

THE COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO

by Alexandre Dumas



THE AUTHOR

Alexandre Dumas (1802-1870) was born in a small French village northeast of Paris. His father had been a general under Napoleon, and his paternal grandfather had lived in Haiti and had married a former slave woman there, thus making Dumas what was called a quadroon. Napoleon and his father had parted on bad terms, with Dumas' father being owed a large sum of money; the failure to pay this debt left the family poor and struggling, though the younger Dumas remained an admirer of the French emperor. Young Dumas moved to Paris in 1823 and took a job as a clerk to the Duke of Orleans (later to become King Louis Philippe), but soon began writing plays. Though his plays were successful and he made quite a handsome living from them, his profligate lifestyle (both financially and sexually) kept him constantly on the edge of bankruptcy. He played an active role in the revolution of 1830, and then turned to writing novels. As was the case with Dickens in England, his books were published in cheap newspapers in serial form. Dumas proved able to crank out popular stories at an amazing rate, and soon became the most famous writer in France. Among his works are *The Three Musketeers* (1844), *The Count of Monte Cristo* (1845), and *The Man in the Iron Mask* (1850). Dumas' novels tend to be long and full of flowery description (some cynics suggest that this is because he was paid by the word), and for this reason often appear today in the form of abridged translations (though this study guide is based on the unabridged version translated anonymously in 1846 and published by the Modern Library). Dumas continued to churn out novels until 1867. In 1870, he suffered a stroke and died, having spent or given away almost all the millions of francs he had earned throughout a fabulous life that in many ways equaled the adventures in the stories he generated from his imagination. His illegitimate son Alexandre Dumas *fils* also became a famous writer, though he did not follow his father's exorbitant lifestyle.

Dumas was part of the French Romantic movement, which involved a reaction against the conservatism and orderliness of the Age of Reason. His stories are full of adventure and passion and show a real love for the unique characteristics of French society. He favored democracy and hated despots. As an author, much like Shakespeare, Dumas tended to draw his plots from history (to which he did not adhere very carefully) and from the writings of others. The basic plot for *The Count of Monte Cristo* was taken from a narrative of famous police cases written by Jacques Peuchet. In Peuchet's book he tells the story of François Picaud, a young man engaged to a wealthy girl. His friends envied him and denounced him as an English spy, and he was imprisoned for seven

years. In prison, he met a wealthy Italian clergyman who left him his fortune when he died. Picaud used his new fortune, along with many disguises, to avenge himself on his enemies. Building on this brief police narrative, Dumas produced one of the greatest adventure stories in all of literature.

PLOT SUMMARY

CHAPTER 1 - THE ARRIVAL AT MARSEILLES

The story begins on February 24th, 1815, when the three-master *Pharaon* enters the harbor of Marseilles after a voyage in the Mediterranean. M. Morrel, the owner of the vessel, hurries aboard to find the ship under the command of young Edmond Dantes, who took over when the captain, M. Leclere, died of brain fever during the trip. While Dantes sees to the ship, M. Danglars, the owner's agent, reports to Morrel that Dantes stopped for a day and a half at the island of Elba. Because he is jealous of the young first mate, he tells the owner that Dantes stopped for the pure pleasure of it while wasting the owner's time and money. When Morrel questions Dantes about the unscheduled stop, he tells him that the captain had given him a package to deliver to the island the content of which he was unaware. He even had a casual conversation with Napoleon, who is in exile there. Morrel is satisfied with his answer, warns him that even stopping at Elba could get him in trouble if the knowledge of it fell into the wrong hands, and invites Dantes to dinner, but the young man insists that he must first visit his father, then pay a call on his fiancée Mercedes. Morrel assures him that when he returns after his wedding, he will be captain of the *Pharaon*.

CHAPTER 2 - FATHER AND SON

When Edmond arrives at his father's apartment, he finds him weak and malnourished. He finds that, though he had given him two hundred francs before he sailed, their neighbor Caderousse had demanded payment of a debt of 140 francs, leaving the old man virtually nothing on which to live. Soon Caderousse himself appears and congratulates Edmond on his good fortune, though he has little success in concealing his dislike for the nineteen-year-old sailor. After Edmond assures himself that his father is provided for, he goes to the Catalan village to visit his fiancée. Caderousse, meanwhile, meets Danglars, tells him that Mercedes may have another suitor, and the two share their hatred of Edmond Dantes.

CHAPTER 3 - THE CATALANS

When the story moves to the Catalan village, seventeen-year-old Mercedes is receiving another proposal of marriage from her cousin Fernand Mondego, which she refuses, as she has all the others, because of her commitment to Edmond Dantes. Fernand is so angry that he wants to fight a duel with Dantes, but Mercedes tells him that would be of no use; if Edmond dies, she insists that she would kill herself. At that point Edmond arrives and the two lovers fall into one another's arms. Fernand rushes from the house, overwhelmed with hatred, and is called aside by Caderousse and Danglars. Caderousse, by now thoroughly drunk, eggs Fernand on by speaking of Dantes' good fortune. Soon Dantes and Mercedes walk by, and the young man invites the three to their wedding, which is to occur in the next day or two.

CHAPTER 4 - THE PLOTTERS

Danglars waits until Caderousse is thoroughly drunk, then proposes to Fernand that they arrange for Edmond's arrest by denouncing him anonymously to the royal procureur¹ as a Bonapartist agent. Danglars knows he carries a letter from Elba to Paris, though he knows nothing of its contents, and writes to the authorities that such a letter may be found on his person if they arrest him immediately. Fernand volunteers to deliver the letter.

CHAPTER 5 - THE BETROTHAL FEAST

The next morning dawns bright and sunny as the guests gather for the wedding feast. All are impressed with the presence of M. Morrel, who has come to honor his new captain. Danglars, Caderousse, and Fernand are all there, the last wearing a nasty smirk on his lips. The happy couple, unaware of the plot against their joy, give Danglars and Fernand places of honor at the table. During the repast, Edmond announces that, through the influence of M. Morrel, the required waiting period has been waived and the marriage will occur that very afternoon. As the members of the party are about to leave the hall, a magistrate, accompanied by soldiers, enters and arrests Edmond. Edmond's father begs the magistrate to allow the wedding to proceed, but the official assures the old man that undoubtedly some minor matter regarding the ship's cargo is the cause of the problem and will be easily resolved. Caderousse, meanwhile, realizes that Danglars and Fernand are behind this, though Danglars denies it. After the magistrate leaves with his prisoner, M. Morrel informs the crowd that Edmond is accused of being a Bonapartist agent. Caderousse is now sure Danglars is responsible and threatens to tell what he knows, but Danglars warns him that anyone who defends Edmond will be assumed to be part of his conspiracy. Fernand, meanwhile, escorts the grief-stricken Mercedes back to her home. Morrel asks Danglars to assume the command of the *Pharaon* until Edmond is released, then goes to visit the deputy prosecutor, M. de Villefort, to speak on Edmond's behalf. Caderousse fears that the conspiracy will be discovered, but Danglars assures him that, should such a thing occur, only Fernand, who delivered the letter, is in danger, since Danglars himself wrote it in disguised handwriting and Caderousse was too drunk to know what was going on.

CHAPTER 6 - THE DEPUTY PROSECUTOR

At the same time as the celebration for Edmond and Mercedes is interrupted, another wedding feast is taking place in Marseilles, attended by the upper crust of society characterized by their hatred of the usurper Bonaparte. The feast is being held to celebrate the nuptials of M. de Villefort and Renee, the daughter of the Marquis de Saint-Moran, a noted royalist. At one point Saint-Meran proposes a toast to King Louis XVIII, newly restored to the throne, to universal acclaim. The conversation turns awkward, however, when the Marquise, whose father died on the guillotine during the Reign of Terror, reminds Villefort that his own father, Noirtier, was a staunch Girondin and served in the government under Bonaparte. Villefort insists that he shares none of his father's political sympathies, and offers a proof of the fact that he has changed his name to avoid any connection with the old revolutionary. She agrees to drop the conversation, but warns Villefort that he

¹ This is the French term for a public prosecutor. I will use the English term from this point on.

absolutely must deal harshly with any accused conspirators who are brought before him. As he insists on his loyalty, Villefort receives a message concerning the arrest of Dantes. He reads the letter of denunciation to the assembled company and assures them that he intends to be firm. As he leaves, his fiancée begs him to be merciful to the miscreant.

CHAPTER 7 - THE EXAMINATION

On the way to the courtroom, Villefort is met by M. Morrel, who pleads on behalf of his young friend. Villefort, knowing Morrel to be a commoner and a suspected sympathizer with Napoleon, pays him no mind. When Dantes is brought before him, the young man claims to have no knowledge of any conspiracy; in fact, he professes no interest in politics at all. Villefort quickly becomes convinced of the young man's innocence and looks forward to telling his fiancée that he honored her request. He asks Edmond if he has any enemies, but he knows of none, insisting that he is not important enough to have enemies. Under further questioning, Dantes tells him about Leclere's death and his final command, which Dantes dutifully carried out. Villefort believes the story and tells Dantes he is free to go if he will simply turn over the letter he was to take to Paris. When Dantes does so, Villefort sees that the letter is addressed to M. Noirtier, the prosecutor's own father. Having ascertained that Dantes alone knows to whom the letter is addressed, he tells him that he cannot as yet set him at liberty. He makes Dantes swear to say nothing of the letter, which could ruin Villefort, then promptly burns it in front of the prisoner. Dantes is then remanded to a cell until the following day and Villefort returns to his wedding feast.

CHAPTER 8 - THE CHATEAU D'IF

He is left in the cell for a few hours, then taken by carriage to the port, where he is transferred to a small boat, which takes him to the fearsome island prison of the Chateau d'If. When he discovers his destination, Dantes tries to leap into the sea, but is stopped by the soldiers in the boat. In the prison, he is placed in a small, dank cell with bread, water, and straw for a bed. The next day he demands to see the governor of the prison, but is told that is impossible. He asks his jailer to take a message to Mercedes for him, but is refused. Finally he threatens the jailer with violence and is taken down to a dungeon in the depths of the prison.

CHAPTER 9 - THE EVENING OF THE BETROTHAL

Villefort returns to his betrothal party, takes the Marquis de Saint-Meran aside, and tells him that he must go to Paris immediately. The Marquis is to sell all his stock, even if at a great loss, and use his influence to gain for Villefort an audience with the king. Mercedes, meanwhile, catches Villefort in the street and begs for information about Edmond, but the prosecutor tells her nothing. Morrel has no more success. Fernand seeks to comfort Mercedes, but she is not even aware of his presence, while Danglars is filled with glee and Edmond's father is overcome with grief.

CHAPTER 10 - THE LITTLE ROOM IN THE TUILERIES

A few days later, Louis XVIII is in his palace listening to one of his courtiers, who warns him of unrest in the south spurred on by a possible attempt of Napoleon to leave Elba and regain the throne - information he received from Villefort. The king does not believe the rumor, but the

courtier insists the intelligence is reliable, so Louis demands to interview Villefort personally. Villefort tells the king of the contents of the letter written to his father, but alters the narrative, claiming that he received the information verbally from a dangerous young revolutionary who refused to divulge the destination of the letter. The letter spoke of an attempt of Napoleon to leave Elba and return to France. At that very moment, the chief of police enters with an expression of horror on his face.

CHAPTER 11 - THE CORSICAN OGRE

The prefect of police regretfully informs the monarch that Napoleon landed in France three days before and is moving toward Paris. The king vents his spleen on his chief policeman while at the same time praising Villefort for his vigilance. Villefort responds with modesty, insisting that he had obtained the information simply by chance, and defends the prefect of police, thus making a friend of him while at the same time pleasing the king. Conversation then turns to the assassination of General Quesnel, a spy for the king who had insinuated himself into a Bonapartist society in Paris. When the chief of police describes the suspected murderer, Villefort recognizes his own father and fears for everything he has gained by his clever subterfuges. The king, unaware of Villefort's discomfort, presents him with the cross of the Legion of Honor and sends him back to Marseilles. Before Villefort can begin his journey, he receives a midnight visit from his father, who also wears the Legion of Honor.

CHAPTER 12 - FATHER AND SON

Villefort, clearly not pleased to see his father, tells him that he has saved his life by not revealing the destination of the letter carried by Dantes and warning him that the police have his description. Noirtier promptly shaves off his moustache and changes his hair and clothes so he no longer looks like the man accused of murdering Quesnel. He also informs Villefort that Quesnel had betrayed the Bonapartists, admitted his allegiance, and been allowed to leave the meeting in peace. His intelligence appears to be superior to that of the king, and he advises his son to warn Louis to leave the country before Napoleon reaches Paris; by doing so, Villefort will gain the king's eternal gratitude, and perhaps earn preferment should he ever be restored to the throne. Noirtier also tells him to return to Marseilles and lay low, promising that the victorious forces of Napoleon will leave him in peace if he does so. Unwilling to bring such bad news to the king, Villefort leaves immediately for Marseilles.

CHAPTER 13 - THE HUNDRED DAYS

When Napoleon regains the throne, Noirtier, who now has great power, protects his son from any reprisals, though Villefort decides it would be prudent to postpone his marriage. Meanwhile, in Marseilles, Bonapartists are wreaking vengeance on royalists and M. Morrel, a moderate supporter of the Emperor, becomes a man of great influence. He seeks to use that influence to help his young friend Edmond Dantes. He appears before Villefort, arguing that what had been a crime under the monarchy should be seen as a mark of loyalty under the Emperor, to be rewarded rather than punished. Villefort pretends not to remember the case, then looks through his records and announces that Dantes has been sent in exile to some distant isle of which no written information remains. He assures Morrel that once the new government gets organized, his young friend is certain to reappear.

Villefort advises him to petition the minister of justice, then dictates a letter portraying Dantes as an active and committed Bonapartist. Instead of delivering the petition, Villefort hides it away, knowing it will compromise Dantes irretrievably in the event of Napoleon's fall. In due time the Battle of Waterloo brings an end to the Hundred Days and the monarchy is restored. Villefort immediately obtains the office of King's Prosecutor at Toulouse, and a week later marries Renee de Saint-Meran. Danglars, meanwhile, fearing that Dantes might be released when Napoleon returns, quits the company of Morrel and son and leaves for Madrid, while Fernand joins the army, leaving behind a grateful Mercedes, who is overcome with grief so that only her religious faith keeps her from casting herself into the sea. Edmond's father, unable to deal with the loss of his son, dies months later in Mercedes' arms, and Morrel pays his debts and funeral expenses.

CHAPTER 14 - IN THE DUNGEONS

A year after the restoration of Louis XVIII, the inspector-general of prisons visited the Chateau d'If. When he enters Edmond's cell, the young man, who has now been imprisoned for seventeen months without trial, begs to know the charges against him and to be tried in public court. The inspector-general promises to examine his case, and Dantes urges him to speak to Villefort, whom he believes is on his side; he does not know that the most damning documentation against him has been lodged by Villefort himself. The inspector next visits the cell of the Abbe Faria, the former secretary to Cardinal Spada, who was arrested in 1811. Each year he has offered an immense fortune to anyone who will arrange for his release, so the jailers think him mad. He makes the same offer to the inspector-general, who does not think him mad at all but is unwilling to act on his offer. When he examines Dantes' case, he finds Villefort's note and decides nothing is to be done for such a dangerous prisoner. Edmond hopes for results from the inspector's visit, but soon realizes he has gained nothing but the knowledge of the date so he is now able to number his days in captivity.

CHAPTER 15 - NUMBER 34 AND NUMBER 27

When a new governor arrives in the prison, he no longer bothers to learn the names of the prisoners but simply calls them by number. Dantes is number 34 and the Abbe Faria is number 27. Dantes goes through all the stages of grief and despair, ceases to count the days of his imprisonment, and finally, in the depths of his loneliness, turns to God. He prays constantly, but soon comes to feel his lack of education; he has nothing with which to occupy his mind in the darkness of the dungeon. He descends into pointless rage, then begins to contemplate ways in which he might take revenge on his enemies, and finally contemplates suicide, determining to starve himself to death. After four days of throwing his food out the window, he lapses into a state near delirium. Then he hears a sound in the wall near his iron bed. This gives him some hope and he begins to eat again. He decides to test whether the noise is being made by a workman or a fellow prisoner, so he taps on the wall, assuming that a workman would not stop upon hearing a sound, but a prisoner seeking escape would do so. To his joy, the tapping stops and does not resume for many hours. When the sound resumes, Edmond determines to assist the man by digging from his side, but the only implement he is able to obtain is a shard he gets by breaking the jug in which his water is brought to him. He scrapes away the plaster around one of the stones in the wall, then uses the handle of his saucepan to remove the stone, after which he continues digging. Much to his frustration, he soon encounters a beam that blocks his path. When he cries out, a voice responds - that of the prisoner in the adjacent cell, number 27. The Abbe thought he had reached the outside wall, but realizes his calculations

were mistaken. The two men, starved for human companionship, decide to become friends. The next morning after the jailer leaves, a portion of the floor beneath Edmond's bed collapses and a spry old man emerges from the hole.

CHAPTER 16 - A LEARNED ITALIAN

Dantes embraces his newfound friend, who quickly examines the location of the cell to see if it has any walls overlooking the sea. Ascertaining that it does not, he concludes that escape from Dantes' cell is no more possible than through the walls of his own. Dantes learns that his new friend has made tools with which he has dug more than fifty feet between the two cells. Edmond soon learns that his companion is the Abbe Faria, who was imprisoned for plotting the unification of Italy. The old man admits that he lacks the strength to attempt another escape and insists that it is God's will that he die in the prison, but Dantes is just glad to have another human being with whom to interact. The old man's story gives him hope that he, younger and stronger, might be able to succeed where Faria failed. Faria warns him that he will not tolerate the shedding of blood in any escape attempt, but rather argues that they should wait for Providence to provide an opportunity. Dantes then asks the Abbe how he has spent his time other than in his escape attempt, and he learns that the priest has made his own pen, paper and ink and has busied himself by writing an entire book - *A Treatise on the Practicability of forming Italy into one General Monarchy*. Faria accomplished his work based on research he had done while at liberty, including memorizing verbatim the hundred and fifty most important books ever written. He made paper from his shirts treated with a special preparation, pens from fish bones, and ink from soot from an old fireplace mixed with wine. Dantes then asks to see these marvels, and Faria leads him through the passage back to his cell.

CHAPTER 17 - IN THE ABBE'S CELL

Upon arriving at Faria's cell, the Abbe announces the time to the minute, which he ascertains by looking at the shadow cast by the bars over the window on marks made on the wall. Faria shows him his book and the pens and ink used to write it, a knife and penknife, an oil lamp, flints, matches, a thirty-foot rope ladder, and a needle. Edmond wonders if the brilliant old man might be able to shed some light on his own misfortunes, so he tells him his story. When he is finished, Faria asks him who could conceivably benefit from his disappearance. Under questioning by the Abbe, Dantes comes to realize that he had three enemies who wished him ill and plotted his arrest - Danglars, Fernand, and Caderousse. When Dantes describes the circumstances surrounding his arrest and the strangely sympathetic behavior of the deputy prosecutor, Faria breaks out in laughter, for he realizes that Noirtier, to whom the incriminating letter was addressed, is none other than the father of Villefort, who was driven by the desire to protect himself, and thus sealed the fate of poor innocent Edmond Dantes. As the light dawns in his mind, Edmond rushes in agony back to his own cell, where he swears a fearsome oath to himself to take revenge on his tormentors. When Faria visits him that night, he realizes the change that has come over him and regrets illuminating his new friend. Aware of his displeasure, Dantes asks Faria to pass on to him the great amount of knowledge he has accumulated over the years, which the Abbe insists is a two-year project. They begin with the sciences. Edmond is a fast learner, and at the end of a year has accomplished an astonishing amount. He has promised to avoid the subject of escape, but one day the Abbe himself brings it up, and the two begin work on a plot to gain their liberty. The plan is to undermine one of the paving stones in the corridor so that the sentry fell through the floor, where he would be bound and gagged. The two

prisoners would then flee down the corridor to the window at the end, where they would let themselves down use the rope ladder. They worked for more than a year, during which Edmond's education continued. He learned not only mathematics, science, languages, and history, but obtained polish from the old man who had moved in aristocratic circles for his entire life. No sooner is the tunnel completed and the plan ready to be implemented than Faria becomes desperately ill with a cataleptic seizure. He instructs Dantes to take a phial of red liquid from the hollow leg of his bed and force it down his throat only when he appears to be dead. He does so, and an hour after administering the draught, the Abbe regains consciousness, though one arm and leg are paralyzed. Any thought of escape must now be set aside. Faria urges Dantes to escape by himself, but the young man swears to stay with the Abbe as long as he lives. He then quickly works to fill in their tunnel before the sentry discovers it.

