

**THE VERSATILITY OF THE PROTAGONIST
IN ALEXANDRE DUMAS' NOVEL
*THE COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO***

A THESIS

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**UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LITERATURE
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UNIVERSITAS ISLAM SUMATERA UTARA
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**SUBMITTED TO
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(71180411031)

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APPENDIXES

A. Biography of Alexandre Dumas

Alexandre Dumas (born Dumas Davy de la Pailleterie) on July 24, 1802, in Villers-Cotterêts, France, to Marie Louise Labouret and General Thomas-Alexandre Davy de la Pailleterie. The Dumas surname was adopted from Alexandre's grandmother, an enslaved Haitian woman named Marie-Césètte Dumas. His grandfather was the Marquis Alexandre Antoine Davy de La Pailleterie. Thomas-Alexandre took the name Dumas when he enlisted in Napoleon's army, where he acquired the dubious nickname of "Black Devil."

Thomas-Alexandre rose to the rank of general at the age of 31, the highest rank of any black male in the European army. In 1797, he showed himself in the battle of Adige, when he surprised and defeated the Austrian artillery battery. Thomas-Alexandre left the armed forces following a dispute with Napoleon over his Egyptian campaign. He was imprisoned for nearly two years and died shortly after his release. After her husband's death, Marie Louise Laboret worked hard to provide an education for her son. Dumas attended the Abbé Grégoire school before quitting to take a job helping the local notary.

In 1822, Dumas moved to Paris and immersed himself in literature. He worked as a clerk for the duc d'Orléans (later named King Louis Philippe) during the revolution of 1830. He began writing plays, both comedies and plays. Dumas' Romantic style — often compared to his contemporary and rival, Victor Hugo — proved to be very popular

Dumas is a prolific writer of essays, short stories and novels, he also writes plays and travelogues. His interests also included crime and scandal and wrote eight volumes of essays on historically famous cases such as Lucrezia Borgia and Cesare Borgia, and the more contemporary names of his time, such as Karl Ludwig Sand. But he achieved widespread success with his novels *The Count of Monte Cristo* and *The Three Musketeers*, which were originally published as a serials.

The Three Musketeers is one of three novels in *D'Artagnan Romances*, the others being *Twenty Years After* and *The Vicomte of Bragelonne: Ten Years Later*. The story of "The Man in the Iron Mask" from *Le Vicomte de Bragelonne*, also stands out as one of the most widely recognized. Among her many volumes of romantic novels are the Valois series, centered on Queen Marguerite, the last queen in the Capetian dynasty, and eight novels dubbed Marie Antoinette's romances. He also wrote the fantasy novel *The Wolf Leader*, which is considered one of the earliest werewolf-themed books. The popularity of his writings made Dumas a pride in France and a celebrity in much of Europe.

With the money he earned from publishing his novels, Dumas bought land and built the *Château de Monte Cristo* in Port Marly, Yvelines, France. This house (now a museum) was meant to be a sanctuary for writers, and he spent most of his time writing and entertaining himself there before debt overtook him, forcing him to sell the property. He fled to Belgium in 1851, and then to Russia, to escape creditors. Dumas continued to publish books, including travel books in Russia, during his exile.

Dumas had a son, also named Alexandre, with Marie Laure Catherine Labay. His son followed in his literary footsteps. In 1840, Dumas married actress Ida Ferrier, but continued his affairs with other women. He had at least one daughter, Marie Alexandrine, out of wedlock, and dated much younger women in his old age.

Dumas died on December 5, 1870, at his son's home in Puys, France. He is buried in the Villers-Cotterêts cemetery. In 2002, his body was transferred to the Panthéon in Paris, where Dumas was among other great figures of French literature such as his rivals Victor Hugo, Emile Zola and Jean-Jacques Rousseau. Dumas' adventurous exploration continue to captivate readers around the world, with his work having been translated into more than 100 languages and adapted into numerous films. In 2008, an unfinished manuscript, *The Last Cavalier*, was published.

