The Count of Monte Cristo, in spite of its high literary quality, has the same power to thrill as any classic adventure in which the villain gets his come-uppance, the hero is rescued in the nick of time and good fortune comes to those who deserve it. The 20th century has produced its own mysterious masked saviours both in literature and on-screen – the best-known among them The Lone Ranger, Zorro, Batman and Superman. Monte Cristo was perhaps the pre-cursor of them all: the first 'Caped Crusader' or 'Masked Avenger'.

Alexandre Dumas wrote or collaborated on nearly 100 plays and many novels, including the celebrated *The Three Musketeers* and the follow-up

The Man in the Iron Mask. He was born in 1802, the son of a general in Napoleon's army and the grandson of a French Marquis and a black woman from Saint Domingo. As a child he lived through the upheavals of the Napoleonic Revolution and the subsequent restoration of the French monarchy, which form the political background to the novel. Interestingly, like Monte Cristo, Dumas received his private education from a priest. He was politically active and, though he is thought to have embellished the actions in his *Mémoires*, was involved heroically in skirmishes during the revolution of 1830. He was the father of author Alexandre Dumas (fils), most famous for his *La Dame aux Camélias*.

Alexandre Dumas (père) ran his career as an industry. Following the model of many of the great master-painters, it is believed that he would sketch the outline of a story to an assistant who would write it up; then Dumas himself would take the story by the throat and wrestle it into a masterpiece. His compulsive storytelling, fascinating background research, brilliant characterization and unflinching, lyrical

powers of description are unrivalled.

He was an idiosyncratic man who cooked brilliantly, gave a lot of money to cadgers and hangers-on and spent prodigiously on his private life, most notoriously on various highly-publicised *affaires* and the construction of a monstrous folly of a house at Saint-Germain-en-Laye. He died, barely solvent, in 1870.

Notes by Bill Homewood



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.

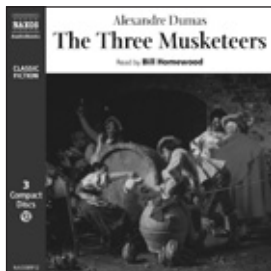
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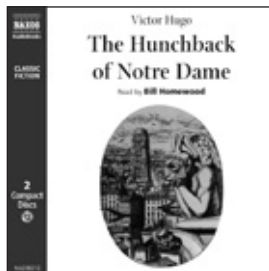
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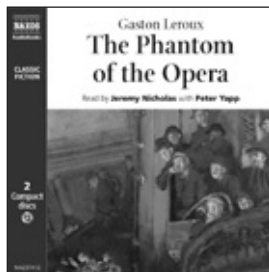
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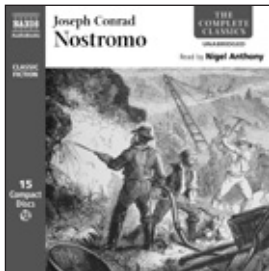


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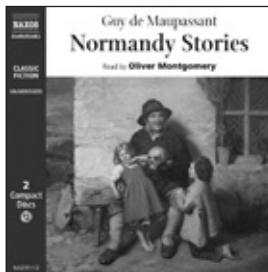
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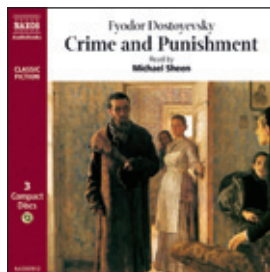
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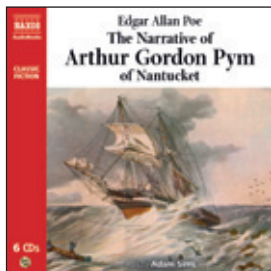
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Alexandre Dumas

THE COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO

Read by **Bill Homewood**

On the eve of his marriage to the beautiful Mercedes, having that very day been made Captain of his ship, the young sailor Edmond Dantès is arrested on a charge of treason, trumped up by jealous rivals. Incarcerated for many lonely years in the isolated and terrifying Chateau d'If near Marseille, he meticulously plans his brilliant escape and extraordinary revenge. Of all the 'Masked Avengers' and 'Caped Crusaders' in literature, the Count of Monte Cristo is at once the most daring and the most vulnerable.

Alexandre Dumas (père), master storyteller, takes us on a journey of adventure, romance, intrigue, and, ultimately, redemption.



Bill Homewood is well-known for his innumerable television shows and leading credits in the West End and for the Royal Shakespeare Company. His other recordings for Naxos AudioBooks include *Les Misérables* and *King Solomon's Mines*.

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