CHAPTER 18 - THE TREASURE

When Edmond returns to Faria's cell, he finds the old man holding a cylinder of half-burned paper which he says is his treasure. Edmond is convinced that the seizure has brought on the madness of which the Abbe was constantly accused and is reluctant to allow him to discuss it, but Faria insists on telling him the tale because he may be carried off by a final attack at any moment. Their conversation is interrupted by a visit from the governor of the prison, but that evening Faria drags himself to Dantes' cell and resumes his story. The tale begins during the papacy of Alexander VI, when he and his son Caesar Borgia were in need of money. In order to obtain it, they created two new cardinals, sold the offices to wealthy men, then sold the offices these men already held to others. Not satisfied with the fruits of simony, they conspired to murder the two new cardinals and seize their fortunes. One of these cardinals was named Caesar Spada, whose wealth was never discovered by the rapacious prelate. By the time Faria became the secretary of another Cardinal Spada three hundred years later, the mystery of the Spada treasure had not been uncovered by the old cardinal's heirs despite hundreds of years of searching. After the death of Faria's employer, he was searching through the old man's papers and fell asleep. He awoke in darkness, lit a scrap of paper to provide some light, and realized that the paper contained hidden writing revealed by the heat of the flame. He quickly extinguished the blaze, but one-third of the paper had been consumed in the fire. He was arrested soon after, but prior to his arrest he managed to reconstruct the missing words and complete the message. The document was a will, leaving an enormous treasure hidden on the island of Monte Cristo to Caesar Spada's nephew. Since the most recent member of the Spada family was the last of his line and had left all his worldly goods to Faria, the Abbe is now the rightful owner of the treasure, and he intends to leave it to Edmond Dantes.

CHAPTER 19 - THE DEATH OF THE ABBE

In the days that follow, Faria never ceases to speak to Edmond of how much good a man could do were he in possession of thirteen or fourteen million francs. Dantes, meanwhile, remembers his oath of vengeance and thinks of how much harm he could do to his enemies with such a fortune. Nonetheless, Edmond cannot believe that the treasure still exists more than three centuries after its burial. Besides, the last means of escape has now been closed to them. Dantes thus confesses to the Abbe that the real treasure is not buried in a cave on a Mediterranean island, but consists of the friendship they have for one another and the time and knowledge that they shared. Faria forces Edmond to memorize the letter, then destroys the reconstructed part of it. The days pass

as happily as possible under such circumstances, then one night Dantes hears from his bed a pitiful cry emanating from the passage. He rushes to the neighboring cell and finds that Faria is suffering another seizure, one from which he will not this time recover. When the seizure leaves the old man as still as death, Dantes again administers the phial of healing liquid, but this time it is to no avail. Hearing the approach of the jailer, Dantes returns to his cell. The jailer, finding the old man dead, summons the governor, who calls for the doctor to assure him of the death of the prisoner. Together they determine to put the body in a sack and inter it later that night.

CHAPTER 20 - THE CEMETERY OF THE CHATEAU D'IF

Edmond returns to Faria's cell and sits on his friend's bed in despair. He again contemplates suicide, but now cannot stand the thought. Suddenly an idea leaps into his mind - what if he were to move the corpse to his own cell and wrap himself in the shroud? He quickly makes the exchange, sewing himself into the sack with the needle Faria had made. He brings the knife so he can dig through the soil after he is buried. When the gravediggers arrive, they carry him outside, tie a cannonball around his feet and, much to his surprise, throw him into the sea.

CHAPTER 21 - THE ISLE OF TIBOULEN

As soon as he plunges beneath the waves, Dantes cuts his way out of the sack and with great exertion severs the cord tying the cannonball to his feet. He then swims away from the terrible crag from which he escaped, mostly underwater, and makes for the uninhabited island of Tiboulén a league (3.5 miles) distant. A fierce storm arises, and a flash of lightning reveals a fishing boat being dashed to pieces on the rocks, taking all hands down with it. The next morning he sees a Genoese smugglers' ship heading out of Marseilles. He then dons the cap of one of the drowned sailors and swims toward the smugglers, hanging onto a piece of the wreck. As soon as they spot him they lower a boat and come to the rescue, dragging him from the sea soon after he faints from lack of strength. When he awakes, he finds himself on the deck of the ship. He tells the captain that he is a Maltese sailor and offers to join the crew if he is needed. He quickly demonstrates his prowess and is welcomed by all aboard. A sailor named Jacopo lends him some clothing, and Edmond finds out from him that the date is fourteen years to the day from when he was arrested. He is thus now thirty-three years old. He wonders what has become of Mercedes, who surely must think him dead, and renews his vow of vengeance against Danglars, Fernand, and Villefort.

CHAPTER 22 - THE SMUGGLERS

The captain of the smugglers' bark at first distrusts Edmond, fearing that he might be a spy sent by a customs house, or even that he could be the escapee from the Chateau d'If of which they recently heard, but he soon puts these fears aside when he sees the young man's conduct aboard ship. When they arrive at the port of Leghorn, Dantes arranges for a barber to shave his beard and cut his hair, both of which had grown quite long, and when he looks in the mirror, he can hardly recognize himself. He also purchases a sailor's uniform and returns Jacopo's clothing. The captain wants to take him on as a permanent member of the crew, but Dantes agrees only to a term of three months. After leaving Leghorn, the ship sails near the island of Monte Cristo, and Edmond begins making plans to visit it. Later, in an encounter with customs officers, Dantes is wounded, though not seriously, and he marvels to notice that he displays little feeling, either about his own wound or

about the fate of a customs officer who is killed in the battle; he is becoming hardhearted and knows that this will be necessary if he is to fulfill his vow. Jacopo tends to Edmond's wounds, and he begins to believe that this is a man he can trust. He soon embarks on the task of teaching Jacopo the secrets of seamanship. Over time he makes the acquaintance of all the leading smugglers along the coast, and one night he hears them planning to transfer a wealthy cargo far from the prying eyes of customs officials. The place they choose for the transfer is the island of Monte Cristo.

CHAPTER 23 - THE ISLE OF MONTE CRISTO

That night Edmond dreams of treasure. When they land on Monte Cristo, the exchange of goods is accomplished, and Edmond climbs the rocks of the island hunting wild goats, but in reality searching for any signs of the grotto that concealed his wealth. While leaping from rock to rock, he falls and feigns injury. When the sailors come to rescue him, he claims to be in great pain and insists that they continue their journey and return for him when their task is completed. Jacopo offers to stay with him, but Dantes will not hear of it, so they reluctantly agree and leave him alone on the island. As soon as the ship leaves its anchorage, Dantes leaps to his feet and begins his search.

CHAPTER 24 - THE SEARCH

While hunting for the goat, Edmond had noticed a small creek that led to markings on rocks that appeared manmade. Following these markings led him to a large boulder that had been lowered from above to conceal an opening. He digs a trench near the base of the rock, sets a charge of powder in the trench, and thus loosens the rock. He then levers it with a large olive trunk and sends it tumbling into the sea. The explosion exposed an iron ring in a square flagstone, and when Edmond pries it open, he discovers stairs leading down into a cavern below. Fearful lest his hopes be dashed, he hesitates before entering the grotto. When he arrives in the cave, he finds it illuminated by natural light that somehow filters down through the rocks. From the will, he knows that the treasure is to be found at the farthest end of the second cavern, so he searches for another cave, the entrance to which he eventually finds covered over with plaster painted to look like granite. He removes the stones from the entrance and goes to the farthest corner, where he begins to dig. Soon his pickaxe reveals a large wooden chest bound with iron and marked with the arms of the Spada family. When he breaks the locks on the chest, he finds within three compartments, one filled with gold coins, the next containing bars of pure gold, and the third overflowing with precious gems. Edmond runs from the cave, rushed madly around the island, then returns and gives thanks to God for his great good fortune. He then sets about counting his treasure, but it is too much even for him to enumerate.

CHAPTER 25 - AT MARSEILLES AGAIN

When morning dawns, Edmond fills his pockets with jewels and then does everything possible to conceal the chest and the entrances to the caverns. Six days later the smugglers' bark returns from its successful expedition. From Monte Cristo they sail to Leghorn, where Edmond sells four of his smallest diamonds for twenty thousand francs. He uses some of the money to buy a ship, which he then presents to Jacopo with instructions to hire a crew and sail to Marseilles, there to inquire about an old man named Louis Dantes and a young Catalan woman named Mercedes, then rejoin him at Monte Cristo. He explains his munificence by saying that at Leghorn he had received

an inheritance from a deceased uncle. After distributing generous presents to the smugglers who had been so kind to him, he leaves for Genoa, where he purchases a yacht for his personal use, after which he pays the builder of the yacht to add a secret compartment containing three sections behind the bed in the captain's cabin. He then embarks for Monte Cristo, where he transfers his treasure to the compartment installed by the builder. He spends a few days trying out his new boat. When Jacopo arrives, he bears sad tidings; Louis Dantes is dead and Mercedes is nowhere to be found. The two vessels then head for Marseilles, where Dantes presents an English passport obtained at Leghorn under the name of Lord Wilmore to gain entrance. He soon encounters one of the crew members of the *Pharaon* and is pleased to see that the man does not recognize him. His first stop is at his father's former home, which he finds much changed. It is now occupied by a young couple, whom he asks about Caderousse, finding that the former tailor was now an innkeeper at some distance from the port. He then purchases the house formerly belonging to his father and offers the young couple a better apartment downstairs if they are willing to vacate his father's old rooms. A walk through the Catalan village produces no information of value, though he purchases a new fishing boat for Mercedes' parents, puzzling both them and their neighbors, who know nothing of their mysterious benefactor.

CHAPTER 26 - THE INN OF PONT DU GARD

The Pont du Gard was a miserable hovel on a road along which few travelers ventured anymore. It was run by Caderousse, the former tailor of Marseilles, and his bitter and shriveled wife. One day a traveler arrives, an Italian priest named Abbe Busoni, who is really Dantes in disguise. He asks Caderousse if he knows anything of Edmond Dantes, and the innkeeper claims to have been Edmond's dear friend. When the priest tells Caderousse that Dantes died in prison, he seems truly to mourn his death. The priest claims to have administered the last rites to Dantes, who died of a broken heart. Dantes supposedly entrusted him with a valuable diamond given him by an English prisoner, instructing him to sell it and divide the proceeds among the only five people who truly loved him - Caderousse, Danglars, Fernand, Mercedes, and his father. The priest asks Caderousse about the death of Louis Dantes and is told that the old man starved to death. The innkeeper's wife, who has been eavesdropping, warns her husband not to trust the priest, but he ignores her warning. He tells the priest that only Mercedes and M. Morrel sought to care for Edmond's father, while Fernand and Danglars were really his enemies. The wife again speaks out because the two are now rich and powerful, and she has no desire to see her husband draw upon himself the wrath of these men. The priest insists that he must carry out Edmond's last wishes and divide the proceeds of the diamond among the named people unless he has reason to believe that they were not really Edmond's friends. The possibility of getting a larger share of the diamond convinces the greedy Caderousse to tell the priest what he knows.

CHAPTER 27 - THE TALE

Caderousse first makes the priest promise that he will never reveal the source of the information he is about to receive. The innkeeper speaks first of Edmond's father. The old man fell into deep mourning after his son was arrested and would not allow anyone to console him, even though Morrel and Mercedes tried their best. He refused to leave the house and gradually sold off all his belongings to sustain his meager existence. Finally Mercedes called for a doctor and Morrel left a purse to pay his expenses (which Caderousse now possesses), but Louis still refused to eat and

died nine days later. Caderousse then goes on to explain how Danglars and Fernand, out of jealousy, were responsible for denouncing Edmond as a Bonapartist agent. The innkeeper admits that he was present when the plot was hatched, but in his drunken state could do nothing to stop it.

When the priest asks about M. Morrel, Caderousse tells him how far the honorable shipowner went to try to secure Edmond's release and the way in which he paid Louis Dantes' last expenses, but that now he is on the verge of ruin because five of his ships have been lost. He has a loyal wife and two children, a loving son and daughter.

Danglars, meanwhile, has become rich through speculation and fortunate marriages and is held in high regard at court. Fernand joined the army when Napoleon returned, but deserted along with his commanding officer. This served as a recommendation when Napoleon fell, and he rose in the ranks of the army, receiving the title of Comte de Morcerf. When Europe is at peace, he joins the rebels in the Greek war of independence, serving under Ali Pasha, who leaves him a large fortune when he dies. Mercedes, finally convinced that her beloved Edmond was dead, gave in and married Fernand two years after her lover's arrest; they now have a son named Albert, but Mercedes is not happy. When the priest asks about Villefort, Caderousse has little direct knowledge to contribute.

When the tale is told, the priest gives the diamond to Caderousse with the hope that the fifty thousand francs that it is worth will relieve his poverty and misery. He asks in exchange only the red silk purse left on the mantelpiece of Louis Dantes by M. Morrel. After the Abbe leaves, Caderousse's wife, with her usual trusting spirit, suspects that the gem is fake, but the innkeeper rushes to a nearby fair to have it examined by a jeweler.

CHAPTER 28 - THE PRISON REGISTERS

The next day an Englishman, again Dantes in disguise, appears in Marseilles, introduces himself as the representative of the firm of Thomson and French in Rome, and begins to inquire about the affairs of Morrel and Son. He finds that they are on the verge of bankruptcy and will undoubtedly be unable to pay their debts should their last ship, the *Pharaon*, fail to appear as scheduled. He proceeds to buy up most of their debts from their creditors, the largest of whom is the inspector of prisons. In return, the Englishman asks to see the records of two prisoners from the Chateau d'If, Abbe Faria and Edmond Dantes. The inspector tells him of the Abbe's death and Edmond's daring escape attempt, though he assumes that Dantes was the one who made the tools and dug the tunnel. When he looks at his own file, he discovers the letter of denunciation, which he pockets, and confirms Faria's suspicions about the role played by Villefort in his confinement.

CHAPTER 29 - THE HOUSE OF MORREL AND SON

The house of Morrel and Son is almost vacant due to the reverses of its owner. Only two clerks remain, one of whom is Emmanuel Herbault, who is in love with Morrel's daughter Julie. Morrel owes eight thousand pounds, and his only hope of being able to pay his debt is the safe return of the *Pharaon*. When the representative of Thomson and French appears, all are afraid that another creditor has come to claim what he is owed. Their fears are not groundless, as the agent presents bills totaling 287,500 francs, or 11,500 pounds, which he has purchased from the merchant's creditors. As he speaks with his former employer, Julie enters with the news that the *Pharaon* has been lost in a terrible storm, though all crew members have survived. After they leave, the agent arranges to delay payment of the bills for three months. Morrel thankfully agrees, and promises that on September 5, he will either pay what he owes or be dead. On the way out, the agent meets Julie,

tells her that when she receives a letter from Sinbad the Sailor, she must do all that it asks of her, to which she readily agrees. Then he seeks out Penelon, the first mate of the *Pharaon*, and draws him aside for a private conversation.

CHAPTER 30 - THE FIFTH OF SEPTEMBER

Morrel, meanwhile, is able to meet his other bills as they come due, but has no idea how he can possibly honor his debt on September 5. The agent of Thomson and French does not appear again, nor do the sailors from the *Pharaon*, who have reluctantly been laid off by their employer. As a last resort, Morrel travels to Paris to ask Danglars for a loan, but is brusquely refused. Fearing that the worst is about to descend upon them, Julie writes to her brother Maximilian to come home immediately from his post in the army. As September 5 approaches, Morrel writes his will and asks Julie for the key to a special cabinet that contains his pistols. When the dreaded morning arrives, Maximilian appears, much to the joy of his family. As Julie rushes to tell her father of her brother's arrival, she is intercepted by a messenger bearing a letter from Sinbad the Sailor, which instructs her to go to the apartment previously occupied by Louis Dantes, retrieve a red silk purse from the mantlepiece, and take it to her father immediately. As she goes, Maximilian goes to his father, who is taking his pistols to his office. He calmly explains the situation to Maximilian and makes clear that he intends to wash away his dishonor by shooting himself. He then enjoins his son to care for his mother and sister and work hard to repay the debt that his father is unable to honor. Maximilian then leaves his father alone. As the clock is about to strike eleven and Morrel cocks his pistol, Julie bursts into the room carrying a red silk purse. It contains the canceled bill from Thomson and French and a huge diamond labeled "Julie's dowry." No sooner does Julie explain what happened to her than Emmanuel enters the room announcing that, no matter how improbable it may seem, the *Pharaon* is entering the harbor. All rush to the dock and see an exact duplicate of the sunken vessel, carrying the same cargo and operated by the same crew, sail into sight. While all give their attention to the seeming miracle, a bearded man slips away and boards a yacht waiting for him in the harbor.

CHAPTER 31 - ITALY: SINBAD THE SAILOR

We now arrive at the year 1838, nine years after the escape of Edmond Dantes from the Chateau d'If. Two young Parisian socialites, Viscount Albert de Morcerf and Baron Franz d'Epinau, are visiting Florence and intend to travel to Rome for the Carnival. Albert decides to travel by way of Naples, while Franz plans a stop at the island of Elba. After touring the former place of exile of the Emperor, the captain of the ship suggests to Franz that he stop at the isle of Monte Cristo to hunt wild goats. He warns him that the island is often a stopping place for smugglers and pirates, but Franz is not deterred. As they approach Monte Cristo, they see a light on shore. The captain swims to the island and returns to report that the men are smugglers of his acquaintance, so they may safely land. When they arrive, the chief of the smugglers invites Franz to dinner in his underground cavern on condition that he agree to be blindfolded on the journey. The captain tells Franz that the chief of the smugglers is very rich and that he sails a magnificent Genoese yacht; he goes by the name of Sinbad the Sailor. Franz is led on a short trip, and when he removes his blindfold, he finds himself in a veritable underground palace, richly appointed with treasures from the Orient. Sinbad then invites him to enjoy a repast such as Franz had never eaten in his life. The meal is served by a mute Nubian servant named Ali, who had been rescued from torture and execution in Tunis by Sinbad. During dinner the two men converse, and Franz perceives that his host has suffered great things and

suggests that he has accounts to settle as a result. Franz expresses the desire to repay Sinbad's hospitality should he ever visit Paris, but the older man doubts that such a thing is possible because he is likely to travel incognito. For dessert, Sinbad serves rare fruits and a greenish paste he claims can grant the deepest desire of all who partake of it; in fact it is hashish. Franz agrees to try it, after which they adjourn to the guest chamber, where the divan is covered with the pelts of rare animals from around the world. Soon the hashish has its effect, and Franz sinks into a marvelous dream from which he never desires to awake.

CHAPTER 32 - THE AWAKENING

When Franz wakes up, he finds himself in an empty cave. When he goes to the shore to meet the captain and his crew, he finds that Sinbad has already departed. Franz immediately decides to hunt for the entrance to the fabulous underground palace he saw the night before. The captain warns him that the search is futile, but Franz tries anyway, with no success. He then returns to the mainland and completes the trip to Rome, where he meets his friend Albert. They have obtained a small apartment in a hotel in which the entire rest of the floor has been rented by a very rich gentleman from Sicily or Malta called the Count of Monte Cristo. When the two friends try to arrange for a carriage for the following day, they are told that none are available. Albert assures Franz that they need not worry; anything can be obtained by someone who has enough money in his purse.

CHAPTER 33 - ROMAN BANDITS

In the morning, the impossibility of acquiring a carriage for the last three days of the Carnival is confirmed by their host, so they settle for one for the middle of the celebration when they are not so much in demand. They spend the day touring Saint Peter's and plan to visit the Colosseum that evening. Their host warns them against this plan because the route they intend to follow takes them through the territory controlled by the notorious bandit Luigi Vampa. Albert and Franz ask about this bandit and are told that Vampa was a shepherd as a young man, was taught to read and write by a kindly priest, developed some skill in the arts. His master gave him a gun when a wolf threatened the flock, and he soon became an expert marksman. He became fascinated by the tales of Roman bandits, especially one particularly brutal man named Cucumetto. One day Vampa and his fiancée Teresa met and saved the life of this very bandit.

CHAPTER 34 - VAMPA

When Carnival arrived, Luigi and Teresa were invited to a costume ball being hosted by his patron's employer. Teresa was invited to dance with a young nobleman and was entranced by the beautiful costume worn by the count's daughter. Luigi, filled with jealousy, determined to make sure of his fiancée's affections. That night he set fire to a wing of the count's palace and rescued his daughter, but in the process stole her costume. The next day he presented it to Teresa. While she was changing into it, Luigi was asked for directions by a traveler. He obliged and was rewarded with two gold coins. Not wishing to be in debt to the stranger, he gave him his dagger, the handle of which he had carved himself. He introduced himself to the traveler, and the man in turn told him that he was known as Sinbad the Sailor [the mention of this name in the story startles Franz even more than the earlier reference to Monte Cristo]. When Luigi returned, he heard cries and found

Cucumetto carrying off Teresa. He quickly aimed his carbine and brought down the bandit with a single shot. Luigi then put on the elaborate costume of the slain bandit and, taking Teresa with him, went in search of Cucumetto's band of thieves. When he found them, he told them that he had killed their captain and wished to take his place. Astounded by his boldness, they agreed. Thus began the career of the most notorious of the bandits on the outskirts of Rome. Albert believes not a word of this tale and insists on sticking to their original plan of visiting the Colosseum by night, though Franz is somewhat sobered by the story told by their host.