B. Literary Work of Alexandre Dumas

1. *Charles VII chez ses grands vassaux*
2. *Le maître d'armes*, (1840)
3. *The Nutcracker*, (1844)
4. Roman D'Artagnan:
 - a. *Les Trois Mousquetaires*, (1844)
 - b. *Vingt Ans Après*, (1845)
 - c. *Le Vicomte de Bragelonne, ou Dix ans plus tard*, (1847)
5. *The Count of Monte Cristo*, (1845–1846)
6. *The Regent's Daughter*, (1845)
7. *The Two Dianas*, (1846)
8. Roman Valois
 - a. *Queen Margot*, (1845)
 - b. *Le Chevalier de Maison-Rouge*, (1845)

- c. *La Dame de Monsoreau*, (1846)
 - d. *The Forty-Five Guardsmen*, (1847)
9. Roman Marie Antoinette:
- a. *Joseph Balsamo*, (1846–1848)
 - b. *The Queen's Necklace*, (1849–1850)
10. *The Black Tulip*, (1850)
- a. *Ange Pitou*, (1853)
 - b. *The Countess de Charny*, (1853–1855)
11. *The Gold Thieves*, (1857)
12. *Le Chevalier de Sainte-Hermine* (1869)

C. Summary of *The Count of Monte Cristo* Novel

At the age of nineteen, Edmond Dantès seems to have the perfect life. He is about to become the captain of a ship, he is engaged to a beautiful and kind young woman, Mercédès, and he is well liked by almost everyone who knows him. This perfect life, however, stirs up dangerous jealousy among some of Dantès's so-called friends. Danglars, the treasurer of Dantès's ship, envies Dantès's early career success; Fernand Mondego is in love with Dantès's fiancée and so covets his amorous success; his neighbor Caderousse is simply envious that Dantès is so much luckier in life than he is.

Together, these three men draft a letter accusing Dantès of treason. There is some truth to their accusations: as a favor to his recently deceased captain, Dantès is carrying a letter from Napoleon to a group of Bonapartist sympathizers in Paris. Though Dantès himself has no political leanings, the undertaking is enough to implicate him for treason. On the day of his wedding, Dantès is arrested for his alleged crimes.

The deputy public prosecutor, Villefort, sees through the plot to frame Dantès and is prepared to set him free. At the last moment, though, Dantès jeopardizes his freedom by revealing the name of the man to whom he is supposed to deliver Napoleon's letter. The man, Noirtier, is Villefort's father. Terrified that any public knowledge of his father's treasonous activities will thwart his own ambitions, Villefort decides to send Dantès to prison for life. Despite the entreaties of Monsieur Morrel, Dantès's kind and honest boss, Dantès is sent to the infamous Château d'If, where the most dangerous political prisoners are kept.

While in prison, Dantès meets Abbé Faria, an Italian priest and intellectual, who has been jailed for his political views. Faria teaches Dantès history, science, philosophy, and languages, turning him into a well-educated man. Faria also bequeaths to Dantès a large treasure hidden on the island of Monte Cristo, and he tells him how to find it should he ever escape. When Faria dies, Dantès hides himself in the abbé's shroud, thinking that he will be buried and then dig his way out. Instead, Dantès is thrown into the sea, and is able to cut himself loose and swim to freedom.

Dantès travels to Monte Cristo and finds Faria's enormous treasure. He considers his fortune a gift from God, given to him for the sole purpose of rewarding those who have tried to help him and, more important, punishing those who have hurt him. Disguising himself as an Italian priest who answers to the name of Abbé Busoni, he travels back to Marseilles and visits Caderousse, who is now struggling to make a living as an innkeeper. From Caderousse he learns the details of the plot to frame him. In addition, Dantès learns that his father has died of grief in his absence and that Mercédès

has married Fernand Mondego. Most frustrating, he learns that both Danglars and Mondego have become rich and powerful and are living happily in Paris. As a reward for this information, and for Caderousse's apparent regret over the part he played in Dantès's downfall, Dantès gives Caderousse a valuable diamond. Before leaving Marseilles, Dantès anonymously saves Morrel from financial ruin.

