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**Alexandre Dumas**

**The Count of Monte Cristo**



PENGUIN CLASSICS

**ALEXANDRE DUMAS**

*The Count of Monte Cristo*

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Author: Alexandre Dumas

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## Description

'On what slender threads do life and fortune hang'

Thrown in prison for a crime he has not committed, Edmond Dantès is confined to the grim fortress of If. There he learns of a great hoard of treasure hidden on the Isle of Monte Cristo and he becomes determined not only to escape, but also to unearth the treasure and use it to plot the destruction of the three men responsible for his incarceration. Dumas' epic tale of suffering and retribution, inspired by a real-life case of wrongful imprisonment, was a huge popular success when it was first serialised in the 1840s.

Robin Buss' lively translation is complete and unabridged, and remains faithful to the style of Dumas' original. This edition includes an introduction, explanatory notes and suggestions for further reading.

## Insightful reviews

Chris: Why did no one tell me about this book? I mean seriously, I was about a hundred pages in and I wanted to go find my freshman high school English teacher and inflict terrible, intricate revenge on her for depriving me of a great book. I figured first I could assume a new identity, perhaps insinuating myself into her life. I'd make her trust me and put all her faith in me, and then I would UTTERLY CRUSH HER!!! MWAH-HA-HA-HA!!!!

Seriously, this was an awesome book. I am not a big fan of the Classics, really - I usually get very bored very quickly with them, especially the Russians. I don't know if it's the characters I can't relate to, or the writing that puts me off, but I try to get through them and my interest drops off abruptly. Especially the Russians. God save me from the Russians.

But this? This was 1200 pages of concentrated awesome. A grand, intricate story of vengeance - and I do love my revenge stories - that I will definitely read again. And watching [V For Vendetta](#) is a lot more fun....

Emily May: Picture this: you are nineteen years old with your whole life ahead of you, you've just been offered the job of your dreams, and you're about to marry the person you've loved since childhood... when suddenly a couple of jealous men decide to frame you as a Bonapartist (a crime which was punished by death or life imprisonment) and have you sent away to rot in an island prison. Let's just say you'd be feeling a touch bitter about the whole ordeal.

This is what happens to the young Edmond Dantes when he is betrayed at first by men jealous of his career and fiancée, then again by a man who sees the possibility of benefiting himself by sending Dantes to his jail cell. After spending fourteen years in a gloomy dungeon, Dantes finally has a chance to escape and seek revenge on those who wronged him, whilst also rewarding those who stuck by him and fought to prove his innocence.

I always try to read both positive and negative reviews of books so I can understand why people

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had a different opinion from my own, and the verdict on this from negative reviews seems to fall into one of two categories: 1) the book is too long, or 2) they were unable to side with Dantes when he sets out with his vengeful aims. Personally, I agree that [The Count of Monte Cristo](#) is several novels in one and I'm not surprised that it was originally published in installments. I think it could do with being split into volumes today, the size is off-putting. That aside, though, the story itself is fascinating. It brings in historical elements and combines them with a great set of fictional characters to make a very rich story. There are parts that are sad and parts that are heartwarming and it all adds up to a great balance of the two.

As for the second problem, it is my own personal taste that I love a good revenge story. I know forgiveness is supposed to be a virtue of the giver and perhaps it doesn't make me a great human being that I couldn't shake the hand of the person who'd ruined my life. Perhaps. But I believe Dantes suffered more than anyone in this tale, even after he had got his revenge. And I always did cheer for the likes of Beatrix Kiddo. So when the "avenging angel" struck, I was right there with him.

I think it says something when a 1200+ page novel doesn't bore me for a second, and [The Count of Monte Cristo](#) never once dragged as it took me through a plot spanning many years. There are several stories being told throughout and I found all of them interesting: Dantes' betrayal, [The Shawshank Redemption](#)-style time in prison where Dantes makes a close friend, the historical story of Napoleon's return, and Dantes' search for revenge. It's hard not to be enthralled by this complex world and variety of characters. My one complaint is the direction Dantes' romantic life took in the end, but whatever, there are over a thousand pages of awesomeness here and if you have the time to spare for this book/doorstopper/possible murder weapon, you should definitely read it.