CHAPTER 35 - THE COLOSSEUM

As the two young men travel, Franz mulls over the role played by Sinbad the Sailor in the tale told by their host and his own recent experience. Who could this man be? A guide meets them at the Colosseum and leads them through the ruins. Franz stops to rest while Albert and the guides go on. As he leans against a column, he hears a conversation between two men. They are discussing an execution to take place two days hence. The victim is Peppino, a peasant who has on occasion supplied provisions to Luigi Vampa's bandits. Vampa intends to save the poor man by force of arms, but the other man, whom Franz recognizes as his friend Sinbad the Sailor, argues that a substantial bribe would suit just as well without any danger or bloodshed. The bandit promises undying gratitude to the stranger if he is able to carry out his plan. The men slip away and Franz rejoins Albert and the rest of the party.

The next day, Albert travels the city in a carriage while Franz stays in their lodgings and writes letters. They plan to go to the opera that evening, though Albert is frustrated by their lack of adventures, either romantic or otherwise. He hopes that by presenting a fine appearance at the opera he might make connections that will allow him and his friend to obtain a carriage, or at least a window, for the final three days of Carnival. Albert has no luck in attracting the attention of opera-goers of the fair sex, but Franz spots a countess he met briefly in Paris and offers to introduce Albert to her. While Albert and the countess discuss common friends in Paris, Franz scans the audience. His eyes fall upon a beautiful young woman in Greek dress. When he asks the countess about her, she says she knows nothing except that she attends the opera frequently, always accompanied by the man who sits in the shadows behind her or by a black servant. Franz continues to watch the Greek girl and is astounded, when her companion rises to applaud the performance, to recognize him as none other than Sinbad the Sailor. When asked, the countess is unable to supply any information about him except that he is preternaturally pale, so much so that she fears he might be a vampire. Franz escorts the countess to her hotel, then returns to find Albert excited about a solution to their Carnival problem. He suggests renting a cart and oxen rather than a carriage to carry them through the streets of Rome, and Franz agrees as long as they can go in suitable costume. Albert has already sent their host to make the necessary arrangements. When he returns, however, he tells them that the Count of Monte Cristo, who occupies most of the floor on which their rooms are located, has offered to allow them the use of his carriage and his windows overlooking the street below. They gladly accept his invitation, though Franz recalls the conversation about an execution he overheard in the Colosseum. The next morning they pay a visit to the Count in his magnificently-appointed apartments, and Franz is startled to recognize him as the man he knew previously as Sinbad the Sailor.

CHAPTER 36 - LA MAZZOLATA

The Count summons his steward Bertuccio to ensure that all the arrangements for the day have been made. They discuss the coming execution, and the Count informs them that one of the condemned men, Peppino, has been pardoned, while the other is to be executed by mazzolata. Monte Cristo then speaks of his studies of the various forms of torture and death used in countries throughout the world. He argues that execution is insufficient for the most heinous of crimes, and that dueling, even were its outcome certain, falls far short of just punishment for inextinguishable offenses. Only slow, profound, eternal torture is suitable for those who have deprived their fellow creatures of what they love most in the world, indeed of all hope. Franz argues that anyone who attempted to carry out such vengeance would himself be subject to the power of the law, but the Count sees this as no obstacle once vengeance has been obtained. After breakfast, Franz decides not to attend the execution, but Albert changes his mind. Albert, not wishing to take too much advantage of the Count's hospitality, invites him to visit him in Paris when he next passes through the capital. When they arrive at the place of execution, an enormous crowd has gathered. As the two condemned men are led toward the scaffold, a messenger rushes forward carrying a pardon for Peppino. The other prisoner objects to having to die alone, but he is seized by the guards while the executioner smashes his head with a mace, slits his throat, and stamps on his stomach, making blood spurt skyward from his wound; this is the mazzolata. At the sight of this, Franz faints and Albert shuts his eyes tight to avoid watching the horror, but the Count seems to be enjoying the spectacle immensely.

CHAPTER 37 - THE CARNIVAL AT ROME

When Franz recovers his senses, he finds the other two dressing for the Carnival. They descend to the celebration going on below and soon are engaged in throwing confetti and flowers like everyone else. After a brief time Monte Cristo leaves Albert and Franz to use his carriage as they see fit, inviting them to join him at his windows when they again wish to be observers. During the day, Albert repeatedly sees a carriage full of Roman peasants and exchanges flowers with them; he is sure the one who pays him special attention must be a beautiful woman in disguise, and plans to wear a peasant costume the next day to try to make contact. Monte Cristo sends word that they are free to use his box at the theater that night. When they get there, they again make the acquaintance of the countess whom they had met the night before. The three discuss the Count of Monte Cristo, of whom they know very little. The next morning, the two friends dress in their peasant costumes, and Monte Cristo stops by to tell them that they may have use of the carriage for the remainder of the Carnival. During their brief conversation, the two are amazed at the breadth of the Count's knowledge and interests. Throughout the day, Albert flirts with the peasant girl of the day before. When Franz receives an invitation to a private audience with Pope Gregory XVI, Albert asks if he might have the carriage to himself the next day. He returns with a missive from his innamorata inviting him to a rendezvous on the last day of the Carnival. As the festivities wind down on the last day, Franz and Albert purchase *moccoletti* - tapers to be lighted as night begins to fall. The great game is to keep yours lit while extinguishing those held by the people around you. Soon fifty thousand candles light the streets of Rome. At the appointed hour, Albert hastens to the rendezvous. Shortly thereafter, the bells ring signaling the end of Carnival and all candles are extinguished.

CHAPTER 38 - THE CATACOMBS OF SAINT SEBASTIAN

After the final bell, Franz returns to the hotel and dines alone, but by eleven o'clock Albert has still not arrived. Franz goes to a ball at the palace of the Duke of Bracciano, who asks after Albert and is very worried that he has not returned from his little adventure. Soon a servant arrives with a letter from Albert asking him to borrow four thousand piasters and send it with the messenger; a footnote signed by Luigi Vampa warns that if the money is not delivered by sunrise, Albert will die. Franz examines their resources and finds that they are about eight hundred piasters short. He turns to Monte Cristo, who readily offers him any funds he may need. Franz suggests, however, that the Count, because Vampa owes him a favor for sparing Peppino, might convince the bandit to release Albert without the need for ransom. Monte Cristo asks Franz to accompany him and summons the messenger from the street below, who turns out to be none other than Peppino himself. The Count asks him the particulars of Albert's abduction and finds that the girl with whom he had been flirting was none other than Teresa, Vampa's mistress, who had engaged in the flirtation with the bandit's encouragement. He had been taken from the rendezvous to the catacombs of Saint Sebastian outside the city. Monte Cristo, Franz, and Peppino immediately head for the catacombs in a carriage driven by the mute servant Ali, whom Franz recognizes from the island grotto. When they arrive at the catacombs, Monte Cristo upbraids Vampa for abducting one of his friends, for which the bandit is suitably apologetic. Vampa goes to get Albert and finds him fast asleep. All are astonished at the calm demeanor he displays in the face of such evident peril. Albert in gratitude offers the Count his hand, which Monte Cristo takes with a shudder; Franz wonders what caused such a reaction. Vampa escorts them out of the catacombs and Franz and Albert return to the ball in time for Albert and the countess to enjoy the final waltz.

CHAPTER 39 - THE RENDEZVOUS

The next morning Albert visits Monte Cristo to offer his thanks and promise that he and his are at the Count's disposal. Monte Cristo responds by saying that he is soon to visit Paris, a city he has never seen before, and wonders if Albert is willing to show him around and introduce him into society. They arrange to meet at Albert's home precisely three months hence to the minute. After the Count leaves, Franz expresses his apprehensions about the mystery man to his friend. Albert asks him the reason for his suspicions, and Franz tells him, swearing him to secrecy, about the strange meeting in the grotto on the island of Monte Cristo and the conversation overheard in the bowels of the Colosseum. He questions the Count's origins and nationality, the source of his fortune, and his easy converse with smugglers and bandits. Albert brushes all this aside and the two friends part.

CHAPTER 40 - THE GUESTS

When the morning for the Count's visit arrives, the Morcerf household assures that all is in readiness. Albert lives on his parents' estate, but in a separate building allowing him a great measure of freedom. His apartment is richly furnished, but clearly displays the changing interests of an idle young aristocrat. He prepares the smoking room to receive his guest, though he doubts Monte Cristo will keep the appointment. He even plans to introduce the Count to his mother that afternoon. Soon Lucien Debray, a government minister and Albert's friend, arrives. They discuss political events in Spain and remark about how the banker Danglars has enhanced his fortune by forty thousand pounds

by anticipating the course of affairs. Soon Beauchamp, a journalist, enters, and they await the arrival of the Count.

CHAPTER 41 - THE BREAKFAST

While awaiting the arrival of the other guests, the three friends discuss matters occupying the government. Albert mentions that he intends to marry Eugenie Danglars. Beauchamp argues that such a marriage can never take place because Danglars is a businessman rather than a member of the nobility, but Albert reminds him that a fortune as large as his can overcome many barriers. At this point M. de Chateau-Renaud and Maximilian Morrel join the party. The latter is unknown to Albert, but Chateau-Renaud introduces him as a captain in the guards and a man who saved his life. While they wait for the Count, Chateau-Renaud tells his story. He was in Africa fighting the Arabs and found himself on foot, attacked by six horsemen. He succeeded in killing four, but then had nothing left with which to fight. As the two remaining Arabs were about to kill him, Morrel rode up and dispatched them both. Maximilian explains that the date was September 5th, and he had vowed to do some noble deed each year on that day in memory of the man who had saved his father's life under extreme circumstances. Albert then tells how Monte Cristo delivered him from the clutches of Luigi Vampa outside Rome. Both Debray and Chateau-Renaud argue that no such person as the Count of Monte Cristo exists, but Maximilian explains that Monte Cristo is a tiny island in the Mediterranean, and Albert adds that his deliverer purchased both the island and the title.

The appointed time arrives, and as the clock strikes its last tone Monte Cristo enters. Albert introduces him to his friends and they go in to breakfast. The Count tells them that he has not eaten since the previous morning, choosing instead to sleep in his coach. When they ask if he can sleep at will, he shows them tiny pills composed of opium and hashish that he takes for the purpose; they marvel at the case in which he keeps them - an enormous emerald hollowed out and held together with gold clasps. He tells them that he once had three other emeralds like it, but gave away two, one to a Turkish ruler to buy the freedom of a woman and one to the Pope to purchase the life of a man. Albert asks him how he came to have such influence over Luigi Vampa, and Monte Cristo explains that he had given Vampa two pieces of gold for giving him directions when the bandit was still a shepherd boy, and Vampa had given him a hand-carved dagger in return. Years later, Monte Cristo was set upon by Vampa's gang, but he captured the bandit chieftain instead. Rather than turning him over to the authorities, he let him go with the promise that he would always honor him and his friends. As conversation turns to the task of introducing the Count to Paris society, Albert again mentions his prospective marriage. Monte Cristo asks about Danglars, indicating that he intends to open a large line of credit with his bank under the auspices of Thomson and French. Maximilian starts at the mention of the name and tells Monte Cristo that the firm did his father a great service many years before but has steadfastly denied ever having done so. They then begin to give advice as to where the Count should take up residence in Paris. Most propose expensive neighborhoods, but Maximilian suggests taking rooms in a hotel run by his sister Julie and her husband Emmanuel Herbault. Monte Cristo rejects all their suggestions, indicating that Ali has already purchased a house for him. In fact, anything they offer to provide for him he has already arranged for himself. When they propose that he obtain a mistress, he tells them that he has something better - a slave bought in Constantinople. The party soon breaks up, and Debray assures Albert that he will soon know the identity of the mysterious Count. When his guests leave, Albert is left alone with Monte Cristo.

CHAPTER 42 - THE PRESENTATION

Albert offers to show the Count around his apartments, which are filled with rare and expensive antiques and artworks. He is amazed that Monte Cristo is familiar with each piece and knows more about them than he himself does. In the bedroom, however, the Count is stunned by a portrait of a lovely young Catalan fisherwoman - Albert's mother and Edmond Dantes' former fiancée. Albert tells Monte Cristo that the painting makes his mother weep and his father angry, so it has been consigned to the bedroom where they will not have to see it. While they are looking at a portrait of Albert's father in another part of the estate, the Count de Morcerf himself appears. Albert introduces them, and Morcerf thanks Monte Cristo for saving his son's life in Italy. Monte Cristo compliments Morcerf effusively, even to the point of embarrassment, especially since the compliments are undeserved, though Morcerf does not know his guest is aware of the fact. At this point Madame de Morcerf enters. She starts upon seeing Monte Cristo, whom she immediately recognizes, but quickly recovers herself and thanks him as well. By the time Monte Cristo leaves, Bertuccio has obtained a carriage to transport him. When Albert returns to the house, he finds that his mother has been using smelling salts. She asks him what he knows about the Count, he knows very little but admires him greatly. She warns him to be careful of his new acquaintance.

CHAPTER 43 - MONSIEUR BERTUCCIO

After leaving the home of the Morcerfs, Monte Cristo goes to examine the house Ali has chosen as his residence in Paris on the Champs-Élysées. His steward Bertuccio has already contacted a printer about preparing calling cards for the Count and has delivered the first one to Baron Danglars; he then shows Monte Cristo into the house, where a notary is waiting. Monte Cristo finalizes the purchase of a country house in Auteuil, though Bertuccio blanches when he hears the address. The Count pays in cash, then summons Bertuccio and insists that he accompany him to his new dwelling.

CHAPTER 44 - THE HOUSE AT AUTEUIL

As they approach the house, Bertuccio seems increasingly nervous and ill at ease. By questioning the caretaker, Monte Cristo finds out what he already knows - that the house used to belong to the Marquis de Saint-Méran, the father of Villefort's first wife, who died twenty-one years earlier. The Count demands that Bertuccio show him around the house, which causes the steward to tremble inexplicably. Bertuccio finally blurts out something about an assassination he carried out years before. The steward insists that he has shared his secret with one man alone, the Abbe Busoni who heard his confession while he was in prison, but Monte Cristo insists that he tell him the story or lose his job. Bertuccio then tells him that Villefort was a great villain, and the Count encourages him to relate the entire tale, omitting nothing.

CHAPTER 45 - THE VENDETTA

Bertuccio's story begins in 1815, when his older brother was murdered for serving in Napoleon's army. Bertuccio sought justice from the public prosecutor, whose name was Villefort, and was coldly turned away. At that point he declared a vendetta against the prosecutor, promising to kill him the next time he saw him. From that day on, Bertuccio followed Villefort, waiting for

his opportunity. He followed him to Versailles, where he observed him often coming under cover of darkness to the very house outside of which Bertuccio and Monte Cristo were now standing. He watched as Villefort met a young woman who was obviously pregnant. Three nights later, Bertuccio hid in the shrubbery, planning the completion of his vendetta. He heard cries of pain in the house, then saw Villefort emerge with a box, which he quickly buried in the garden. At that point, Bertuccio leaped from the bushes and plunged his dagger into Villefort's breast. Assuming that Villefort was dead, he dug up the box, covered the hole, and rushed from the garden. Only then did he discover that the box contained, not treasure as he thought, but a male infant. The baby appeared to be dead, but he applied mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and the child revived. He took the child to an orphanage in Paris. When he told his sister what had occurred, she scolded him for not bringing the child to her, and he agreed to retrieve him should they ever be in a position to afford to do so. At this point Bertuccio returned to the smuggling trade in league with an innkeeper named Caderousse. They were so successful that within seven or eight months, they retrieved the baby from the orphanage and named him Benedetto. They lavished love on the child, but he turned out to be unfailingly perverse. He lied, stole, and began to hang around with the worst young men of the city. They were able to do nothing to make the boy behave decently, and the fact that Bertuccio refused to punish the lad and his sister spoiled him helped not at all. The boy was smart and handsome, and Bertuccio was determined to apprentice him as a clerk on board a ship. When customs officials surrounded Bertuccio's boat, he fled and sought refuge with Caderousse. This occurred on the day after the visit of Edmond Dantes, disguised as Abbe Busoni, to Caderousse's inn. Bertuccio, in hiding, overheard the conversation between Caderousse, his wife, and a jeweler to whom they sold the fabulous diamond (and who cheated them in the process). As the jeweler prepared to leave, Caderousse and his wife plotted to murder the man and steal the diamond.

CHAPTER 46 - THE RAIN OF BLOOD

Much to their surprise, the jeweler returned to their inn almost immediately because a severe storm had blown up outside. They welcomed him graciously, which was quite unlike the normal behavior of the couple. When the jeweler went upstairs to sleep, Bertuccio also fell asleep in his hiding place. He was awakened by the sound of a pistol shot, then saw Caderousse, covered in blood, take the diamond, the gold, and the bank notes he had received from the jeweler and flee the house. When Caderousse went upstairs to see what had happened, he found the jeweler stabbed to death and Caderousse's wife shot in the throat. Soon customs officials and constables arrived and arrested Bertuccio for the crime. After three months in prison awaiting trial, Abbe Busoni appeared and confirmed Bertuccio's account of events. Bertuccio then made confession to the priest, telling him everything that had happened at Auteuil. Soon thereafter, Caderousse was apprehended, confessed everything, and was sentenced to life in the galleys, after which Bertuccio was released. Busoni then gave him a letter of recommendation to the Count, who hired him as his steward. While he was in prison, however, Benedetto and two of his thuggish friends had murdered his sister and looted the house of its few valuables, then disappeared. Having heard Bertuccio's narrative in its entirety, the Count returns to his house on the Champ-Elysees and surveys it minutely to see if it meets his satisfaction, including the richly-furnished apartments set aside for his Greek slave Haydee, who soon arrives with her attendants.

CHAPTER 47 - UNLIMITED CREDIT

The next morning, Baron Danglars pays a visit to Monte Cristo and is turned away at the gate, being told the Count is not seeing visitors that day. Monte Cristo, looking out his window, observes that Danglars has a fine pair of horses and orders Bertuccio to purchase them for him at any price. By five o'clock the deed is done, and Monte Cristo orders them harnessed to his carriage and has Ali drive him to the Danglars residence. Meanwhile, he commissions Bertuccio to purchase in his own name an estate on the coast of Normandy containing a creek sufficient to admit any one of his three vessels. The steward is also to set up relays of horses constantly ready to transport the Count to the seacoast at a moment's notice. When he arrives at the Danglars residence, he finds that the Baron is in a meeting with a group of financiers. When Danglars hears that Monte Cristo has arrived, he scornfully tells his companions that the man must surely be a fraud; he was clearly insulted by the airs put on by the Count's retainers earlier that morning. When the two meet, Monte Cristo immediately begins to attack the Baron's pretenses. When they get down to business, Danglars questions the fact that Monte Cristo desires unlimited credit on his bank; such a thing is unheard of. When Danglars expresses his doubts, Monte Cristo wonders if his bank lacks sufficient resources for such an advance. Taken aback, the banker insists that he is able to provide for the Count's needs even should they extend to a million francs. Monte Cristo laughs at such a paltry sum and draws checks of that value from his purse and offers to take his business elsewhere. Danglars capitulates, and Monte Cristo asks for the amount of six million to be delivered to him the next day. Danglars blanches, but agrees, then introduces him to his wife, who is at the time consulting with Lucien Debray.

CHAPTER 48 - THE DAPPLED GRAYS

Danglars ushers the Count into his wife's boudoir, where Debray has been telling her all about their breakfast the day before. As they make small talk, the baroness' handmaid enters and tells her that her favorite horses have been sold without consulting her. She is furious with her husband, who takes her aside and explains that he sold them to some fool who paid far more than they are worth. At that moment the Count's carriage pulls up in front of the house pulled by those very horses. With a family explosion about to occur, both Debray and Monte Cristo take their leave. The Count is pleased with the success of his plan and waits for the right moment to make his next move. Two hours later Monte Cristo returns the horses to Mme. Danglars with a large diamond adorning the headdress of each of them. He then calls Ali and asks if he is capable of stopping two runaway horses with his lasso, and he assures the Count that he can. At five o'clock that evening, Mme. Danglars' carriage, pulled by the horses in question, speeds out of control toward the Count's house in Auteuil. She had lent the vehicle to Mme. de Villefort, who is in it with her young son Edward. Ali stops the horses as planned and Monte Cristo carries the two frightened passengers into his house. Edward is unconscious, but the Count takes a vial of red liquid and places one drop on his lips, at which point he immediately recovers. As Monte Cristo and Mme. de Villefort talk, Edward runs to the casket and begins to take the corks out of the bottles. The Count warns him that many of those liquids are very dangerous, and his mother quickly pulls him away from them. Ali attaches the horses to the Count's carriage and takes the guests home. When Mme. de Villefort arrives, she immediately goes to her room and writes a letter to Mme. Danglars describing her adventures. Villefort, at the urging of his wife, pays a call on the Count to express his gratitude.