Ten years later, Dantès emerges in Rome, calling himself the Count of Monte Cristo. He seems to be all knowing and unstoppable. In Rome Dantès ingratiates himself to Albert de Morcerf, son of Fernand Mondego and Mercédès, by saving him from bandits. In return for the favor, Albert introduces Dantès to Parisian society. None of his old cohorts recognize the mysterious count as Edmond Dantès, though Mercédès does. Dantès is thus able to insinuate himself effortlessly into the lives of Danglars, Mondego, and Villefort. Armed with damning knowledge about each of them that he has gathered over the past decade, Dantès sets an elaborate scheme of revenge into motion.

Mondego, now known as the Count de Morcerf, is the first to be punished. Dantès exposes Morcerf's darkest secret: Morcerf made his fortune by betraying his former patron, the Greek vizier Ali Pacha, and he then sold Ali Pacha's wife and daughter into slavery. Ali Pacha's daughter, Haydée, who has lived with Dantès ever since he bought her freedom seven years earlier, testifies against Morcerf in front of the senate, irreversibly ruining his good name. Ashamed by Morcerf's treachery, Albert and Mercédès flee, leaving their tainted fortune behind. Morcerf commits suicide.

Villefort's punishment comes slowly and in several stages. Dantès first takes advantage of Madame de Villefort's murderous intent, subtly tutoring her in the uses of

poison. As Madame de Villefort wreaks her havoc, killing off each member of the household in turn, Dantès plants the seeds for yet another public exposé. In court, it is revealed that Villefort is guilty of attempted infanticide, as he tried to bury his illegitimate baby while it was still alive. Believing that everyone he loves is dead and knowing that he will soon have to answer severe criminal charges, Villefort goes insane.

For his revenge on Danglars, Dantès simply plays upon his enemy's greed. He opens various false credit accounts with Danglars that cost him vast amounts of money. He also manipulates Danglars's unfaithful and dishonest wife, costing Danglars more money, and helps Danglars's daughter, Eugénie, run away with her female companion. Finally, when Danglars is nearly broke and about to flee without paying any of his creditors, Dantès has the Italian bandit Luigi Vampa kidnap him and relieve him of his remaining money. Dantès spares Danglars's life, but leaves him penniless.

Meanwhile, as these acts of vengeance play out, Dantès also tries to complete one more act of goodness. Dantès wishes to help the brave and honorable Maximilian Morrel, the son of the kind shipowner, so he hatches an elaborate plot to save Maximilian's fiancée, Valentine Villefort, from her murderous stepmother, to ensure that the couple will be truly happy forever. Dantès gives Valentine a pill that makes her appear dead and then carries her off to the island of Monte Cristo. For a month Dantès allows Maximilian to believe that Valentine is dead, which causes Maximilian to long for death himself. Dantès then reveals that Valentine is alive. Having known the depths of despair, Maximilian is now able to experience the heights of ecstasy. Dantès too

ultimately finds happiness, when he allows himself to fall in love with the adoring and beautiful Haydée.

D. Characters of *The Count of Monte Cristo* Novel

7. Edmond Dantes and his aliases

- a. Edmond Dantes:** The protagonist of the novel. Dantès is an intelligent, honest, and loving man who turns bitter and vengeful after he is framed for a crime he does not commit. When Dantès finds himself free and enormously wealthy, he takes it upon himself to act as the agent of Providence, rewarding those who have helped him in his plight and punishing those responsible for his years of agony.
- b. The Count of Monte Cristo:** The identity Dantès assumes when he emerges from prison and inherits his vast fortune. As a result, the Count of Monte Cristo is usually associated with a coldness and bitterness that comes from an existence based solely on vengeance.
- c. Lord Wilmore:** The identity of an eccentric English nobleman that Dantès assumes when committing acts of random generosity. Lord Wilmore contrasts sharply with Monte Cristo, who is associated with Dantès's acts of bitterness and cruelty. Appropriately, Monte Cristo cites Lord Wilmore as one of his enemies.
- d. Abbé Busoni:** Another of Dantès's false personas. The disguise of Abbé Busoni, an Italian priest, helps Dantès gain the trust of the people whom the count wants to manipulate because the name connotes religious authority.