Kim:

They don't write novels like this anymore. That's because they make television drama series and soap operas instead. To my mind, this novel is the 19th Century equivalent of a long-running and compelling television series. I can readily imagine being a reader of the *Journal des Débats* between August 1844 and January 1846, impatiently waiting for the next installment of *Le Comte de Monte Cristo* to be published, eagerly discussing each installment with my friends around the 19th Century equivalent of the water-cooler, exclaiming at each plot development, gasping at every cliff-hanger.

What fun it has been over the past few weeks to consume *The Count of Monte Cristo* in much the same way as I watched all seven seasons of *The West Wing* one after another a few years ago: wanting to spend as much time as I could with the story, yet simultaneously wanting to slow down in order to prolong the enjoyment, loving (almost) every moment of it. *The Count of Monte Cristo* is probably more *Dallas* than it is *The West Wing*, but you get the general idea.

The plot's the thing here. Dumas (and his collaborator August Maquet) created a dense and complex story, the many threads of which are woven together into a most satisfying whole, with no threads left loose at the end of more than 1200 pages. This is the story Edmond Dantès' revenge against the three men who caused him to be unjustly accused of treason and imprisoned for fourteen years. Dantès, who becomes the Count of Monte Cristo, carries out his

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revenge after developing a careful plan over many years. For him, revenge is most definitely a dish to be eaten cold. It's also a dish which causes a degree of moral indigestion, as he comes to realise that what he sees as a divine obligation can have unintended (and horrific) consequences.

It's far from a plausible story and it's fair to say that the theme of revenge is more successfully realised than is the theme of redemption. The plot is indeed totally over the top, with elements of fable and fairy tale, replete with Orientalist imagery which for me brought to mind *The Arabian Nights*. Luckily for such an intricately plotted novel, the story moves along at a cracking pace, much of it in dialogue, which makes for an easy read notwithstanding the novel's length.

Characterisation is somewhat sacrificed in the process of weaving the many strands of the plot together. While the Count himself is a compelling character, other characters are less so and female characters in particular are rather flat. One exception is Eugénie Danglars, who has the potential to be very interesting in her own right, although not enough time is spent with her for her potential to be fully realised. However, deficiencies in characterisation are more than made up for by the sheer thrill of the tale.

My enjoyment of *The Count of Monte Cristo* has been increased by it being a buddy read with several members of the Comfort Reads group. It has also been increased by listening to it as a French language audiobook downloaded from [www.audiocite.net](http://www.audiocite.net). Apart from hearing Dumas' words as they were written, there was the immense joy of hearing beautiful, literary French, including the wonderful simple past tense, never heard in regular speech.

I can't say that this is a flawless novel and deserves five stars for that reason. But I was on the edge of my seat as I listened to it for some 47 hours. As I neared the end, I started wondering just how soon I could justify a re-read. It doesn't get much better than that.

Hippo dari Hongkong: Do you think in karma? So, okay, occasionally deliberately or now not we make an awful, rash, bad, or unsuitable decisions. judgements we pretty well realize we'll grieve over afterwards (sooner or later) But still... Once in a blue moon, anything deep down within us comes to a decision to behavior an unwise and brainless thing, a specific thing we consciously acutely aware will no doubt flip round and kick us within the ass! but we do it anyway... What i am attempting to say to claim is.. We acquire what we sow. What comes round is going around. Some humans name it karma, and besides you wedge it.. it sucks! :DIMHO - a method or another, our karma will go away us to come back up opposed to ourselves, and that i think our offerings are limited. we will be able to glance our karma within the eyes or we will be able to simply watch for it to sneak up (and stabbed) on us from behind. a technique or one other our karma will continually keep on with our reliable deeds, tears or blood-stained trail. irrespective of how challenging we attempt to hide it.. we won't break out our karma. It pursues us home. IMHO (again) - i suppose we will not particularly grumble approximately karmalt's no longer approximately unfairness! It's no longer approximately unjustness! It just... Even the score So, please, i encourage of you, don't try and do whatever that you just recognize will seduce karma to kick you within the ass :D Do you think in karma? PS : because of RGB for selecting up this ebook as a summer season reading. If it wasn't for that, I doubt that i'll learn this "big book" ( i

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need to learn this booklet yet i did not have plan to learn this booklet each time quickly in a primary place) :D and that i will regularly regard this ebook as a "gift" from RGBC. thanks girls ;-)  
ErieA Dumbass who loves Dumas' Monte Cristo