CHAPTER 49 - IDEOLOGY

Villefort, who had successfully survived four revolutions with his reputation and position intact, was a man more to be feared than loved. He had no friends, so his visit to the Count of Monte Cristo was an unusual event indeed. The Count immediately goes on the attack, claiming knowledge far beyond that of the crown prosecutor and implying that he is one of those rare beings entrusted by God to mete out justice where the courts are unable to do so; he is the instrument of Providence. He considers himself answerable to God alone, and his strange power frightens Villefort, who is afraid of no man. While the Count argues that only time and distance can prevent him from accomplishing his task, Villefort argues that physical or mental disability may do so as well, citing as an example his father, M. Noirtier, a great hero of the French Revolution now incapacitated by a stroke. Villefort invites the Count to visit him at his home and see for himself, then explains that his father's sufferings must be the judgment of God upon him. After the prosecutor leaves, Monte Cristo lets out his breath and goes to see his Greek slave Haydee.

CHAPTER 50 - HAYDEE

While the Count may describe Haydee as his slave, he treats her like a queen and demands that others do the same. She has her own suite of apartments, luxuriously furnished, and four attendants to see to her every need. Monte Cristo intends to spend an hour with her settling his emotions before the anticipated joy of visiting his friends the Morrels. When he enters the chambers of the eighteen-year-old Greek girl, he reminds her that, because they are now in France, she is no longer a slave, but free, and that should she find someone with whom she would rather spend her time, he will never stand in her way. Haydee considers the very idea preposterous. Whom could she possibly prefer to her savior and lord? Monte Cristo tells her that while in Paris they will be out in society, but warns her that she must on no occasion mention her parentage to anyone. He professes to love her as a father loves a daughter, but she insists that, while she was able to get over the death of her father, the death of her beloved protector would be the end of her life as well.

CHAPTER 51 - THE MORREL FAMILY

Monte Cristo then goes to visit Maximilian Morrel and Emmanuel and Julie Herbault. They receive him joyfully and show him around their home. They have shepherded their money carefully and live comfortably. Maximilian tells the Count that their family, after undergoing much suffering, was blessed by an angel. As evidence, he shows him a silk purse containing a note and a diamond, carefully preserved under glass, and describes them as the most precious of the family's treasures because they were given by the man who saved his father's life and his family's fortune and reputation. For years they have prayed that they could discover the identity of Sinbad the Sailor so they can thank him properly. Monte Cristo suggests that their benefactor might have been a friend of his, an Englishman named Lord Wilmore of the firm of Thomson and French, then just as quickly dismisses the idea. Maximilian then shares a superstition that has long been a family secret - that his father on his deathbed pronounced that their benefactor was a friend long dead named Edmond Dantes. The Count, overcome by emotion, quickly takes his leave. Afterwards, Julie muses that she thinks she has heard his voice somewhere before.

CHAPTER 52 - PYRAMUS AND THISBE

An abandoned garden behind a hotel on the Faubourg Saint-Honore had become the meeting place for two young lovers, Maximilian Morrel and Valentine de Villefort, who speak to one another through the cracks in an old, boarded-up, rusty gate. In order to make the rendezvous, she must escape the prying eyes of her stepmother and maid and the annoying company of her young brother. He comes dressed as a gardener to avoid any suspicion that might be aroused should he wear his army uniform. He has also rented the abandoned garden, so he has every right to be there. They meet in secret because Villefort is determined to marry his daughter to Franz d'Epinau. Meanwhile she is ignored by her father and persecuted by her stepmother, who favors and spoils little Edward and is jealous of the fortune Valentine will inherit from her maternal grandparents. Her only friend in the house is her grandfather, old Noirtier, who is incapacitated by a stroke. As the two lovers talk, Valentine asks Maximilian if, in the days of their youth, and antagonism existed between their fathers; he knows of none. Valentine recalls one evening reading the newspaper when Maximilian's receipt of the Legion of Honor was reported. At the mention of his name, both her father and Danglars, who was also present, seem startled and begin to insult the family. Noirtier, however, showed his great pleasure, which only Valentine was able to discern. Their conversation is interrupted by the maid coming to fetch Valentine because the family has a visitor - the Count of Monte Cristo.

CHAPTER 53 - TOXICOLOGY

When Monte Cristo arrives, Villefort is away dining with the Chancellor, but he is welcomed by Mme. de Villefort and Edward, who is being rude as usual, and introduced to Valentine. The Count recalls meeting the three two years earlier in Italy, under circumstances where people believed him to be a practitioner of medicine. After a few minutes Valentine leaves to feed Noirtier his dinner. After Edward busies himself tearing pages out of an expensive book, he too is sent away. The conversation then turns to chemistry, and Monte Cristo declares himself a disciple of King Mithridates, who regularly ingested poison to develop immunity to it. The Count professes to have saved his own life on three occasions by similar behavior. She is fascinated with poisons, and the two of them go into some detail discussing brucine in particular. As Monte Cristo discourses on the subtleties of the poisoner's art, Mme. de Villefort wonders about the conscience of the poisoner, but the Count assures her that murder accomplished without pain or any obvious unnatural causes, especially if motivated by motherly love, would affect the conscience very little. She asks him about the liquid he used to revive Edward after the carriage accident and he tells her that a single drop can restore life, but five or six would infallibly lead to death. He offers to give her some of the elixir and leaves the house thoroughly satisfied with his afternoon's work.

CHAPTER 54 - ROBERT LE DIABLE

One evening, Mme. Danglars and her daughter Eugenie attend the opera escorted by Lucien Debray. Albert de Morcerf, Chateau-Renaud, and Beauchamp are there as well. Albert spots the countess with whom he and Franz had spent some time in Rome, then he and Chateau-Renaud discuss the horse races earlier in the day, where an unknown steed named Vampa outran the entire field. Albert's parents want him to marry Eugenie, but neither of the young people is enthusiastic about the match. During intermission, Albert introduces Chateau-Renaud to the countess and

identifies the owner of the surprising horse as the Count of Monte Cristo, who has sent the cup given for winning the race to the countess. At the end of the intermission, Monte Cristo and Haydee appear in their box. During the second intermission, Mme. Danglars summons Albert to her box and quizzes him about the Count, then sends him to invite Monte Cristo to join her. When he arrives he finds that the Count de Morcerf is there as well. When Haydee catches sight of him, she gives a cry and nearly passes out. Monte Cristo quickly returns to her, and she tells him that Morcerf betrayed her father and stole his fortune, something the Count already knows. At that point the two leave the theater.

CHAPTER 55 - A TALK ABOUT STOCKS

A few days later Albert, accompanied by Lucien Debray, visits the Count. While Albert and Monte Cristo talk about Albert's proposed marriage to Eugenie Danglars, Lucien minutely examines the furnishings of the house with the intention of satisfying Mme. Danglars' curiosity. Albert is not the only one who opposes the marriage; Eugenie has no interest in it, and Mme. de Morcerf is positively against it, though Albert has no idea why. He would rather offend his father than displease his mother and begs the Count to think of some way of extricating him from the uncomfortable situation. Debray then turns the conversation to the stock market, where Danglars, or rather his wife, recently made three hundred thousand francs speculating on Haitian bonds. Albert, knowing that such gambles are exceedingly dangerous, proposes that Lucien teach his mistress a lesson by giving her false information that will cause her to lose a large amount of money, thus perhaps curing her of her mania for speculation. After Debray leaves, the Count tells Albert that he intends to invite the Danglars and Villefort families to dinner at his house in Auteuil, but is reluctant to include Albert's family because of his mother's attitude toward Danglars. Albert appreciates his sensitivity and agrees to arrange a suitable alternative engagement so his father does not think the family is being snubbed. Albert suggests that the Count dine with him and his mother that evening instead, but he refuses on the ground that he has already arranged to dine with Major Bartolomeo Cavalcanti, who is entrusting his young son Andrea to Monte Cristo's care. The Count asks about Franz d'Epinay, and Albert tells him that he is still in Rome and is even less eager to pursue marriage to Mlle. de Villefort than Albert is to marry Eugenie. Albert even goes so far as to propose that young Cavalcanti be introduced to Eugenie Danglars, hoping that he would take her off his hands. After Albert leaves, Monte Cristo summons Bertuccio and orders him to prepare the house at Auteuil to receive guests, but on no account to alter the upstairs bedroom.

CHAPTER 56 - MAJOR CAVALCANTI

At the appointed time that evening, Major Cavalcanti arrives at the home of Monte Cristo in the Champs Elysees. He is well-dressed, but looks as if he has never worn such clothes before, and is thus extraordinarily uncomfortable in them. The man has never met the Count before, but was sent to him by the Abbe Busoni. Monte Cristo must remind him of the particulars of his history - his rank, military exploits, and fortune - which the visitor clearly has not yet had time to memorize. According to this invented history, he has come to recover his long-lost son, stolen by a treacherous tutor at the age of five. Busoni has promised that the Count would give the Italian, somewhat confused at his good fortune, 48,000 francs. Monte Cristo asks the visitor to produce documents supporting his history, which the man is unable to do, but the Count assuages his fears by indicating that he already possesses the documents. Before he is introduced to his son, Monte Cristo advises

him to dress more appropriately and tells him that he will find trunks filled with new clothes in the hotel room arranged for him in a fashionable section of Paris.

CHAPTER 57 - ANDREA CAVALCANTI

At this point the Count leaves the room so that Cavalcanti can meet his son in privacy. Before the two meet, Monte Cristo spends some time with Andrea, who has received a letter of introduction from Sinbad the Sailor, otherwise known as Lord Wilmore. The young man is clearly in firmer control of his biography than his supposed father, though Monte Cristo warns him to say nothing of his adventures during the past fifteen years to those he meets in Paris. The Count also informs him that, while in Paris, he will enjoy an income of fifty thousand livres per year provided by his father, who does not intend to remain in Paris more than a few days. Andrea then goes to meet his father while Monte Cristo watches the encounter through a concealed opening behind a picture. When Cavalcanti gives Andrea the documents proving his history, the young man immediately recognizes them as forgeries. Both men quickly discover that they have been paid handsomely to play their respective roles and show one another the letters they received that brought them to Paris. Then the Count enters and invites both men to attend a dinner he is planning a few days hence at his house in Auteuil.

CHAPTER 58 - AT THE GATE

We arrive now at another rendezvous between Maximilian Morrel and Valentine de Villefort. As Maximilian waits by the gate, he sees Valentine walking in the garden with Eugenie Danglars. Once her guest leaves, Valentine tells Maximilian that the two girls were sharing their disgust with the marriages proposed by their parents - Eugenie to Albert de Morcerf and Valentine to Franz d'Epinay. Mme. de Villefort also opposes the marriage, though for a different reason; she hopes that Valentine will never marry so her son can inherit the entire family fortune. Maximilian, meanwhile, tires of keeping his love for Valentine a secret and wishes to confide it to a friend he knows he can trust absolutely - the Count of Monte Cristo. Valentine, however, mistrusts the Count because he has insinuated himself so far into her family circle while virtually ignoring her. Maximilian therefore agrees not to confide in the Count, but still looks forward to the dinner at Auteuil, to which he also has been invited. When the two part, Valentine reaches her hand through the gate so Maximilian can kiss it.

CHAPTER 59 - M. NOIRTIER DE VILLEFORT

While this conversation is taking place, Villefort and his wife are paying a visit to his father, M. Noirtier. The old man is completely paralyzed, but is sharp-witted and misses nothing of what is going on around him. He is able to communicate only by blinking his eyes using a code understandable only to his son, Valentine, and his faithful servant Barrois. The purpose of the visit is to announce the impending marriage of Valentine to Franz d'Epinay; Villefort also tells his father that he will be able to live with the young couple and continue to be cared for by his beloved granddaughter. Noirtier is furious because of longstanding enmity between himself and Franz's father, who was assassinated in 1815 by Noirtier himself, but Villefort ignores his obvious reaction and insists that the marriage will bring peace between the two families. After they leave, Valentine enters and seeks to calm her grandfather. He expresses his displeasure with the proposed marriage

and she tells him that she opposes it as well. The old man then conveys to her that he has the power to stop the marriage, though she cannot imagine how this might happen. Using their personal system of communication, he asks her to bring a notary to his apartment, and Barrois quickly leaves to fulfill his request.

CHAPTER 60 - THE WILL

Barrois soon returns with the notary, who, upon seeing Noirtier's condition, insists that he cannot do his duty under such circumstances. Valentine, however, convinces him that her grandfather is perfectly capable of communicating his wishes intelligibly and demonstrates how this may be done. The notary is satisfied, but Villefort objects that using Valentine as an interpreter would be of dubious value since she is sure to be involved in the will's contents. Another notary is then summoned so that Valentine's participation is unnecessary. The old man shocks everyone by disinheriting Valentine completely, making clear that the reason for his action is her proposed marriage to Franz d'Epainay. Furthermore, she would inherit everything should she refuse this marriage. If the marriage takes place as planned, all the money is to go to charity. Villefort is furious, but his wife entertains hope that her son might yet come to possess the old man's fortune.

CHAPTER 61 - THE TELEGRAPH

When Villefort and his wife return to their own quarters, they find that Monte Cristo is waiting for them there. The Count remarks on Villefort's downcast attitude, and the prosecutor explains that his father has chosen to allow his fortune to go outside of the family. His wife reminds him that he can prevent the loss of such a large sum simply by agreeing not to force his daughter to marry Franz d'Epainay, but Villefort is determined that his desire will prevail. Following Monte Cristo's inquiry, Villefort explains the reason for the enmity between Noirtier and Franz's father, though the Count seems to know much about it already. Mme. de Villefort, still determined to gain the inheritance for her son by hook or crook, suggests that Franz be given the opportunity to renounce the marriage should he choose to do so in the light of the changed financial circumstances. Monte Cristo encourages Villefort to stick to his plan and reminds them of his dinner invitation at the house in Auteuil that Saturday. He then tells them that he intends to visit a telegraph station on the line to Spain in order to gain a better understanding of this marvelous new wonder of technology.

CHAPTER 62 - THE BRIBE

Monte Cristo bypasses one telegraph station and goes directly to the home of the man who operates it. After discussing the man's beautiful little garden, the Count asks to see the telegraph. As the two men converse, Monte Cristo asks about the man's salary, then offers him an enormous amount more - enough to own his own land with his own garden and get away from the telegraph forever - if he will only transmit a message that the Count has prepared. When the Count's message reaches the Minister of the Interior, Debray rushes to the home of Mme. Danglars and tells her to tell her husband to sell his Spanish bonds because Don Carlos has returned to Spain, which he immediately does, losing half a million francs in the process. When Spanish bonds fall precipitately, he looks like a genius, but when, the next morning, the news about Don Carlos is reported as false, Spanish bonds rise higher than before, costing Danglars a total of a million francs.

CHAPTER 63 - SHADOWS

Bertuccio has been busy renovating the house at Auteuil, both with exterior landscaping and interior decoration, but has, based on the Count's strict instructions, left the back garden and the upstairs bedroom untouched. Shortly after the Count's arrival for a final inspection, the guests begin to appear: Maximilian Morrel, followed by Debray, Chateau-Renaud, and M. and Mme. Danglars, then Bartolomeo and Andrea Cavalcanti, and finally M. and Mme. de Villefort. The Cavalcantis are unknown to the rest, and Monte Cristo introduces them as wealthy Italians of noble descent and informs them that the handsome son is seeking a wife in Paris. When Bertuccio enters to announce dinner, he recognizes Villefort and Madame Danglars as the man and woman whose baby he had rescued two decades earlier; he is doubly astounded because he thought he had killed Villefort. Then he sees Andrea Cavalcanti and recognizes his wicked foster child Benedetto.

CHAPTER 64 - THE DINNER

The Count serves his guests with a fabulous repast, including foods and wines from the four corners of the globe. He regales them with accounts of how these wonders were obtained. They marvel at the transformation of the house in such a short period of time. Chateau-Renaud speculates that the house, which a few days before was near ruin, must have been the site of some horrible crime in the past. Monte Cristo then tells them of the mysterious upstairs bedroom, which he has left untouched. He offers to show it to them, after which the company will retire to the garden. Mme. Danglars nearly faints when she enters the bedroom. Monte Cristo then shows them a concealed staircase leading down to the garden. He asks them to imagine a man, on a dark night, carrying down the steps a heavy burden he wishes to hide from God and man, or perhaps a father carrying a newborn baby; at this point Mme. Danglars does faint. Mme. de Villefort produces a bottle of the potion given to her by Monte Cristo, which he applies to the lips of the unconscious woman, causing her quickly to revive. When they reach the garden, Monte Cristo announces that a crime has indeed been committed, and that he intends to reveal it before the entire company, including the crown prosecutor. He leads them to a tree and tells them that his gardener, when fertilizing the tree, had found an iron box containing the skeleton of a newborn infant. He argues further that the infant must have been alive at the time. Fearful of applying more pressure than his intended targets can handle, he invites them inside for coffee. Meanwhile, Villefort pulls Mme. Danglars aside and tells her that they must talk privately the next day.

CHAPTER 65 - THE BEGGAR

While all this is going on, Danglars is occupied in conversation with the Cavalcantis. They arrange to meet to discuss mutual business the following day. Andrea is the last to leave, but before he does, he is accosted by a beggar who asks to speak with him. He asks to ride back to Paris in his carriage, which Cavalcanti refuses until the beggar calls him Benedetto. When the carriage stops at an out-of-the-way place, the beggar reveals himself as Caderousse, who knows his true identity from time spent in prison together and seeks to blackmail the suddenly-prosperous young man. He asks for a hundred and fifty francs per month for his silence, and Benedetto offers him two hundred. The two leave one another once the carriage enters Paris with complete mutual understanding.

CHAPTER 66 - A CONJUGAL SCENE

After the party breaks up, Debray rushes to the Danglars residence and asks his mistress why she was so upset at the tale woven by the Count. She insists that she was not distressed in the least, but they settle down in her boudoir for a quiet evening together. Soon their *tete-a-tete* is interrupted by Danglars himself, who insists that Debray leave at once so he might converse with his wife. The two are openly hostile to one another, and Danglars soon vents his anger because he holds his wife responsible for the loss he has suffered in one day on the Spanish bonds. He reviews his financial history during the past year; he has made an enormous amount of money by following her so-called hunches, which he knows have been based on Debray's inside information. In each case, he has given her a quarter of the profits to spend as she pleases. This time, however, her advice led to a substantial loss, and he demands that she pay him back one-fourth of that loss. If she refuses, Debray will be forbidden access to the house. Furthermore, he suspects Debray of interfering with the telegraph messages in order to ruin him. He also knows that, years ago, she had been impregnated during an affair with Villefort.

CHAPTER 67 - MATRIMONIAL PLANS

The next morning, Danglars reviews his financial affairs and becomes increasingly upset at what he finds; in addition to the affair of the Spanish bonds, other reverses have cost him an additional million francs. He then goes to visit Monte Cristo and questions him about the Cavalcantis. The Count tells him that he knows nothing about the family other than what he has heard from his friend Abbe Busoni, who vouches for them without question. Danglars then pursues the issue of the Major's desire to marry Andrea off while he is in Paris, hinting that he would be willing to seek a match with his daughter Eugenie. Monte Cristo asks about the engagement with Albert de Morcerf, but Danglars brushes his concern aside, knowing that neither of the young people desires such a marriage. Danglars admits that the barony he holds is of recent vintage, but tells the Count that Morcerf grew up as a mere fisherman and that his title is self-bestowed. He hints that any scandal that would justify breaking off the union of the two families would be welcome, and Monte Cristo advises him to write to contacts in Janina and ask about the Ali Pasha affair and the role played in it by Fernand Mondego.

CHAPTER 68 - THE OFFICE OF THE PROCUREUR DU ROI

While this is going on, Mme. Danglars disguises herself and pays a visit to Villefort in his office. She is in shock from the events of the previous evening, where the interment of their baby was revealed by Monte Cristo. Villefort warns her that the situation is worse than she imagines; when he was wounded by Bertuccio he thought the casket interred, but later found that neither chest nor child was buried in the garden. Because no report had been made of a dead infant found on the property, Villefort can only assume that the child was not dead, as they thought, but had survived. Hermine screams in agony at the thought that Villefort had buried their child alive, but he brings her back to the present crisis by explaining that their secret must surely be known, and that Monte Cristo is the one who knows it. Villefort had searched for the child and had discovered that it had been brought to an orphanage, then claimed six months later, after which he lost the trail. He fears what Monte Cristo may have in mind and is determined to find out who he is and what he is up to.