- e. **Sinbad the Sailor:** The name Dantès uses as the signature for his anonymous gift to Morrel. Sinbad the Sailor is also the persona Dantès adopts during his time in Italy.
8. **Mercédès Herrera later the Countess de Morcerf:** Dantès's beautiful and good fiancée. Though Mercédès marries another man, Fernand Mondego, while Dantès is in prison, she never stops loving Dantès. Mercédès is one of the few whom Dantès both punishes (for her disloyalty) and rewards (for her enduring love and underlying goodness).
9. **Abbé Faria:** A priest and brilliant thinker whom Dantès meets in prison. Abbé Faria becomes Dantès's intellectual father: during their many years as prisoners, he teaches Dantès history, science, art, and many languages. He then bequeaths to Dantès his vast hidden fortune. Abbé Faria is the most important catalyst in Dantès's transformation into the vengeful Count of Monte Cristo.
10. **Louis Dantès:** Dantès's father. Grief-stricken, Louis Dantès starves himself to death when Dantès is imprisoned. It is primarily for his father's death that Dantès seeks vengeance.
11. **Fernand Mondego later Monsieur Count de Morcef:** Dantès's rival for Mercédès's affections. Mondego helps in framing Dantès for treason and then marries Mercédès himself when Dantès is imprisoned. Through acts of treachery Mondego becomes a wealthy and powerful man and takes on the name of the Count de Morcerf. He is the first victim of Dantès's vengeance.
12. **Baron Danglars:** A greedy, envious cohort of Mondego. Danglars hatches the plot to frame Dantès for treason. Like Mondego, he becomes wealthy and powerful, but

loses everything when Monte Cristo takes his revenge. Danglars's obsession with the accumulation of wealth makes him an easy target for Monte Cristo, who has seemingly limitless wealth on hand to exact his revenge.

13. **Gaspard Caderousse:** A lazy, drunk, and greedy man. Caderousse is present when the plot to frame Dantès is hatched, but he does not take an active part in the crime. Unlike Danglars and Mondego, Caderousse never finds his fortune, instead making his living through petty crime and the occasional murder.
14. **Gérard de Villefort:** The blindly ambitious public prosecutor responsible for sentencing Dantès to life in prison. Like the others, Villefort eventually receives punishment from Dantès. Villefort stands out as Monte Cristo's biggest opposition, as he employs his own power to judge people and mete out punishments.
15. **Monsieur Morrel:** The kind, honest shipowner who was once Dantès's boss. Morrel does everything in his power to free Dantès from prison and tries to save Dantès's father from death. When Dantès emerges from prison, he discovers that Morrel is about to descend into financial ruin, so he carries out an elaborate plot to save his one true friend.
16. **Maximilian Morrel:** The son of Monsieur Morrel. Brave and honorable like his father, Maximilian becomes Dantès's primary beneficiary. Maximilian and his love, Valentine, survive to the end of the story as two good and happy people, personally unaffected by the vices of power, wealth, and position.
17. **Julie Morrel Herbault:** Monsieur Morrel's daughter, who first meets the Count of Monte Cristo as "Sinbad the Sailor"; he sends her on an errand to obtain monies which will save her father's business.