Apatt: i began analyzing this novel firstly of February 2012 as I write at the present time is twenty third June (same year) in order that makes it approximately 5 months due to the fact that i began examining in regards to the lifestyles and occasions of M. Edmond Dantès, higher referred to as caped crusading The count number of Monte Cristo or to his friends. A checklist breaking time for me, I virtually gave up at the booklet at one aspect yet cooler heads prevailed and a few acquaintances persuaded me to persevere. i'm thankful to them..Unless you're a former cave dweller you're most likely good conscious of the elemental premise of this novel. it truly is easily the tale of 1 Edmond Dantès who, on his marriage ceremony day, is framed for against the law summarily despatched to the notorious Château d'If criminal the place he used to be incarcerated for fourteen years. simply by an eccentric additionally falsely imprisoned pupil he made a dramatic get away and located a huge fortune which enabled him to reinvent himself and embark upon a hugely complicated scheme of revenge upon the folk who engineered his incarceration and destroyed his life. a pretty easy plot define for a e-book greater than 1,200 pages in length. it isn't precisely a simple learn as a result of the size and the leisurely velocity in a few parts. However, by the point i ended it I understood why it's so respected between e-book lovers, even those who in most cases limit themselves to studying technology fiction and myth style books love it. In fact, a century or so later in went directly to encourage the scifi vintage the celebrities My Destination. However, as pointed out previous I did nearly quit on it at one point. Why? simply because this booklet isn't really for the impatient, Dumas diversified the velocity of the narrative as he observed fit. the 1st a part of the booklet that's set quite often in legal and the next hair elevating jailbreak is particularly riveting and speedy paced. However, as soon as Dantès is out of felony the tale virtually screech to a halt for me. The unexpected swap in velocity rather threw me for a loop. it's as though a person whacked M. Dumas at the head and took over the project. What i didn't recognize on the time is that the slower post-prison half is required for Edmund Dante to reinvent himself because the titular count number of Monte Cristo for the aim of plotting his hugely revenge, it's a dish top served chilly after all. His plans are so rattling tricky that I had no concept the place writer was once going with this narrative, there's a lot of sitting round being a funky cat, all debonair and fashionable. However, as soon as all the Count's video game items are in position the joys trip is again on!There are many colourful characters during this book, the odious ones appear to outnumber the virtuous that's simply besides as the great characters are typically a bit bland and overly pious, thankfully the protagonist The count number isn't really considered one of them. he's whatever of a badass enigmatic avenging angel, who's most likely the foundation for Bruce Wayne hundreds and hundreds of years later. The prose is kind of based and infrequently florid (the English translation that is), the tale is outrageously melodramatic and nostalgic now and then yet that also is a part of the book's old fashioned charm, and all of it upload as much as sterling leisure which manages to hook up with the reader's emotional core. by means of the top of the booklet apparently revenge is absolutely not a dish most sensible served cold, it's best now not served it at all. The denouement wraps up the continuing fantastically and there's a experience of closure and redemption.I count on that i'll reread this e-book in a 12 months or and subsequent time it might probably take me just a couple of weeks instead of 5 months.

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Manny: For the fame dying fit overview Tournament, Les Trois Mousquetaires (31) as opposed to The count number of Monte Cristo (15)- Untie the prisoner. Edmond Dantès, the court docket is now in session.- Hey! what sort of kangaroo courtroom is this! And what are the fees anyway?- Look, Dantès, we are all Dumas characters. just one folks can growth to the subsequent round, so it larger be the cooler ones, right? we are charging you with being much less cool than Les Trois Mousquetaires.- i am lots cool! I'm...- Yeah, yeah, we know. simply now not as cool as we are. a person disagree?- i am with you, D'Artagnan.- Me too.- Athos, you are imagined to be a decent, noble person. how are you going to condone this travesty, this...- depart me alone. i am too busy obsessing approximately my tragic past.- Yeah, depart him on my own Dantès. what is wrong with you?- Is the headsman the following yet?- Sorry boss, I received caught in traffic. i am simply sprucing my axe. - And can we have that worthwhile little bit of paper that we could us do no matter what we want?- I obtained it here.- But, that comes from the totally evil, conscienceless Richelieu! How can it possibly...- Come on Dantès, cease whining. you need to be used to precis justice via now.- Any recognized final words?- Look...- i don't believe he is acquired any well-known final words, boss.- Okay, let's get it over with.- Wait! I...THUNK- Well, that wasn't too bad. What lets do now?- cross seize a beer?- Sounds ok to me. And we have to begin getting ready for the subsequent round. See you down on the tavern in part an hour. - Bye!- Bye!

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