CHAPTER 69 - A SUMMER BALL

Later that same day, Albert de Morcerf, having arrived back in Paris with his mother, pays a call on Monte Cristo. His first question relates to the Count's promise to seek to undo his unwanted engagement. Monte Cristo tells him of the dinner at Auteuil and the meeting between Danglars and Cavalcanti. Albert reiterates his dislike for Eugenie Danglars, insisting that she would make a delightful mistress but a horrible wife. What he really wants is a wife as much like his mother as possible. Monte Cristo tells him that Danglars just might be convinced to call off the marriage, since he has recently found a more desirable prospect. Albert informs the Count that his father intends to host a ball, to which the Cavalcantis and the Count are to be invited. Only Andrea is available, but the Count is convinced to accept the invitation when Albert assures him that his mother in particular desires his attendance. He tells Monte Cristo that Franz d'Epinay is soon to arrive in Paris, and the Count asks him to bring him for a visit before the day of the ball.

CHAPTER 70 - THE INQUIRY

Villefort keeps his promise to discover information about Monte Cristo, but when he writes a police official of his acquaintance, learns only that the Count is known to be close to Lord Wilmore and Abbe Busoni, both of whom are men of high repute. The officer describes the living arrangements of both men in Paris, but this information tells Villefort very little. That evening he visits Busoni and is received cordially. When asked about Monte Cristo, the Abbe answers that his real name is Zaccone, and he is the son of a rich Maltese shipbuilder. He knows nothing of the source of his fortune, but knows that he bought his title after purchasing the island on which the title is based. He also tells Villefort that Lord Wilmore hates Zaccone. When Villefort asks about the house at Auteuil, Busoni responds that the Count purchased it with the intention of setting up a lunatic asylum. An hour later, Villefort visits Lord Wilmore and asks him the same questions. Wilmore professes a dislike for Monte Cristo because he fought on the side of the natives of India against the British, and tells Villefort that the Count's fortune comes from a silver mine in the mountains of Greece. He tells him that the Count is a speculator who hopes to make a fortune from a new telegraph he has invented and bought the house in Auteuil because he believed a mineral spring was hidden on its grounds. When asked why he hated the Count, Wilmore responds that he seduced the wife of one of his friends, and as a result of their enmity, he has fought three duels with Monte Cristo, all of which he has lost.

CHAPTER 71 - THE BALL

When the evening of the ball arrives, the guests are all asking about Monte Cristo. Albert assures everyone that he is coming. Meanwhile, Mme. de Villefort is spreading the information her husband learned from his interview with Lord Wilmore. Albert assures her that he will inform the Count that the police have been inquiring about him. When Monte Cristo arrives, the first thing he learns is that Danglars has experienced another financial reversal. Mercedes notices that Monte Cristo will eat nothing in her house, but when she asks him to take her arm and lead the way outside, the look in his eyes conveys volumes.

CHAPTER 72 - BREAD AND SALT

Instead of taking him immediately to dinner, Mercedes leads the Count to a greenhouse where they can be alone. There she plucks ripe fruit and offers it to him, but he repeatedly refuses. She speaks of an old Arabian custom that those who eat bread and salt together will be friends forever, but he reminds her that they are in France, not Arabia. She gives up on that approach and begins asking him about his family. He explains that he has no one but Haydee, his Greek slave whom he loves like a daughter. He admits that he has known much suffering, including the fact that a girl he once loved married another while he was off in the wars. She asks if he has forgiven her, and he assures her that he has, but is ambivalent about his attitude toward those who separated the young lovers. Albert interrupts their conversation to announce that Villefort has come to fetch his wife and daughter, having received news of the death of M. de Saint-Meran, his first wife's father and thus Valentine's grandfather. At this point, the Count also leaves the party.

CHAPTER 73 - MADAME DE SAINT-MERAN

Villefort chose not to attend the ball. Instead, he remains at home in his study, though he is too disturbed by recent events to concentrate on his work. Finally he pulls out of a secret compartment in his desk a list of his enemies, but, thinking about each one, he cannot imagine that anyone on the list would have provided the information shared by Monte Cristo at the house in Auteuil, nor can he think of any way in which he could have had previous contact with the Count. His reveries are interrupted by the arrival of the Marchioness de Saint-Meran, who is almost hysterical because her husband died of an apoplectic seizure in the coach on their way to Paris. She asks to see Valentine, and Villefort immediately goes to retrieve her from the ball. As Valentine arrives home, Barrois tells her that her other grandfather, M. Noirtier, wishes to see her after she has attended to Mme. de Saint-Meran. Once the grieving widow falls asleep, she is left alone with a glass of orangeade by her side. By the next morning the old woman's condition has worsened, and she asks to see Villefort. She is eager that Valentine's marriage to Franz d'Epinaay take place as quickly as possible, for she fears that she has little time left to live. Valentine objects to such precipitate action in a house of mourning, but her grandmother will hear nothing of her attempts to delay the union. She knows she is about to die because, in her delirium during the night, she saw a white figure enter her room from the adjoining room occupied by Mme. de Villefort and do something to the glass beside her bed. She is convinced that it was the ghost of her deceased husband. She asks Valentine for a drink, and the young girl pours her some orangeade from the pitcher. She then goes downstairs to meet the doctor, telling him all that has occurred during the night, after which she takes a walk in the garden, where she hears the voice of Maximilian outside the gate.

CHAPTER 74 - THE PROMISE

Both young lovers bear sad tidings. Valentine tells Maximilian that her grandmother wants her to sign a marriage contract with Franz d'Epinaay the day after he arrives, and Maximilian tells her that the man in question has appeared in Paris that very morning. He asks her what she plans to do, and she says she cannot possibly defy her father and grandmother. He proposes that they elope instead, but she insists that such a step would be folly. He then admits that he intends to commit suicide immediately after her marriage is concluded. She cannot tolerate such a thought and

promises to go with him. He urges her to consult her grandfather, who will be welcome to live with them once they marry, and she declares that she will do everything in her power to delay the marriage to d'Epinau. The next day Maximilian receives a note from Valentine indicating that the contract is to be signed at nine o'clock that evening and that she will meet him at the gate at 8:45. Furthermore, Mme. de Saint-Meran's condition is worsening.

Maximilian immediately makes plans for the elopement. He arrives at the gate an hour early so as not to miss Valentine, but by ten o'clock she still has not appeared. At 10:30 he takes the desperate measure of scaling the wall and approaching the house. He sees Villefort and the doctor walking along the path. They speak of a woman's death, and Maximilian fears Valentine is the victim. Worse yet, the doctor suspects murder. As the conversation continues, he discovers that the dead woman is Mme. de Saint-Meran, and that she has died by poison, probably brucine or strychnine. The doctor thinks it might have been an accident because M. Noirtier has been taking large quantities of brucine to alleviate his condition. Could Barrois have given his medicine to the old woman by mistake? Villefort fears scandal above all and extracts from the doctor a promise of silence. After the doctor leaves and all the light in the house but one are extinguished, Maximilian risks entering the house itself and discovers Valentine kneeling beside the corpse of her grandmother.

When they are sure the house is quiet, they go to the apartment of M. Noirtier. He wishes to speak to Maximilian alone, so Valentine returns to her grandmother's room. Maximilian tells the old man his life story, describes how he met Valentine and came to love her, and speaks of their intention to elope. Noirtier approves of everything but the elopement. Maximilian then presents another plan - provoking Franz to fight a duel in order to gain Valentine's hand - but Noirtier opposes this as well. Instead he assures Maximilian that he will solve their problem for them by preventing the signing of the marriage contract and forces Valentine's lover to swear to do nothing in the interim.

CHAPTER 75 - THE VILLEFORT FAMILY VAULT

Two days later, the Marquis de Saint-Meran and his wife are buried in the Villefort family mausoleum where their daughter Renee, Villefort's first wife, has rested for the last decade. All who attend the funerals are shocked at the two sudden deaths so close to one another, but no one suspects the terrible secret known to the doctor and the crown prosecutor alone. During the funeral procession, Albert introduces Maximilian to Franz, and the former avoids awkwardness only by a great exercise of self-control. After the ceremony is over, Villefort proposes to Franz that the marriage agreement be signed that very day and that the marriage take place a few days hence. Franz agrees, and the necessary parties are gathered for the signing. When all are assembled, the notary informs Franz that Noirtier has disinherited his granddaughter because he disapproves of the marriage, but Franz remains unmoved. Villefort tries to excuse the interruption by claiming that his father is feeble-minded, but at that very moment Barrois enters and declares that Noirtier wishes to speak to Franz in the presence of the notary.

CHAPTER 76 - A SIGNED STATEMENT

When they enter Noirtier's room, Villefort instructs his daughter to pretend she cannot understand the old man, but she refuses and follows his instructions. He tells her to take out a packet of documents hidden in a secret compartment and give them to Franz. The packet contains the

minutes of a meeting of the Bonapartist Club on the day Franz's father, recommended to the club by Napoleon himself, was allegedly murdered. General d'Epinau, upon arriving at the meeting, openly avowed his royalist sympathies, but not before he had heard crucial information concerning Napoleon's intended return from Elba. The members of the club insisted that he swear himself to silence or else pay with his life. He swore reluctantly, but then persisted in spewing insults toward the club members on his way back home. The president of the club, unwilling to stand by and suffer insults, challenged him to a duel and killed him in honorable combat, though he received three serious wounds in the process. That club president was M. Noirtier. When Franz realizes that his father was not murdered, but that his death came at the hands of Valentine's grandfather, he realizes that he can never marry into the Villefort family.

CHAPTER 77 - PROGRESS OF M. CAVALCANTI THE YOUNGER

By this time Major Bartolomeo Cavalcanti has returned, not to his regiment in Austria, of which he was never a member, but to the gaming tables in Lucca, where he was well known, and has already spent all of the money given him by Monte Cristo. Andrea, meanwhile, is prospering in Paris society. He is in the process of courting Eugenie Danglars, but she, as usual, pays him no heed whatsoever. The only person she really seems to like is Louise d'Armilly, her music teacher and governess. The Count observes all this when he visits Danglars, who again has lost hundreds of thousands of francs on a bad investment. When Albert arrives, Danglars makes it obvious to Monte Cristo that he would prefer to have his daughter wed to Cavalcanti rather than the man to whom she is engaged. Monte Cristo objects to such faithlessness, but Danglars sees no problem in seeking the most suitable match. He finally asks Monte Cristo to speak to the Count de Morcerf and see if he is willing to pursue the marriage immediately; if not, he will seek a husband for his daughter elsewhere. Shortly Danglars receives a message from his contacts in Greece, who send him disturbing news about Fernand Mondego's conduct in Yanina. He now has no intention of allowing his daughter to marry into that family, and asks Monte Cristo to send Morcerf to him forthwith.

CHAPTER 78 - HAYDEE

As Monte Cristo and Albert ride toward the Champs-Elysees, Albert repeats his desire never to marry Eugenie and is delighted that Andrea Cavalcanti desires to do so. The Count remarks about the apparent breach between Danglars and Debray, though his ignorance of these events is feigned. While enjoying tea at Monte Cristo's home, Albert hears Haydee playing music in her chambers. The Count confides to Albert that Haydee is the daughter of Ali Pasha, in whose service Albert's father made his fortune. Albert asks to be introduced to her, and Monte Cristo agrees so long as he promises to tell no one of the interview and never to tell Haydee that his father served hers. When he is ushered into her chamber, Albert begins asking her about her childhood in Greece. Her happy childhood was interrupted when, at the age, of four, she, her parents, and their retinue were rushed from their palace in the middle of the night. Their retreat was to be covered by a French officer whom Haydee refuses to name. From their hideout, they saw boats approach that indicated that they had been betrayed. Ali Pasha's bodyguard was given orders to blow up the hideout and everyone in it should worse come to worst. The French officer then arrived bearing good news of pardon and restoration, but as soon as the bodyguard relaxed, soldiers rushed in and killed him. They then murdered Ali, and the traitor took his wife and daughter and sold them into slavery in Constantinople. When they arrived in the great city, they saw the head of Ali Pasha hanging from

the city gate, at which point his widow fainted and died. Little Haydee was then sold respectively to an Armenian, a Sultan, and finally the Count of Monte Cristo.

CHAPTER 79 - YANINA

Villefort, who had never learned of the events contained in his father's documents relating to the death of Franz's father, is shocked and humiliated by yet another setback to his family. As soon as she can get away, Valentine rushes to the garden gate to tell Maximilian the good news. Mme. de Villefort, somewhat surprisingly, seeks a private interview with Noirtier and begs him to restore Valentine's place in his will, which he is happy to do, though he cannot fathom the motive behind the request. While all this is going on, Morcerf travels to the Danglars residence to ask formally for a marriage contract to be drawn up between Albert and Eugenie. He is shocked when Danglars puts off any commitment in the face of new developments upon which he refuses to elaborate. Morcerf storms out of the house. The next morning a Parisian newspaper contains an article about Yanina and hints at the perfidy of a French colonel named Fernand. Soon Albert arrives at the home of Monte Cristo to ask him to serve as his second in a duel that he intends to fight with Beauchamp, the editor of the paper in which the article appeared. Monte Cristo tries to dissuade him, arguing that the article may not have referred to his father at all. When he refuses to change his mind, the Count encourages him to seek the truth from Haydee, but he wants nothing other than to confront Beauchamp. Monte Cristo advises him to go alone rather than seeking a formal confrontation, which Albert agrees to do; the Count also refuses to serve as Albert's second, for reasons that he will not disclose. When Albert arrives at the newspaper office, he demands that the paper print a retraction, and Beauchamp agrees to do so if upon further examination the report turns out to be false. Albert challenges him to a duel, but Beauchamp refuses to commit himself without researching the article, of which he was not even aware. Instead, he asks for three weeks to pursue due diligence.

CHAPTER 80 - THE LEMONADE

One day soon thereafter Noirtier sends for Maximilian. The young man is so anxious to reach the home of his beloved that he exhausts poor Barrois by walking so quickly. Valentine conveys her grandfather's message - that he intends to leave the Villefort household and seek his own apartment, that Valentine will join him, with her father's permission or without it in ten months when she reaches her majority, and at that point she will be free to marry Maximilian. Barrois is still perspiring profusely, so Valentine offers him some of her grandfather's lemonade. Soon the doctor arrives and Maximilian prepares to exit by another door, but before the doctor can enter the room, Barrois has a seizure and collapses. Maximilian hides behind a curtain as Villefort and his wife enter. The latter behaves suspiciously, which is noticed only by Noirtier. When the doctor finally enters the room, it is too late. Barrois soon has another convulsion and dies, and the doctor immediately confiscates the lemonade and discovers that Valentine was the one who gave it to the old servant. He tests the lemonade and concludes without question that it is poisoned, and warns Villefort that Barrois has succumbed to the same tincture that dispatched M. and Mme. de Saint-Meran.

CHAPTER 81 - THE ACCUSATION

Villefort, shocked by another sudden death, passes out, but when he revives, the doctor insists that he fulfill the role of the crown prosecutor and search out the murderer in his house. He advises Villefort to consider who profited by the three deaths and assures him that Noirtier rather than Barrois was the intended target of the third poisoning. Villefort thinks the attacks were intended to destroy him, and therefore must have been planned by one of his enemies, but the doctor rejects that explanation and suggests that he instead follow the money. He points the finger at Valentine, but Villefort refuses to believe that such a thing is possible and insists that he will never bring her before a court of law. The doctor agrees to keep silent, but tells Villefort that he will no longer attend on his family. That evening, all of the family's servants resign, unwilling to continue working in a house of death. Valentine is inconsolable, but Villefort notices a sly smile crossing the face of his wife.

CHAPTER 82 - THE ROOM OF THE RETIRED BAKER

The evening after Danglars dismissed Morcerf without a promise concerning the union of their children, Andrea Cavalcanti visits the banker and asks for his daughter's hand in marriage. Danglars agrees as long as Eugenie and her mother approve, and the conversation immediately turns to money matters. Assured that Danglars is sufficiently impressed with his fortune, Andrea asks the banker for a withdrawal of eighty thousand francs from his account. He leaves two hundred for Caderousse according to their arrangement, but is disturbed when his servant tells him that the man refused the money and gave him a letter instead, demanding that he appear at his house the next morning. Andrea disguises himself and goes to the shabby residence of the supposed retired baker. Caderousse serves him breakfast, then demands that his payments be raised to five thousand francs a month. He also asks Andrea to devise a plan that will allow him to acquire thirty thousand francs, after which he promises to disappear. Andrea then shares a secret with Caderousse; he believes that Monte Cristo is his father, for he can explain the Count's largesse toward him in no other way. Caderousse encourages him to describe in minute detail the house on the Champs Elysees, intending to rob it with the young man's assistance. All Andrea need do is tell him when Monte Cristo intends to stay at his house in Auteuil, which will take place the following day. He also suggests that Andrea leave with him the magnificent diamond ring on his finger, since it would arouse suspicion on the finger of someone in the servant's attire with which he is disguised. After Andrea leaves, Caderousse begins to plan his burglary, which will include, unknown to Andrea, the Count's murder as well.

CHAPTER 83 - THE BURGLARY

As Monte Cristo plans his trip to Auteuil, Bertuccio informs him that arrangements for the house on the Normandy coast, the horses to transport the Count there with all speed, and a sloop prepared to sail as needed had been completed. Another servant then enters with an anonymous letter, warning the Count that his house on the Champs Elysees will be robbed that night and suggesting that he lie in wait for the thief. He orders all his servants to travel to Auteuil and remains with Ali alone. The two wait in darkness, armed with pistols and the Nubian's scimitar. Several hours later, a man cuts the window glass and enters the Count's dressing room while his compatriot waits in the street below. When the thief turns on a small light briefly to pick the lock on the piece

of furniture he thinks contains money, Monte Cristo recognizes him and quickly dons a coat of chain mail under the cassock of the Abbe Busoni. He enters the dressing room in this disguise, interrupting Caderousse at his task. He warns him that he will return to prison for a very long time if he does not speak the truth. Caderousse tells him about his escape from the galleys in the company of Benedetto with the aid of Lord Wilmore, but then lies about his present relationship with Benedetto and the money he is getting from him. Busoni threatens to expose the villains to Danglars, and Caderousse draws his dagger and thrusts it into his chest, only to have it blunted by the chain mail under the cassock. Busoni then subdues him and forces him to write a letter addressed to Danglars exposing Benedetto as a convict and fraud. He then tells him to leave by the window by which he entered. Caderousse is afraid that the Abbe will pursue him, but instead he promises to provide a small annuity for the rest of his life if he leaves France forever. Knowing Benedetto's character, he tells Caderousse that, should he return home safely, he will know that God has forgiven him. As Monte Cristo suspected, Benedetto lies in wait, not as Caderousse's accomplice, but as his assassin; he stabs the wretch three times before his feet reach the ground.

CHAPTER 84 - THE HAND OF GOD

Monte Cristo and Ali carry Caderousse inside and the Count tells his servant to summon a surgeon and bring the public prosecutor to take the dying man's evidence. With the aid of the Count's vial of medicine, the thief revives sufficiently to sign a statement identifying his murderer, after which Busoni tells him how he was betrayed by Benedetto. He then recites the long list of Caderousse's crimes since his original encounter with Busoni years earlier and declares that God is punishing him for his sloth, greed, and acts of violence. Caderousse insists that he does not believe in God, but then Busoni reveals his true identity; the dying thief realizes that Busoni, Wilmore, and Monte Cristo are one and the same, and that all are disguises worn by Edmond Dantes. He then cries out his belief in God, repents, and seeks forgiveness with his dying breath. Monte Cristo intones "One!" Soon the surgeon and Villefort arrive to find Abbe Busoni praying beside the corpse.

CHAPTER 85 - BEAUCHAMP

The attempted robbery and murder on the Champs Elysees is the talk of Paris, but after three weeks of searching, the police are no closer to locating Benedetto, identified as the murderer by Caderousse. Meanwhile, the attention of all turns to the upcoming marriage of Count Andrea Cavalcanti and Eugenie Danglars. Financial arrangements having been made, the banker looks forward to the upcoming balm for his monetary woes; the same cannot be said for Mlle. Danglars, who cares nothing for her father's money and has no desire to marry anyone. Albert de Morcerf is still cherishing the idea of fighting a duel against Beauchamp. The three weeks requested by the journalist are almost up and no one has seen or heard from him. One morning, he appears at Albert's door. He has been to Yanina, and his research confirmed the truth of the editorial that so angered Albert; his father had indeed betrayed Ali Pasha. He shows him documentary proof, including the fact that Fernand Mondego had received two million francs to turn over the castle of Yanina. Beauchamp offers to give him the papers and keep his secret for him - an offer that Albert gratefully accepts. He promptly burns the incriminating documents, but then wonders how he can possibly face his father. Obviously, whoever sent the information to the newspaper might still make the details public. Did his mother know the truth, and if so, how could she manage to live with the shame of

it all? The two men decide to clear their heads by taking a ride and stopping in at the home of Monte Cristo.