18. **Emmanuel Herbaut:** Julie's husband. Emmanuel is just as noble and perpetually happy as his wife, Julie.
19. **Albert de Morcerf:** The son of Fernand Mondego and Mercédès. Unlike his father, Albert is brave, honest, and kind. Mercédès's devotion to both Albert and Dantès allows Monte Cristo to realize her unchanging love for him and causes him to think more deeply about his sole desire for revenge.
20. **Noirtier d'Villefort:** Villefort's father. Once a powerful French revolutionary, Noirtier is brilliant and willful, even when paralyzed by a stroke. He proves a worthy opponent to his son's selfish ambitions.
21. **Valentine Villefort:** Villefort's saintly and beautiful daughter. Like Maximilian Morrel, her true love, she falls under Dantès's protection.
22. **Madame d'Villefort:** Villefort's murderous wife. Devoted wholly to her son Edward, Madame d'Villefort turns to crime in order to ensure his fortune.
23. **Edward d'Villefort:** The Villeforts' spoiled son. Edward is an innocent victim of Dantès's elaborate revenge scheme.
24. **Haydée:** The daughter of Ali Pacha, the vizier of the Greek state of Yanina. Haydée is sold into slavery after her father is betrayed by Mondego and murdered. Dantès purchases Haydée's freedom and watches her grow into adulthood, eventually falling in love with her.
25. **Signor Bertuccio:** Dantès's steward. Though Bertuccio is loyal and adept, Dantès chooses him as his steward not for his personal qualities but because of his vendetta against Villefort.
26. **Ali:** Dantès's mute Nubian slave. Ali is amazingly adept with all sorts of weapons.

27. **Benedetto:** The illegitimate son of Villefort and Madame Danglars. Though raised lovingly by Bertuccio and Bertuccio's widowed sister-in-law, Benedetto nonetheless turns to a life of brutality and crime. Handsome, charming, and a wonderful liar, Benedetto plays the part of Andrea Cavalcanti in one of Dantès's elaborate revenge schemes.
28. **Madame Danglars:** Danglars's wife. Greedy, conniving, and disloyal, Madame Danglars engages in a never-ending string of love affairs that help bring her husband to the brink of financial ruin.
29. **Eugénie Danglars:** The Danglars' daughter. A brilliant musician, Eugénie longs for her independence and despises men. On the eve of her wedding, she flees for Italy with her true love, Louise d'Armilly.
30. **Major Cavalcanti:** A poor and crooked man whom Dantès resurrects as a phony Italian nobleman.
31. **Lucien Debray:** The secretary to the French minister of the interior. Debray illegally leaks government secrets to his lover, Madame Danglars, so that she can invest wisely with her husband's money.
32. **Beauchamp:** A well-known journalist and good friend to Albert de Morcerf.
33. **Franz d'Épinay:** Another good friend to Albert de Morcerf. D'Épinay is the unwanted fiancé of Valentine Villefort.
34. **Baron of Château-Renaud:** An aristocrat and diplomat. Château-Renaud is nearly killed in battle in Constantinople, but Maximilian Morrel saves him at the last second. Château-Renaud introduces Maximilian into Parisian society, which leads to Maximilian and Dantès crossing paths.

35. **Marquis of Saint-Méran:** The father of Villefort's first wife, who dies shortly after her wedding day.
36. **Marquise of Saint-Méran:** The wife of the Marquis of Saint-Méran.
37. **Luigi Vampa:** A famous Roman bandit. Vampa is indebted to Dantès for once setting him free, and he puts himself at the service of Dantès's vengeful ends.
38. **Jacopo:** A smuggler who helps Dantès win his freedom. When Jacopo proves his selfless loyalty, Dantès rewards him by buying the poor man his own ship and crew.
39. **Peppino:** An Italian shepherd who has been arrested and sentenced to death for the crime of being an accomplice to bandits, when he merely provided them with food. Monte Cristo buys Peppino his freedom.
40. **Ali Pacha:** A Greek nationalist leader whom Mondego betrays. This betrayal leads to Ali Pacha's murder at the hands of the Turks and the seizure of his kingdom. Ali Pacha's wife and his daughter, Haydée, are sold into slavery.
41. **Louise d'Armilly:** Eugénie Danglars's music teacher and constant companion.