CHAPTER 86 - THE JOURNEY

The young men quickly assure the Count that their quarrel is at an end, then move on to discuss the impending marriage of Andrea Cavalcanti and Eugenie Danglars. Albert insists that Monte Cristo arranged the whole thing, but the Count denies having one so; in fact, he repeatedly warned Danglars against doing anything precipitate, but the banker ignored his advice. Monte Cristo then announces that he plans to go to Normandy in order to avoid the constant distractions of having police in his house as they try to solve the robbery and murder and invites Albert to go with him. His young friend gladly accepts the invitation. While Albert goes home to prepare for the trip, Monte Cristo informs Bertuccio and Haydee of his intentions. After the two men arrive in Normandy, they get a good night's sleep and spend the next three days hunting and fishing. Albert's relaxation is interrupted by the arrival of his valet, summoning him to return to Paris immediately. Another newspaper has published an article identifying the Count de Morcerf as the man who betrayed Ali Pasha to the Turks.

CHAPTER 87 - THE TRIAL

The news from Yanina throws the House of Peers into turmoil. Everyone is aware of the revelation except Morcerf himself, and the next morning the information is announced before the entire gathering, which unanimously votes to look into the matter. Morcerf, unaware of the damning proof supporting the accusation, demands an immediate hearing and leaves to gather the documents he has prepared against such an eventuality. He presents a letter affirming the fact that he enjoyed Ali Pasha's complete confidence, shows the ring given to him, and claims that he found his master dying, but that on his deathbed he entrusted his favorite wife and daughter to Morcerf's care. Sadly, the two disappeared before he could put them under his protection. The president of the assembly asks for proof, but Morcerf says no witnesses remain alive. The president then opens a letter stating that an eyewitness of the events in question is not only alive, but is at that moment prepared to testify. The witness is summoned, and proves to be Haydee, the daughter of Ali Pasha, who produces documents recording her birth, baptism, and the sale of her and her mother to an Armenian merchant for four hundred thousand francs. She also produces a bill of sale confirming her purchase from the merchant by the Count of Monte Cristo in exchange for an emerald worth eight hundred thousand francs. The latter names Fernand Mondego as her betrayer. Haydee also insists that Monte Cristo knew nothing of her intention to testify at the hearing. Morcerf, of course, denies the whole thing and insists it is a plot contrived by his enemies, but Haydee not only recognizes him, but also describes a scar on his hand that she remembers from many years ago. Morcerf has no more to say, but tears his garment and flees from the room. He is then condemned by the assembly.

CHAPTER 88 - THE CHALLENGE

Albert is overwhelmed with grief and determined to discover and confront the man responsible for his father's disgrace. Beauchamp encourages him to leave Paris instead and build a new life for himself, but Albert is determined to seek vengeance. Beauchamp suspects that Danglars is the source of the information, so the two young men go immediately to find him. When

Albert confronts the banker, he admits writing to Yanina, but insists that he was instructed to do so by the Count of Monte Cristo. Albert suddenly sees everything, from his meeting with Haydee to the trip to Normandy, as part of a plan to prepare him for his father's imminent disgrace. He leaves Danglars and goes to seek his friend the Count.

CHAPTER 89 - THE INSULT

Beauchamp warns Albert against confronting Monte Cristo because the latter, unlike Danglars, will not back down from a test of honor, and furthermore is likely to win. Albert responds that an honorable death is better than the shame his father has brought on the family. He finds the Count indisposed, but learns that he plans to attend the opera that night. Albert plans to meet him there, accompanied by Beauchamp and Chateau-Renaud. He then attempts to comfort his mother, who insists that Monte Cristo is not their enemy. Albert wonders why she defends him so staunchly. After he leaves, she orders a servant to follow him and report to her where he goes and what he does. At the opera, he confronts Monte Cristo in his box and challenges him to a duel. Beauchamp, as one of Albert's seconds, arranges that the duel will be fought with pistols at eight o'clock the following morning. After he leaves, Monte Cristo asks Maximilian and his brother-in-law Emmanuel to serve as his seconds.

CHAPTER 90 - MERCEDES

When the Count arrives at his home, he finds Mercedes waiting for him. She calls him Edmond and admits that she recognized him the first time she saw him, then begs him not to kill her son. She argues that she is at fault for not having the fortitude to wait for him so many years ago, but he then tells her something of which she was not aware - that Fernand Mondego was one of the conspirators who plotted the arrest of Edmond Dantes. He even shows her the letter Danglars wrote to Villefort, which he had purchased for two hundred thousand francs from the inspector of prisons shortly after his escape. Professing to love him still, she urges him to revenge himself on Fernand, but to spare Albert. Finally the Count gives in and promises her that he will not kill Albert; the result, however, is that he must allow Albert to kill him. She thanks him for his nobility, though he is surprised with the calmness with which she accepts his great sacrifice. It is in fact greater than she imagines, for he not only has expressed his willingness to yield up his life, but also to forego his long-cherished desire for revenge on his enemies.

CHAPTER 91 - THE MEETING

Upset almost to the point of despair by the impending failure of his great plan, Monte Cristo adds a codicil to his will so the world will know that he gave up his life willingly. He hopes against hope, however, that Mercedes will not allow him to offer the ultimate sacrifice. He realizes that, even should he fail to carry out his plan of vengeance, God will inevitably punish the culprits, if not in this world, then in the next one. The codicil to his will leaves twenty million francs to Maximilian Morrel and the rest to Haydee; he also entrusts Haydee to Maximilian's care, instructing that the two should marry if he is not elsewhere committed. As he writes, Haydee interrupts him, tells him that should he die she should need nothing, tears the paper to shreds, and faints on the floor. Monte Cristo for the first time realizes that her love for him is something more than that of a daughter for a father. He gently carries her to her bed, then returns and rewrites the new will. Maximilian and

Emmanuel then arrive. So there should be no misunderstanding, the Count demonstrates his skill with a pistol, then tells Maximilian that he will not kill Albert, but will instead be killed by him. As they travel to the scene of the duel, Monte Cristo asks Maximilian if his heart is engaged, and he admits that it is, though he does not give the name of his beloved. At the appointed time, all are gathered with the exception of Albert himself. Franz and Debray arrive, saying that Albert asked them to come as witnesses. Soon Albert rides up in a great hurry. He obviously has not slept all night, and he asks to speak to the Count before all present. He admits to all the Monte Cristo was justified in seeking vengeance against his father, not for the treachery of Janina, but for the wickedness of the Catalan fisherman in betraying an innocent young man years earlier; his mother has clearly told him the entire story. The two men shake hands, and Monte Cristo leaves convinced more than ever that he is the appointed hand of Providence.

CHAPTER 92 - THE MOTHER AND SON

Albert's friends are amazed at his courage and pleased that the morning passed without bloodshed, but fear that men who lack understanding of what has just passed will speak thoughtless words to Albert that could lead to further contests of honor. They advise him to leave France until the matter is forgotten, and he admits that he has already decided to do just that. He quickly returns home, inventories his possessions, and prepares for his departure. When his valet tells him that his father wants to know the outcome of the duel, Albert instructs the man to say that he apologized to Monte Cristo. After his father rides away, he goes to his mother's room and finds her engaged in the same process of tidying up in preparation for leaving the house forever. Albert intends to put aside his father's name and take on his mother's maiden name, then go out into the world to make his own fortune, encouraged and emboldened by the example of the Count of Monte Cristo, who overcame much greater suffering. His mother plans to enter a convent. As they are about to leave, a letter arrives from Monte Cristo, telling of a sum of money he had earned in preparation for his marriage twenty-four years earlier. The money is buried in the garden of his father's former home, and he bequeaths it to Mercedes; she intends to use it for the dowry she will need to join the convent.

CHAPTER 93 - THE SUICIDE

As Monte Cristo and his friends return to Paris, Maximilian tells him that he has an appointment with his beloved. The Count reminds him that, should he ever need assistance, all he has is at the disposal of his young friend. When he arrives at the Champs Elysees, he is immediately greeted by the joyful Haydee. Monte Cristo is starting to believe that the world might actually contain another woman like Mercedes to whom he might give his love. In the midst of these thoughts, the Count de Morcerf appears at the door. His purpose is to conclude the duel his son, whom he thinks a coward, refused to fight. He demands to know the Count's true identity, and he obliges by changing into his old sailor's uniform. Morcerf finally recognized him as Edmond Dantes, stumbles out the door, and demands that his valet take him home. He arrives just in time to see his wife and son leave the house forever, then goes upstairs and puts a bullet in his brain.

CHAPTER 94 - VALENTINE

When Maximilian arrives at the Villefort residence, Valentine eagerly questions him about the morning's events. She then tells him that her grandfather again is considering leaving the house

and taking Valentine with him. He argues that the air in the house is not good for her; indeed, she has been feeling poorly of late, and Noirtier has been feeding her increasingly large doses of his own medicine. When she tells him that other beverages she drinks have the same bitter taste as the medicine, he becomes alarmed. Their time together is interrupted by the arrival of Mme. Danglars and Eugenie. While Valentine leaves to greet them, Maximilian remains with Noirtier. The old man asks what became of the decanter and glass in Valentine's room and finds that Valentine drank everything in the glass, but that young Edward had taken the decanter to make a pond for his ducks. The purpose of Mme. Danglars' visit is to announce the engagement of Eugenie to Andrea Cavalcanti. Though Eugenie has no desire to marry anyone, she is at least grateful that she will not have to marry into the disgraced Morcerf family. The visitors notice that Valentine is ill and quickly excuse themselves, while Valentine rushes to return to her grandfather's room. On the way, she stumbles and falls, and Maximilian quickly picks her up and carries her upstairs. Shortly afterward she has a seizure and loses consciousness.

CHAPTER 95 - THE CONFESSION

While Villefort hurries to find the doctor, Maximilian goes in search of Monte Cristo, who had urged him to turn to him if he ever needed help. Villefort tells the doctor that Valentine is the latest victim and he, realizing that his earlier accusation was misguided, accompanies the prosecutor to his home. This time Villefort swears that he will bring the guilty person to account no matter whom it may be. Meanwhile Maximilian pours out his tale to the Count without identifying the family involved. Monte Cristo immediately recognizes the Villeforts in his description and replies that their family troubles are not his concern. Perhaps, he says, their troubles are God's judgment at work. Unable to stand his coldness any more, Maximilian blurts out that he loves Valentine. Though the Count seems able to anticipate everything that happens, this takes him completely by surprise. He cries out in astonishment that this good young man should love a member of that accursed family, but soon regains his self-control and promises to do all he can to help his young friend. He orders Maximilian to go home and promises to intervene. The doctor arrives to find Valentine still alive and affirms that if she has not yet died, she will survive this attack. After Valentine is put to bed, the doctor remains with Noirtier, demanding that nothing be given to the sick girl other than what he prescribes. While conversing with Noirtier, the doctor discovers the old man's conviction that Barrois was poisoned with a potion intended for him and that Valentine had been poisoned by the same hand. He also tells the doctor that he has been giving his granddaughter a preparation intended to make her immune to that same poison. While all this is going on, Abbe Busoni takes possession of the house next door.

CHAPTER 96 - THE FATHER AND DAUGHTER

Before the events of the last two chapters occurred, Eugenie asked to have a private conversation with her father. After making him wait for a considerable time, she announces that she will never marry Andrea Cavalcanti. Knowing from long experience how stubborn she is, Danglars is at first at a loss as to how to proceed. He finally decides on brutal honesty, telling her that he wants her to marry because such a union would benefit him financially; in fact, without it he will face bankruptcy. He is surprised that this news does not bother Eugenie at all. She is quite willing to live by her own talents, and believes that her mother has set aside enough money to take care of herself as well. Danglars then gets specific; if Eugenie marries Cavalcanti, the young man will

invest three million francs in Danglars' bank, which he intends to use to speculate in railroads, to his mind a sure source of huge profits. At this point Eugenie agrees to the marriage, as long as her father does not use the Cavalcanti money, but only borrows against it, and as long as she remains free to act as she pleases after the marriage. In this regard she refuses to divulge her plans to her father.

CHAPTER 97 - THE CONTRACT

Three days later, late in the afternoon of the day when the marriage contract was to be signed, Andrea Cavalcanti appears at the home of Monte Cristo desiring conversation. In short, he wants the Count to stand with him at his wedding, which Monte Cristo refuses to do, though he does agree to witness the marriage contract. By nine o'clock, all of Paris society and the financial world gathers in Danglars' drawing room; the only notable missing is Villefort, who is engaged in attempting to solve the robbery and murder at Monte Cristo's house. The Count interrupts the proceedings by announcing that new evidence has been uncovered; the waistcoat worn by Caderousse contained a letter identifying his accomplice. The police quickly surround the house, and the magistrate tells them that Cavalcanti is in reality an escaped convict and the murderer of his former cellmate. In the confusion, however, Andrea has managed to slip out of the house.

CHAPTER 98 - THE DEPARTURE FOR BELGIUM

The Danglars residence quickly empties of its many guests, and Eugenie locks herself in her room with her companion Louise d'Armilly. The two had intended to run away before the marriage could be finalized, and the disaster of the evening does nothing to alter their plans. Eugenie is to disguise herself as a young man and pass herself off as Louise's brother. Monte Cristo has provided them with suitable passports. They take with them forty-five thousand francs in currency and jewelry, expecting that before long they will be able to support themselves by their music. While Louise packs their suitcase, Eugenie cuts her lovely long black hair and puts on men's clothing. At midnight the two slip out of the house and head for the border.

CHAPTER 99 - THE HOTEL OF THE BELL AND BOTTLE

When Andrea Cavalcanti escaped from the Danglars residence, he took with him the most valuable of his fiancée's jewels. After wandering around Paris for some time looking for a means of fleeing to safety, he hires a cab, then rents a horse from an inn to continue his journey to Compiègne, where he checks into the Bell and Bottle, takes a room, and orders dinner. His plan is to head for the forest the next morning, disguise himself as a peasant, and walk to the French border, traveling only by night. He then intends to sell the diamonds and live off the proceeds and by his wits, as he is accustomed to doing. When he awakes the following morning, however, he finds three gendarmes in the hotel courtyard, blocking his only exit. He quickly climbs up the chimney, just before the arrival of the police in his room, and hides on the roof. Knowing that the officers would soon check the roof, he descends into another chimney. As the police are about to give up their search, however, they hear a scream coming from the room into which Andrea descended, which happens to be occupied by the disguised Eugenie Danglars and her friend Louise d'Armilly. They continue to make a racket until the room is surrounded by police and Andrea is arrested. Later that day, the embarrassed girls slink out of the inn, both dressed in female attire.

CHAPTER 100 - THE LAW

While Danglars is mourning the state of his finances and his daughter is fleeing with her friend, Mme. Danglars seeks the company of Lucien Debray, whose friends are ironically trying to convince him to marry the jilted Eugenie and thus acquire her inheritance. After waiting for hours with no response, Mme. Danglars returns home and, finding Eugenie's door locked, assumes that her daughter has gone to bed. When she considers the shame brought on her family, she concludes that the only solution is for her to beg Villefort to keep the matter as quiet as possible. When she arrives at the Villefort home the next morning, she finds it barred to all visitors because of the tragic events that have occurred there. When the prosecutor receives her, she begs him to sweep the Benedetto affair under the carpet, but he insists that he cannot. His own griefs are far greater than hers, and he swears to bring the full weight of the law down on the murderer in his own house once that person is discovered. Even as she pleads for him to allow Benedetto to escape, he gets word that he has been captured.

CHAPTER 101 - THE APPARITION

Valentine is still very weak and disoriented, and when her stepmother narrates the misadventures of Eugenie Danglars and Andrea Cavalcanti, she shows little reaction. Her father and the doctor are taking every precaution to protect her from any possible further threats. At night she lies half-dreaming and imagines all sorts of people entering her room. One night the vision seems more real than at other times; a man approaches her bed, prevents her from drinking from the glass left for her, then replaces it with another beverage. She soon realizes that the phantom is in reality the Count of Monte Cristo, who has entered through a secret door in the library connecting the house to the one he has rented next door. He assures her that he is protecting her from those who would poison her and preserving her for Maximilian. He tells her that for the last four nights he has seen the poisoner pour the deadly potion into her glass, after which he discarded it. She realizes that he must know the identity of the murderer, and he tells her that, if she feigns sleep, she too will see who enters her room and doctors her glass.

CHAPTER 102 - THE SERPENT

Half an hour later, Valentine hears someone quietly enter her room through the bedroom of young Edward. The woman, wearing a white nightgown, whispers her name and, getting no response, pours liquid into her empty glass. She opens her eye briefly and recognizes her enemy as her stepmother, Mme. de Villefort. After she leaves, Monte Cristo returns and warns her that her enemy will continue to seek her death no matter what she does or where she goes, altering the poisons and the means of introducing them. He explains that the deaths of her grandparents and the effort to kill her all are part of a plot to ensure that the family inheritance passes to Edward. She now fears that she is doomed, but Monte Cristo assures her that he will protect her, but she must obey him implicitly and confide in no one, not even her father. He warns her not to fear no matter what may happen - pain, loss of sight and consciousness, even to the point of waking in a coffin - because he will assure her happiness and that of Maximilian. He then gives her a pill, which she obediently swallows. He then dumps out most of the liquid in her glass so others will think she drank it and watches as she falls into a deep sleep.

CHAPTER 103 - VALENTINE

In the still of the night, Mme. de Villefort enters Valentine's room, sees that the glass is almost empty, pours the remaining liquid into the fireplace, and thoroughly washes and wipes the glass. She finds Valentine white as death, with no breath issuing from her mouth and a heart that no longer beats. When the nurse enters the room four hours later, she finds Valentine dead, with rigor mortis already setting in. She rouses the house; the doctor declares the young girl dead, Villefort cries out in despair, and the servants flee the house of death, never to return. When Mme. de Villefort enters the bedchamber, she is astounded to find the glass that she had emptied now partially full of a liquid the same color as the one she had placed in it. As the doctor examines the poisoned brew, she rushes into her adjoining bedroom and passes out on the floor. Soon another cry is heard, as Maximilian enters the room to find his beloved dead in her bed. How could this be, since Monte Cristo had promised him that she would live?

CHAPTER 104 - MAXIMILIAN

Villefort orders Maximilian to leave the room and he rushes out madly, but soon returns carrying Noirtier in his wheelchair. The family, not knowing of the relationship between Maximilian and Valentine, cannot comprehend his behavior, but he quickly tells Noirtier to explain how things stand between the two young lovers, though the old man never gets a chance to do so. Maximilian insists that his beloved has been murdered and that Villefort, as crown prosecutor, is responsible for finding and punishing the culprit, and Noirtier and the doctor quickly concur. Villefort tries to maintain that his house is subject to tragic coincidences, but even he can no longer believe his words. Maximilian asks Noirtier if he knows the identity of the murderer, and he says that he does, then orders all but Villefort to leave the room. Fifteen minutes later, Villefort assures Maximilian and the doctor that justice will be done within three days, but that they must swear to keep the cause of the tragic events secret. Soon the coroner is summoned to confirm Valentine's death, after which Villefort calls for a priest, the nearest of which is Abbe Busoni, who has taken up residence in the house next door. Busoni soon arrives to sit with the corpse and comfort Noirtier, who refuses to leave the room.

CHAPTER 105 - DANGLARS' SIGNATURE

By morning the body has been removed, Busoni has left, and Noirtier has been returned to his room, there somewhat surprisingly to enjoy a good night's sleep. Villefort has not slept a wink, but has occupied his mind writing out the accusation against Benedetto. As the usual guests gather for the funeral, Monte Cristo makes his way to the Danglars residence. He finds Danglars writing out and signing bearer bonds worth five million francs. When he shows them to Monte Cristo, the Count pockets them and thanks the banker, for this is almost the exact remaining amount of credit on which the two had agreed upon his arrival in Paris. Danglars had intended the money for hospitals to whom it was owed, and soon M. de Boville, the receiver-general of the hospitals, arrives to collect those very funds. Danglars asks him to wait a day for his payment, while Monte Cristo goes straight to the bank to cash his bonds. While the men talk, Boville mentions that Mme. de Morcerf has given her entire estate to charity while her son has entered the army and commiserates with Danglars about his embarrassment at the hands of Benedetto. The banker tells him that his daughter has gone to Italy to become a nun. Boville says he needs the money because the hospital

fund is to be audited the next day, and Danglars promises him he will have it by noon, but he has no intention of paying. Instead, he gathers all the money he has on hand, collects his passport, leaves a note for his wife, and prepares to flee the country.

CHAPTER 106 - THE CEMETERY OF PERE-LA-CHAISE

As Valentine's funeral procession winds its way through the streets of Paris toward the cemetery, Monte Cristo's carriage catches up to it, he dismounts, and joins those following the cortege on foot. He quickly searches for Maximilian, who watches the procession from a nearby hiding place in the cemetery. When the ceremony is over, the grief-stricken young man kneels by the vault to pray. When he walks home, the Count follows him and immediately seeks him out in his bedroom. Monte Cristo bursts in without announcing himself and finds Maximilian writing a suicide note while two pistols rest on his desk. The young man insists that he is justified in ending his life because he no longer has any reason to live. Monte Cristo disagrees, and dissuades him by identifying himself as the man who saved his father from ruin and suicide, even to the point of admitting to be Edmond Dantes. Maximilian, completely transformed by this incredible knowledge, calls for Emmanuel and Julie and introduces them to the savior of their family. Their gratitude reduces even the stoic Count to tears of joy. Julie rushes to retrieve the purse that had contained the money that saved her father, and Monte Cristo asks to have it back, but she refuses, saying it is too precious for her to give up. After they leave the room, Monte Cristo is alone with Maximilian, who assures him that he will no longer contemplate suicide, but that he will instead simply die of his grief. The Count tells him to hope, though Maximilian sees no possible basis for doing so. Monte Cristo intends to leave France within the week and take Maximilian with him. When the young man scorns the efficacy of travel to heal his wounds, Monte Cristo promises that, in one month to the day and hour, if he still wants to kill himself, he will provide the means to do so swiftly and painlessly. Maximilian agrees not to attempt to take his life before that time.

CHAPTER 107 - THE DIVISION

Lucien Debray has rented a room in the first floor of the house in which Albert de Morcerf and his mother have chosen to live and uses it as a secret meeting place for himself and Mme. Danglars. One day she rushes in and informs him that her husband has left the house in a hurry with no intention of ever returning. He left a letter addressed to her in which he accuses her of squandering his fortune, contributing to his bankruptcy, while setting aside money for herself; he leaves with this and nothing else. The deserted wife at this point fully expects Debray to take her in his arms and claim her as his own. Instead, he goes over their business dealings and gives her the share of the money they have made together, amounting to 1.34 million francs. She rushes from the house, shocked by his coldness.

Upstairs, Albert and his mother are learning to deal with poverty. Each suffers their misery stoically in an effort to comfort and sustain the other. Now they have nothing left. Albert has sold his watch and a few other possessions to get enough money for them to travel to Marseilles, where the money left for them by Monte Cristo is buried. He also sold his own body, taking two thousand francs from a soldier to take his place in the army. The plan is for Mercedes to live in Marseilles in the house formerly owned by Edmond Dantes' father while Albert makes a name and fortune for himself in the military, serving the governor of Algeria. When they leave on their respective

journeys to Marseilles the next day, Monte Cristo observes them from a nearby window and wonders how he can help to restore their happiness.

CHAPTER 108 - THE LIONS' DEN

In the deepest and darkest part of La Forge, the Parisian prison reserved for death row inmates, walks a man dressed in fine clothes, though much the worse for wear. The prisoners wonder at his costly garments and his careful toilet while he tries to borrow money to buy fresh clothes from the guards, promising them that they will be repaid many times over by his wealthy father. The young man, of course is Benedetto, previously known as Andrea Cavalcanti. His fellow prisoners are about to beat him for his arrogance when he gives a masonic sign taught him by Caderousse, which causes them to accept him as one of them. He is unexpectedly called to the parlor, where a visitor awaits him. The visitor is Bertuccio, who arranges for the two to converse in a private room. Benedetto demands to know the name of his real father; Bertuccio is about to tell him when gendarmes appear at the door, ending their interview.

CHAPTER 109 - THE JUDGE

After Valentine's tragic death, Abbe Busoni and Noirtier alone had remained with the corpse. Everyone was astonished at the old man's calmness, especially in the light of his evident despair after the death of his beloved granddaughter. Within a few days of the funeral, Villefort has hired a new staff of servants. The crown prosecutor is still preparing his case against Benedetto, but has not forgotten his promise to deal with the murderer in his own household. On the morning of Benedetto's trial, his wife sends him a cup of chocolate, and he drinks it down in one gulp, half hoping that it is poisoned. When his wife asks if she may attend the trial, he tells her that he will meet her in her bedroom. When he gets there, he orders Edward to leave the room and locks the door behind him. He then demands to know where she keeps the poison with which she has murdered four members of the household. He warns her that the hangman's noose awaits her unless she has prepared a fatal dose for herself. He has no intention of subjecting his good name to her infamy, however, and assures her that she will not suffer a public hanging. Instead, he requires that she kill herself in the same way she has killed others. If she is not dead by the time he returns from court, he promises that he will denounce, arrest, and prosecute her himself. She faints and he leaves, double-locking the door behind him.

CHAPTER 110 - THE ASSIZES

Everyone in Paris is talking about Benedetto's trial. Most of those who had some acquaintance with the young man believe him to be the victim of a conspiracy of some sort and expect his Italian father to appear and rescue his wayward son. Everyone wants a place in the courtroom, and the fortunate few who do gossip about the principals while waiting for the trial to begin. Villefort is the prosecuting attorney, and he begins with a long list of Benedetto's offenses. When the presiding judge calls upon the prisoner to plead, he readily agrees that he is guilty of the crimes with which he has been charged, but, after giving the date and place of his birth, declines to give his name because he does not know what his real name is. He does tell the court, however, that his father is none other than Villefort. The crown prosecutor sinks into his chair, and Mme. Danglars, who is veiled at the back of the courtroom, faints. Benedetto then gives the details of his

birth, including the address of the house and the fact that his father, after telling his mother that he was dead, buried him alive in the garden. He was then rescued by Bertuccio and raised by him and his wife. When the judge asks Benedetto for proof, he points to Villefort, who is wildly clawing at his face and staggering down the aisle. The prosecutor hysterically admits that all Benedetto said is true and gives himself over to the authority of his successor.

CHAPTER 111 - EXPIATION

The crowd parts for the crown prosecutor as he rushes from the courtroom. In his carriage, he suddenly remembers his wife and the harsh judgment he had passed on her only hours before. What right had he to pass judgment on anyone? He hurries home, hoping to arrive in time to save her so that the two may flee the country in their shared infamy. He bursts into his wife's locked bedroom only to find her in the final throes of death. Worse yet, he discovers the body of Edward with a note from his wife informing him that she could never go anywhere without her son. Needing to speak to someone, he runs into his father's room and finds Abbe Busoni there with him. The priest, unaware of the fate of Mme. de Villefort and Edward, solemnly tells Villefort that he has paid his debt and that he would pray to God to forgive him his sins. In saying this, he reveals his true identity as Edmond Dantes. Villefort then seizes his wrist and drags him into his wife's bedroom. Horrified at what he has wrought, Monte Cristo picks up the body of the child and takes him into Valentine's room, where he administers a draught of his healing nostrum, but to no avail. Villefort, meanwhile, descends into madness. Monte Cristo, determined to save the last of the wretched family, finds Maximilian and leaves Paris while Bertuccio stays to care for M. Noirtier.

CHAPTER 112 - THE DEPARTURE

As Emmanuel and Julie are discussing the events of the last few days and the downfall of Morcerf, Danglars, and Villefort, Monte Cristo appears at their door to take Maximilian away with him. They are much concerned at the young man's melancholy, and the Count promises to cure him and return him to them happy and at peace, though he doubts that he will ever see them again. The plan is to go to Marseilles, and from there to Rome. The carriage stops on a hillside outside Paris, and from there Monte Cristo gazes down on the great city from which, in six months, he has purged such awful wickedness.

CHAPTER 113 - THE HOUSE IN THE ALLEES DE MEILLAN

As Monte Cristo and Maximilian continue their travels, the younger man is deep in a melancholy mood from which he sees no possible escape and the Count is pensive. They arrive in Marseilles just in time to see Albert de Morcerf embark on his military career with his mother waving goodbye on the dock. While Maximilian visits the grave of his father, Monte Cristo goes to the house formerly occupied by his father, which he had now turned over to Mercedes. He finds her weeping over the departure of her son. He tries to console her, but she blames herself for her misfortunes - for not dying herself when she thought Edmond Dantes was dead, for not warning her husband when she recognizes who Monte Cristo really was, for not stopping her son from following his remorseful path. Monte Cristo argues that she is being too hard on herself, that God is the one who wrought destruction on Morcerf and the others, only using the transformed Edmond Dantes as His instrument. Mercedes from this point on intends to live on the little amount of money she found

buried in the garden of the house. Monte Cristo tries to convince her that half of Morcerf's fortune is rightfully hers and she was wrong to renounce it, but she refuses the offer implied in his comment. She tells him that they will only meet again in Heaven, then rushes upstairs. Monte Cristo finds Maximilian in the cemetery and tells him that he must travel to Italy. The young man is to remain in Marseilles until the fourth of October, when a yacht will pick him up and bring him to the island of Monte Cristo.

CHAPTER 114 - PEPPINO

As Monte Cristo is leaving Marseilles, Baron Danglars is arriving in Rome. He goes immediately to the house of Thomson and French, not knowing that he is being followed by Peppino, a member of the band of Luigi Vampa. Danglars withdraws five million francs, then goes to his hotel and goes to sleep. He rises the next morning intending to travel to Venice, and thence to Vienna, where he intends to take up residence. After nightfall the carriage is surrounded by bandits, who lead Danglars away to their hideout in the catacombs. He is directed to a cavern containing a rather comfortable bed and locked in. He now comes to believe the stories told earlier by Albert de Morcerf. He realizes that he is to be robbed rather than killed, and is certain that the sum they demand will be far less than what he actually possesses.

CHAPTER 115 - LUIGI VAMPA'S BILL OF FARE

When Danglars awakes in the morning, he is surprised to find his purse intact. By midday he is hungry, and when Peppino takes over guard duty four hours later, he still has eaten nothing. He asks for food, and Peppino tells him he may have whatever he likes. He orders a fowl, which is shortly brought to him, but before he can take a bite, Peppino demands an exorbitant payment of one hundred thousand francs. Danglars refuses and the fowl is removed. Increasingly overcome with hunger, he asks for bread instead, assuming that the price will be more reasonable, but is told that bread, too, costs a hundred thousand francs. In fact, they know exactly how much money he possesses and intend to acquire as much of the sum as possible. The banker reluctantly pays and grudgingly eats his fowl.

CHAPTER 116 - THE PARDON

Danglars saves half his fowl for the next day, but soon is terribly thirsty. He is told that wine is twenty-five thousand francs per bottle and realizes that the bandits intend to have his entire fortune. He asks to see the chieftain, and Luigi Vampa soon appears at the door of his cell. He wants to know frankly how much ransom they plan to take for his release and is told they want the entire five million francs. However, they have been forbidden by their master to do him any physical harm. Danglars refuses to give them another sou, and Vampa leaves him in his cell to suffer the consequences of his choices. He fasts for the next two days, but then gives in and eats heartily until he has only fifty thousand francs remaining. He then turns to fasting again, and after five days he is weak and delirious. Finally he begs Vampa to take the rest of his money and simply allow him to live in peace in the bandit hideout. A voice tells him that others have suffered more than he, to the point of starving to death. The banker remembers Louis Dantes, who died of starvation while he failed to lift a finger to help him. He swears that he repents, and the shadowy figure behind the voice tells him that he is forgiven. He then removes his cloak and Danglars recognizes the Count

of Monte Cristo, who identifies himself as Edmond Dantes. The banker falls on his face before him, and the Count tells him that he will restore his fifty thousand francs. Furthermore, the five million he stole from the hospital fund has been anonymously restored to them. Monte Cristo then orders Vampa to give Danglars a good meal and release him when he is fit to travel. By the next morning, his hair has turned completely white.

CHAPTER 117 - THE FIFTH OF OCTOBER

On the evening of October fourth, the Count's yacht conveys Maximilian to the island of Monte Cristo. There the Count meets him and asks him if he still wishes to die. At this point the young man's only desire is to leave this life in the arms of a trustworthy friend. The next morning, the day appointed for his death, Monte Cristo asks him to spend his last three hours surrounded by beauty and sensory pleasures. They speak of death, and Monte Cristo again promises to give him a painless means of leaving this earth should he choose to do so. To see if Maximilian is really intent on ending his life, the Count offers him his entire fortune with all that can be accomplished with it, but the young man refuses. Monte Cristo then takes out a golden casket and withdraws from it a green paste-like substance, which he offers to Maximilian on a spoon. He then takes one for himself, but Maximilian begs him not to follow his example. The young man then swallows the paste, promising to tell Valentine what the Count has done for him. As he sinks into a state of delirium, he vaguely sees Monte Cristo open a door, through which enters an image of loveliness familiar to him. He thinks he is in heaven, though the angel who approaches looks very much like Valentine. She kisses Monte Cristo's hands in gratitude and he asks her to care for Haydee as she would her own sister, for from now on the Greek girl will be alone in the world. Haydee hears these words and asks their meaning. Monte Cristo tells her that tomorrow she will be free, with all the wealth she needs to assume her rightful place in the world. She insists, however, that if Monte Cristo leaves her, she will die rather than live in a world without him. When the Count asks if she loves him, she asks if Valentine loves Maximilian. This Monte Cristo did not expect, and he suddenly realizes that a path to happiness remains for him. While he and Haydee go into an inner chamber, Valentine watches over Maximilian until he regains full consciousness. The next morning, as they walk on the seashore, she tells him how the Count had saved her life by making her appear dead. The captain of the Count's yacht gives them a letter. He leaves to them the island and all it contains, the house on the Champs Elysees, and a chateau he owns. Meanwhile, Valentine is to give her family's fortune to the poor, since it represents ill-gotten gains. He instructs them to board the yacht, which will take them to Valentine's waiting grandfather, after which they will marry. When the two ask to speak to the Count, the captain points to a far-off sail that bears Monte Cristo and Haydee away.

MAJOR CHARACTERS

- Edmond Dantes - The protagonist of the novel, Dantes is an idealistic and upright young man who appears to have a bright future ahead of him. At the age of nineteen, he has just been named captain of a ship and is engaged to a beautiful girl who adores him. Those who are jealous of him betray him, however, and he is cast into prison in the Chateau d'If. There the Abbe Faria tutors him and tells him where to find a fabulous fortune. After his escape, he uses the fortune to wreak vengeance on his enemies. At various times, he disguises himself

as English nobleman Lord Wilmore, Italian priest Abbe Busoni, Sinbad the Sailor (used for anonymous communications), and, of course, the Count of Monte Cristo.

- Louis Dantes - Edmond's father, he dies of grief while Edmond is in prison. His death is the main reason for Edmond's elaborate schemes of revenge.
- Mercedes - Edmond Dantes' fiancée, an impoverished seventeen-year-old Catalan orphan when the story begins, she marries her cousin Fernand Mondego when she is told Edmond has died in prison. When he returns to get his revenge, she recognizes him, but keeps silent about his true identity.
- Abbe Faria - An Italian cleric imprisoned in the Chateau d'If for his political opinions, he tutors Dantes and tells him of an enormous fortune hidden on the island of Monte Cristo. Dantes escapes from the Chateau d'If by hiding himself in the old priest's shroud after Faria dies.
- Fernand Mondego - A simple laborer in Marseilles who is in love with Dantes' fiancée Mercedes, and for that reason helps to betray him. He marries Mercedes and they have a son, Albert. He accumulates a fortune through treachery and is named the Comte de Morcerf. After Monte Cristo reveals his double-dealing against Ali Pasha and his family, he commits suicide.
- Albert de Morcerf - Fernand and Mercedes' son, he is a noble and generous young man; when his father commits suicide, he blames Monte Cristo and challenges him to a duel. The Count refuses to harm him for Mercedes' sake, and Albert refuses to harm the Count when his mother tells him the truth about Mondego.
- Franz d'Epinau - Albert's friend who is engaged to be married to Valentine de Villefort, though they do not love one another.
- Baron Danglars - A ship's purser who is jealous of Dantes' success, he enters the plot to betray the young captain. He later becomes wealthy, though his greed makes him an easy target for the Count's revenge; Monte Cristo convinces him to lend huge amounts of money for enterprises that fail, leaving him penniless. His family deserts him and he is left with nothing.
- Madame Hermine Danglars - Greedy, selfish, and constantly engaging in affairs behind her husband's back, she receives government secrets from one of her lovers in order to expand her husband's fortune; when the information turns out to be faulty (courtesy of the Count, of course), they lose a fortune and her lover deserts her.
- Eugenie Danglars - The daughter of Baron Danglars, she is an independent girl who hates all men. After her father's financial ruin, she runs away to Italy with her friend, Louise d'Armilly.

- Lucien Debray - Secretary to the Minister of the Interior and Madame Danglars' lover, he feeds her inside information which she uses to pad both their fortunes.
- Gaspard Caderousse - A tailor who knows about, but does not participate in, the plot to frame Dantes. The Count learns of the plot from him, and on a number of occasions gives him money or otherwise helps him to advance himself, but Caderousse is so lazy and greedy that he always turns to crime and violence. He is killed trying to rob Monte Cristo.
- Gerard de Villefort - The public prosecutor who recognizes that Dantes has been framed, but then realizes that the letter he carries implicates his own father and thus threatens to ruin his reputation, so he sends Dantes to the Chateau d'If. He eventually becomes a government prosecutor in Paris. He goes mad when Dantes reveals that he tried to kill his own illegitimate child, borne by Madame Danglars, shortly after its birth.
- Madame Heloise de Villefort - She is willing to murder to ensure her son's fortune and poisons several members of her household in order to accomplish her goal. Her husband forces her to take her own poison when he discovers her guilt.
- Monsieur Noirtier - Villefort's father, a former French Revolutionary now paralyzed by a stroke. He retains his wits, however, and does all he can to foil the plots of his son and daughter-in-law and help his beloved granddaughter Valentine.
- Barrois - Noirtier's faithful servant, the only one who can communicate with the stricken old man besides Villefort and Valentine.
- Valentine de Villefort - Villefort's daughter by his first wife Renee de Saint-Meran, she is kind and generous. In love with Maximilian Morrel, she is protected by her grandfather and the Count.
- Edward de Villefort - The half-brother of Valentine, this spoiled brat is the apple of his mother's eye and the object of all her schemes.
- Benedetto - The illegitimate son of Villefort and Madame Danglars, he did not die when his father buried him that night, but was raised by Bertuccio. He grows up to be a charming criminal, and, in the guise of Count Andrea Cavalcanti, is used as a pawn by Monte Cristo in his plot to ruin Villefort and Danglars.
- Pierre Morrel - The ship owner who makes Edmond the captain of the *Pharaon*, he tries to get Edmond out of prison and provide relief to his dying father, but fails. When Dantes escapes, he finds Morrel on the brink of financial ruin, but manipulates events to restore his friend's prosperity.
- Maximilian Morrel - Morrel's son, a brave and noble young man who shares his father's character. He is in love with Valentine de Villefort, and the Count protects them and ensures that they successfully get together by the end of the story.

- Emmanuel and Julie Herbault - Maximilian's sister and brother-in-law, they are a happy and loving couple who do good as they are able.
- Ali Pasha - A Greek nationalist betrayed by Fernand Mondego, he is killed by the Turks and his wife and daughter are sold into slavery.
- Haydee - Ali Pasha's daughter who is bought in the slave market by Monte Cristo. She becomes his companion, reveals the treachery of Mondego in court, and at the end of the book appears poised to marry the Count.
- Giovanni Bertuccio - A petty criminal who becomes the Count's loyal steward. He also knows Villefort's secret, having raised the abandoned child, and is eager for revenge against the public prosecutor.
- Luigi Vampa - An Italian bandit who helps Monte Cristo obtain his revenge in return for having been freed by the Count years before.
- Jacopo - A smuggler who helps Dantes make good his escape, the Count makes him the captain of his private yacht.
- Peppino - An Italian shepherd in the service of Luigi Vampa who is saved from execution by the Count's intercession.

NOTABLE QUOTATIONS

“Man does not appear to me to be intended to enjoy felicity so unmixed; happiness is like the enchanted palaces we read of in our childhood, where fierce, fiery dragons defend the entrance and approach; and monsters of all shapes and kinds, requiring to be overcome ere victory is ours.” (Edmond, ch.5)

“Monsieur, you may rest assured I shall perform my duty impartially, and that if he be innocent you shall not have appealed to me in vain; should he, however, be guilty, in this present epoch, impunity would furnish a dangerous example and I must do my duty.” (Villefort, ch.7)

“Thus all my opinions - I will not say public, but private, are confined to these three sentiments - I love my father, I respect M. Morrel, and I adore Mercedes.” (Edmond, ch.7)

“Dantes had exhausted all human resources; and he then turned to God. All the pious ideas that had been so long forgotten returned; he recollected the prayers his mother had taught him, and discovered a new meaning in every word. For in prosperity prayers seem but a mere assemblage of words until the day when misfortune comes to explain to the unhappy sufferer the sublime language by which he invokes the pity of Heaven!” (ch.15)

“It needs trouble and difficulty and danger to hollow out various mysterious and hidden mines of human intelligence.” (Faria, ch.17)

“Who inspires me with this thought? Is that thou, gracious God? Since none but the dead pass freely from this dungeon, let me assume the place of the dead!” (Edmond, ch.20)

“The sea is the cemetery of the Chateau d’If.” (ch.20)

“Dantes was on the way he desired to follow, and was moving towards the end he wished to achieve: his heart was in a fair way of petrifying in his bosom.” (ch.22)

“Thus Dantes, who but three months before had no desire but liberty, had now not liberty enough, and panted for wealth. The cause was not in Dantes but in Providence, who, whilst limiting the power of man, has filled him with boundless desires.” (ch.23)

“Then he returned, and still unable to believe the evidence of his senses, rushed into the grotto, and found himself before this mine of gold and jewels. This time he fell on his knees, and, clasping his hands convulsively, uttered a prayer intelligible to God alone.” (ch.24)

“To wait at Monte Cristo for the purpose of watching over the almost incalculable riches that had thus fallen into his possession satisfied not the cravings of his heart, which yearned to return to dwell among mankind, and to assume the rank, power, and influence unbounded wealth alone can bestow.” (ch.25)

“I am firmly persuaded that, sooner or later, the good will be rewarded, and the wicked punished.” (Abbe Busoni, ch.26)

“Blood washes out dishonor.” (M. Morrel, ch.30)

“And now, farewell kindness, humanity and gratitude! Farewell to all the feelings that expand the heart! I have been Heaven’s substitute to recompense the good - now the God of Vengeance yields to me his power to punish the wicked!” (Edmond, ch.30)

“But in return for a slow, profound, eternal torture, I would give back the same if it were possible: ‘An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth.’” (Monte Cristo, ch.36)

“The count was erect and triumphant, like the Avenging Angel.” (ch.36)

“In reality, when you have once devoted your life, you are no longer the equal of other men, or, rather, other men are no longer your equals; and whosoever has taken this resolution feels his strength and resources doubled.” (Bertuccio, ch.45)

“An all-wise Providence permits not sinners to escape thus easily from the punishment they have merited on earth, but reserves them to aid his own designs, using them as instruments whereby to work his vengeance on the guilty.” (Monte Cristo, ch.46)

“You may, therefore, comprehend, that being of no country, asking no protection from any government, acknowledging no man as my brother, not one of the scruples that arrest the powerful, or the obstacles which paralyze the weak, paralyze or arrest me.” (Monte Cristo, ch.49)

“I have my pride for men - serpents always ready to erect themselves against every one who may pass without crushing them. But I lay aside that pride before God, who has taken me from nothing to make me what I am.” (Monte Cristo, ch.49)

“I wish to be Providence myself, for I feel that the most beautiful, noblest, most sublime thing in the world, is to recompense and punish. . . . Satan said, . . . ‘All I can do for you is to make you one of the agents of that Providence.’ The bargain was concluded. I may sacrifice my soul, but what matters it? . . . If the thing were to do again, I would again do it.” (Monte Cristo, ch.49)

“Those born to wealth, who have the means of gratifying every wish, know not what is the real happiness of life; just as those who have been tossed on the stormy waters of the ocean on a few frail planks can alone estimate the value of a clear and serene sky.” (Emmanuel Herbault, ch.51)

“I will allow you to make me hateful, but I will prevent your rendering me ridiculous, and, above all, I forbid you to ruin me.” (Danglars, ch.66)

“I love everyone as God commands us to love our neighbor, as Christians, but I thoroughly hate but a few.” (Monte Cristo, ch.69)

“I saw God’s justice placed in the hands of Benedetto, and should have thought it sacrilege to oppose the designs of Providence.”

“God’s justice! Speak not of it, M. l’Abbe. If God were just, you know many would be punished who now escape.” (Busoni and Caderousse, ch.84)

“Oh, my God, my God! Pardon me for having denied thee; thou art, indeed, man’s father in heaven, and his judge on earth. My God, my Lord, I have long despised thee! Pardon me, my God; receive me, O my Lord!” (Caderousse, ch.84)

“It is not I who strike M. de Morcerf; it is Providence who punishes him.” (Monte Cristo, ch.90)

“This self, of whom I thought so much, of whom I was so proud, who had appeared so worthless in the dungeons of the Chateau d’If, and whom I had succeeded in making so great, will be but a lump of clay tomorrow. . . . It is not existence, then, that I regret, but the ruin of my projects, so slowly carried out, so laboriously framed. Providence is now opposed to them when I thought it would be propitious. It is not God’s will they should be accomplished. . . . Shall I then again become a fatalist, whom fourteen years of despair and ten of hope had rendered a believer in Providence?” (Monte Cristo, ch.91)

“I do this, O my God, as much for thy honor as for mine. I have during ten years considered myself the agent of thy vengeance; and other wretches, like Morcerf, a Danglars, a Villefort, even that Morcerf himself must not imagine that chance has freed them from their enemy. Let them know, on the contrary, that their punishment which had been decreed by Providence is only delayed by my present determination, that although they escape it in this world, it awaits them in another, and that they are only exchanging time for eternity.” (Monte Cristo, ch.91)

“Providence still; now only am I fully convinced of being the emissary of God!” (Monte Cristo, ch.91)

“Courage, my mother! Come, this is no longer our home!” (Albert, ch.93)

“I repeat with joy, with triumph, I have always found some proof of human perversity or error. Every criminal I condemn seems to me a living proof that I am not a hideous exception to the rest.” (Villefort, ch.100)

“The blood mounted to the temples of Debray, who held a million in his pocket-book; and, unimaginative as he was, he could not help reflecting that the same house had contained two women, one of whom, justly dishonored, had left it poor with 1,500,000 francs under her cloak, while the other, unjustly stricken, but sublime in her misfortune, was yet rich with a few deniers.” (ch.107)

“Alas, how can I restore the happiness I have taken away from these poor innocent creatures? God help me!” (Monte Cristo, ch.107)

“Monte Cristo became pale at the horrible sight; he felt he had passed beyond the bounds of vengeance, and that he could no longer say, ‘God is for and with me.’” (ch.111)

“Great city! Less than six months have elapsed since first I entered thy gates. I believe that the spirit of God led my steps to thee, and that he also enables me to quit thee in triumph; the secret cause of my presence within thy walls I have confided alone to him, who only has had the power to read my heart. God only knows that I retire from thee without pride or hatred, but not without many regrets; he only knows that the power confided to me has never been made subservient to my personal good or to any useless cause. Oh! Great city! It is in thy palpitating bosom that I have found that which I sought; like a patient miner, I have dug deep into thy very entrails to root out evil thence; now my work is accomplished, my mission is terminated, now thou canst neither afford me pain nor pleasure. Adieu Paris! Adieu!” (Monte Cristo, ch.112)

“I became the possessor of fortune so brilliant, so unbounded, so unheard-of, that I must have been blind not to be conscious that God had endowed me with it to work out his own great designs. From that time I viewed this fortune as confided to me for a particular purpose. Not a thought was given to a life which you once, Mercedes, had the power to render blissful - not one hour of peaceful calm was mine, but I felt myself driven on like an exterminating angel.” (Monte Cristo, ch.113)

“You know well, Edmond, that I am no longer a reasoning creature. I have no will, unless it be the will never to decide. I have been so overwhelmed by the many storms that have broken over my head, that I am become passive in the hands of the Almighty, like a sparrow in the talons of an eagle. I live, because it is not ordained for me to die. If succor be sent to me I will accept it.”

“Ah, madame, you should not talk thus! It is not so we should evince our resignation to the will of Heaven; on the contrary, we are all free agents.”

“Alas! If it were so, if I possessed free will, but without the power to render that will efficacious, it would drive me to despair.” (Mercedes and Monte Cristo, ch.113)

“Some day, when the world is much older, and when mankind will be masters of all the destructive powers in nature, to serve for the general good of humanity; when mankind, as you were just saying, have discovered the secrets of death, then that death will become as sweet and voluptuous as a slumber in the arms of your beloved.” (Monte Cristo, ch.117)

“Let it be, then, as you wish, sweet angel; God has sustained me in my struggle with my enemies, and has given me this victory; he will not let me end my triumph with this penance; I wished to punish myself, but he has pardoned me! Love me then, Haydee! Who knows? Perhaps your love will make me forget all I wish not to remember. . . . One word from you has enlightened me more than twenty years of slow experience; I have but you in the world, Haydee; through you I again connect myself with life, through you I shall suffer, through you rejoice.” (Monte Cristo, ch.117)

“Tell the angel who will watch over your future destiny, Morrel, to pray sometimes for 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. Perhaps those prayers may soften the remorse he feels in his heart.” (Monte Cristo, ch.117)

“Live, then, and be happy, beloved children of my heart, and never forget, that until the day when God will deign to reveal the future to man, all human wisdom is contained in these two words: Wait and hope.” (Monte Cristo, ch.117)

ESSAY QUESTIONS

Discuss the following in a five-paragraph essay:

1. In Alexandre Dumas' *The Count of Monte Cristo*, is the protagonist an admirable character? Why or why not? Do the changes he experiences over the course of the novel make him more or less admirable? Be sure to cite specifics from the story as you answer the question.
2. Discuss the political viewpoint expressed in Alexandre Dumas' *The Count of Monte Cristo*. From your knowledge of the French Revolution and the Napoleonic era, how would you assess the politics of the author? Is he a Bonapartist or a royalist? Support your arguments with details from the novel.
3. What are the consequences of greed as revealed in Alexandre Dumas' *The Count of Monte Cristo*? Is there ever such a thing as having enough? Choose three characters from the story and discuss how their experiences illuminate the consequences of lusting for material possessions.
4. Which character in Alexandre Dumas' *The Count of Monte Cristo* experiences the greatest suffering? Why do you think so? How is this character affected by the suffering he or she experiences? Be sure to use specifics from the novel to support your arguments.
5. Is Alexandre Dumas' *The Count of Monte Cristo* a moral story? Why or why not? Discuss the moral themes of the novel and evaluate them in the light of Scripture.

6. “Vengeance is mine; I will repay.” With these words, Scripture tells us to love our enemies rather than seeking their harm. Discuss the extent to which Alexandre Dumas’ *The Count of Monte Cristo* demonstrates or ignores the truth of this biblical principle.
7. In Alexandre Dumas’ *The Count of Monte Cristo*, Edmond Dantes considers himself to be the arm of Providence in wreaking vengeance on his enemies. Does anyone ever have the right to view himself as the Hand of God to bring justice in the world? Why or why not? What happens when one wrongly arrogates to himself such a task? Support your arguments with specifics from the novel and from the Bible.
8. In Alexandre Dumas’ *The Count of Monte Cristo*, the protagonist views himself as being on a divine mission of retribution. The very name of the island where he finds his treasure - “The Mountain of Christ” - makes this connection. Is he justified in drawing this conclusion about the purpose of his escape from the Chateau d’If and his discovery of the treasure? Why or why not? Support your conclusions with specifics from both the book and the Bible.
9. What does Edmond Dantes learn from his complex efforts to revenge himself upon his enemies in Alexandre Dumas’ *The Count of Monte Cristo*? Is the lesson he learns a biblical one? Support your conclusion from the novel and from Scripture.
10. According to Alexandre Dumas’ *The Count of Monte Cristo*, what is the ultimate source of human happiness? What differentiates the happy and unhappy characters in the story? Compare and contrast the author’s view of happiness to that found in the Bible. Be sure to use specifics in your essay.
11. Discuss the extent to which Alexandre Dumas’ *The Count of Monte Cristo* pictures love as essential to true humanity. According to the author, is it more important to love or to be loved? Why? Support your arguments with details from the story.
12. Throughout the course of Alexandre Dumas’ *The Count of Monte Cristo*, the protagonist assumes many different names and identities. Are these simply ways of keeping his true identity unknown, or is there a sense in which each persona brings out and emphasizes different character traits of Edmond Dantes? What traits are associated with each disguise? How do these different personas contribute to the development of the themes of the novel?
13. During the Romantic era, writers often portrayed suicide as a noble response to the discouragements of life, whether in matters of love or honor. To what extent is this the case in Alexandre Dumas’ *The Count of Monte Cristo*? Choose three characters who contemplate or actually commit suicide in the story and discuss the role of suicide in the moral universe of the author.
14. The Romantic era was one that valued emotion over intellect. Using this criterion, assess the extent to which Alexandre Dumas’ *The Count of Monte Cristo* is a Romantic novel. Support your conclusions with details from the story.

15. In Alexandre Dumas' *The Count of Monte Cristo*, what does the protagonist learn about the dangers of playing God? How does this lesson change him as a person? What role does it play in the plot, especially with regard to the development of its major themes? Use specifics to support your arguments.
16. Discuss the image of death and resurrection as it appears in Alexandre Dumas' *The Count of Monte Cristo*. In your essay, focus on three aspects of a single character or on three different characters for whom the image is relevant. How does the image help to convey the major themes of the novel?
17. Discuss the discontinuity between society's standards of justice and God's standards in Alexandre Dumas' *The Count of Monte Cristo*. In what ways are those people viewed by society as evil pictured as good, and vice versa? What aspects of French society is the author criticizing? Do you agree with his assessments? Why or why not?
18. When Dantes visits Mercedes for the last time in Alexandre Dumas' *The Count of Monte Cristo*, he encourages her to take charge of her own life by asserting the reality of free will. She responds by saying, "If I possessed free will, but without the power to render that will efficacious, it would drive me to despair." What does she mean? Is she right? Support your arguments with specifics from the story and from Scripture.
19. In chapter 36 of Alexandre Dumas' *The Count of Monte Cristo*, the Count argues that one who imposes prolonged and profound suffering on another deserves worse than an instantaneous death, but instead deserves similar mental and emotional tortures. He justified this by quoting the biblical precept, "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth." Does he use this Scripture passage rightly? Assess his justification for his program of revenge on his enemies in the light of biblical teaching. Be sure to support your argument with specifics from the novel.
20. "Be sure your sin will find you out." Discuss the self-disclosing nature of sin as revealed in the plot and action of Alexandre Dumas' *The Count of Monte Cristo*. In what sense are the villains in the story the victims of their own actions rather than of Monte Cristo's revenge? Is it then really Providence that brings them down in the end? Support your arguments with details from the story.
21. Discuss the role of forgiveness in Alexandre Dumas' *The Count of Monte Cristo*. Is there any evidence in the story that any character ever learns the importance of this Christian virtue? Support your argument with details from the novel.
22. Compare and contrast the characters of Valentine de Villefort and Eugenie Danglars in Alexandre Dumas' *The Count of Monte Cristo*. How do their differences help to bring out the qualities of each woman? Which do you consider the more admirable, and why?
23. In Alexandre Dumas' *The Count of Monte Cristo*, does any character besides Monte Cristo himself undergo significant transformation in the course of the story? Detail that transformation and discuss its significance to the themes of the novel.

24. At the end of Alexandre Dumas' *The Count of Monte Cristo*, the Count tells Maximilian and Valentine that all human wisdom is contained in two words - "wait and hope." Is he right? To what extent does this conclusion reflect biblical truth about life? To what extent is it an appropriate conclusion to the novel? Support your arguments with specifics from both sources.
25. To what extent are the punishments suffered by Morcerf, Danglars, and Villefort in Alexandre Dumas' *The Count of Monte Cristo* examples of poetic justice? Does the punishment fit the crime in each case? Why or why not? Support your conclusions with specifics from the book.
26. In Alexandre Dumas' *The Count of Monte Cristo*, Edmond Dantes often compares his experience in the Chateau d'If to death. To what extent is the comparison appropriate? What changes does he undergo in prison that could legitimately be compared to death? Be specific.
27. Does Alexandre Dumas' *The Count of Monte Cristo* portray a moral universe? For the author, is there a justice that exists beyond the realm of man and society? Support your conclusion with specifics from the novel.
28. At the end of Alexandre Dumas' *The Count of Monte Cristo*, the Count implies that true joy can only be appreciated by those who have first suffered. Do you agree? Discuss this concept in the light of the details of the story and the teachings of Scripture.
29. Most movie versions of Alexandre Dumas' *The Count of Monte Cristo* end with Monte Cristo reunited with Mercedes. The book, however, does not end that way. Why did the author choose not to reunite the lovers of the book's opening pages? Do you think that this was the right decision, or did you want to see them get back together? Support your arguments with details from the story.
30. Two great French Romantic novels, Victor Hugo's *Les Miserables* and Alexandre Dumas' *The Count of Monte Cristo*, have much to say about the subject of revenge. Compare and contrast the treatment of revenge in the two novels and evaluate each on the basis of Scripture. Be sure to use specifics to support your arguments.
31. The supposed death of the protagonist near the beginning of the story is a plot device used in both Charles Dickens' *Our Mutual Friend* and Alexandre Dumas' *The Count of Monte Cristo*. Compare and contrast the ways in which this device is used in the two novels. Do John Harmon and Edmond Dantes have the same reasons for wishing to keep their identities secret? Do the revelations of those identities in the two stories have the same impact on the plots? Do the two authors let their readers in on the secret to the same extent? Why do you think the two writers made these particular choices in composing their stories?

32. In chapter 15 of Alexandre Dumas' *The Count of Monte Cristo*, the author describes the protagonist's despair in prison in these words: "Dantes had exhausted all human resources; and he then turned to God. All the pious ideas that had been so long forgotten returned; he recollected the prayers his mother had taught him, and discovered a new meaning in every word. For in prosperity prayers seem but a mere assemblage of words until the day when misfortune comes to explain to the unhappy sufferer the sublime language by which he invokes the pity of Heaven!" What role does prayer play in the lives of the characters in the story? Do they only pray when desperate, or do any of them manifest a relationship with God that reaches into everyday life? Be sure to use specifics from the novel in your essay.
33. In chapter 26 of Alexandre Dumas' *The Count of Monte Cristo*, the title character, in the guise of Abbe Busoni, says, "I am firmly persuaded that, sooner or later, the good will be rewarded, and the wicked punished." What he expresses here is known as the Retributive Principle - the idea that, in the end, everyone gets what he or she deserves. Does the novel support this principle? Is it biblical? Why or why not? Be sure to use specifics from the book and from Scripture to support your answer.
34. In chapter 49 and again in chapter 117 of Alexandre Dumas' *The Count of Monte Cristo*, the protagonist compares himself to Satan in his ambition to play the role of Providence. How is the significance of this comparison different in the two chapters? In what ways has Monte Cristo changed from the middle of the book to the end? What causes him to recognize the wrongness of the ambition that drove him to do what he did?
35. In chapter 69 of Alexandre Dumas' *The Count of Monte Cristo*, the title character says, "I love everyone as God commands us to love our neighbor, as Christians, but I thoroughly hate but a few." Evaluate this statement in the light of Scripture. Is Monte Cristo right to say that he keeps the second great commandment? Why or why not?
36. In chapter 91 of Alexandre Dumas' *The Count of Monte Cristo*, the Count, facing death in order to spare Albert de Morcerf, does not fear his own demise, but regrets not being able to carry out his plan of revenge. What does this say about his values, and in fact his understanding of the meaning of his life?
37. Alexandre Dumas' *The Count of Monte Cristo* makes frequent use of irony, particularly in the mouths of the villains, who often condemn others for the sins of which they themselves are guilty. Cite three examples of this, and discuss how the irony is strengthened by knowledge possessed by the reader but of which the characters are unaware.
38. Alexandre Dumas' *The Count of Monte Cristo* contains a number of scenes where the title character reveals his true identity as Edmond Dantes to various people. In almost every case, they cry out to God, affirming their belief in Him while before they had doubted or disbelieved. What is the author trying to communicate through these scenes about the role of God in human experience and the ways in which people become aware of it?

39. Chapter 107 of Alexandre Dumas' *The Count of Monte Cristo* presents a contrast between Hermine Danglars and Mercedes de Morcerf as observed through the eyes of Lucien Debray. What is the point of this contrast? How does it aid the author in bringing out important themes in the novel?
40. In chapter 113 of Alexandre Dumas' *The Count of Monte Cristo*, the Count says, "I became the possessor of fortune so brilliant, so unbounded, so unheard-of, that I must have been blind not to be conscious that God had endowed me with it to work out his own great designs. From that time I viewed this fortune as confided to me for a particular purpose." Evaluate this sentiment from a biblical perspective. Should every Christian view his fortune, no matter how large or small, as given to him by God to work out His grand design? Was Monte Cristo's interpretation of God's design an accurate one?
41. In the final chapter of Alexandre Dumas' *The Count of Monte Cristo*, the Count says to Maximilian, "Some day, when the world is much older, and when mankind will be masters of all the destructive powers in nature, to serve for the general good of humanity; when mankind, as you were just saying, have discovered the secrets of death, then that death will become as sweet and voluptuous as a slumber in the arms of your beloved." Discuss this salutary picture of the future progress of humanity from a biblical perspective. Does God intend us to use our knowledge of nature to make death "sweet and voluptuous"? Why or why not?