

Twenty Years After Study Guide

Twenty Years After by Alexandre Dumas, père

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Plot Summary

The novel "Twenty Years After" by Alexandre Dumas tells the story of the reunion of d'Artagnan and his three musketeers two decades after their original conquests. The story touches on the themes of friendship and the opposing forces of love versus hate and betrayal versus loyalty. As the plot progresses, the four friends deal with their disappointments in their lives as well as their diverse opinions on working together.

The story begins as d'Artagnan, happy to be of use again after years of inactivity, agrees to help Mazarin, the tyrannical cardinal whose laws have left the common citizens of Paris in poverty and famine. D'Artagnan tries to gather his three friends who fought by his side twenty years earlier, but realizes he has a problem when the four find themselves divided on their political allegiance. Despite their differences, the four vow to remain friends and often come to each other's rescue during the book as a result of their division. They also work together in a failed attempt to save Charles, King of England, from execution.

During the action in the novel, the musketeers are pursued by a regrettable part of their past. The son of a lady whom they were responsible for killing because of her evil, murderous ways, seeks revenge on the four friends. The man, who calls himself Mordaunt, has devoted his life to hunting down and destroying the men who killed his mother. The four friends are able to outsmart Mordaunt however and the fiend is finally killed by Athos as he tries to drown Athos.

By the end of the novel, the musketeers are able to convince Mazarin, by kidnapping him, to agree to the demands made by the people of Paris, thus bringing peace to the city. D'Artagnan is awarded a monetary allowance, the title of captain, and a group of musketeers in his charge. Porthos gets his coveted title of baron. Aramis is able to get honors for a lady friend of his and Raoul, the son of Athos, is given an appointment to a regiment in the army. The musketeers, with the exception of d'Artagnan, go back to their former lives. D'Artagnan, however, waits for the next great adventure.



Chapters 1 - 6

Chapters 1 - 6 Summary

The novel "Twenty Years After" by Alexandre Dumas tells the story of the reunion of d'Artagnan and his three musketeers two decades after their original conquests. The story touches on the themes of friendship, the strength of love and hate, betrayal and loyalty. As the plot progresses, the four friends deal with their disappointments in their lives, as well as their diverse opinions to work together.

Dumas opens his novel with a description of the conditions of Paris, France. The people are rebelling against Cardinal Mazarin because he has placed high taxes on them. Mazarin feels that he has special protection from the queen and will not be overthrown. In order to get a sense of what is going on in the city, Mazarin disguises himself as a musketeer. He requests that Lieutenant d'Artagnan, a musketeer in the king's service, to take him around the city.

In Chapter 2, while on the streets of the city, the cardinal hopes to understand the thoughts of his people as well as some time to study d'Artagnan. When he returns to the Palais Royal, Mazarin questions Guitant about d'Artagnan's record, but Guitant refers him to the Comte de Rochefort. Mazarin sends d'Artagnan on a mission to pick up a person from the Bastille.

In Chapter 3, the prisoner whom d'Artagnan is sent to pick up is his friend Rochefort. The two pretend not to know one another until in the secrecy of the carriage. Rochefort asks d'Artagnan about his three friends, Athos, Porthos and Aramis. D'Artagnan knows they are still alive, but has not kept up with them. Once Rochefort arrives at the Palais Royal, Mazarin asks the man if he can be a faithful servant to the cardinal and the queen. When Mazarin suggests to Rochefort that he serve him by guarding Monsieur de Beaufort, Rochefort says this is impossible because the man is his friend. Mazarin sends Rochefort back to the Bastille.

Mazarin visits the queen in Chapter 4. The king is unhappy to see the Mazarin. After the king is sent to bed, Mazarin tells the queen he may soon have to flee to Italy. He questions the queen indirectly in an attempt to determine if she will remain faithful to him. Mazarin finally comes to his point and asks the queen if she knows Rochefort. The queen acknowledges he is her enemy. When Mazarin asks if she knows d'Artagnan, she does not answer directly. Mazarin threatens her and the queen breaks down and tells him of the four friends who saved her life. She shows Mazarin a diamond that she once gave to d'Artagnan as a reward. The queen requests that Mazarin return the diamond to d'Artagnan.

In Chapter 5, Mazarin convinces d'Artagnan to gather his three friends and support Mazarin in his goals.



In Chapter 6, as d'Artagnan looks through letters to track his friends, he realizes a man, whom d'Artagnan recognizes as Planchet, has entered his room. Planchet tells him that Rochefort escaped when the citizens of Paris attacked his carriage. D'Artagnan promises to hide Planchet and make him safe. He does so by disguising Planchet as the brother of the lady who owns the hotel in which he is staying.

Chapters 1 - 6 Analysis

The novel opens with a description of the antagonist of the novel, Cardinal Mazarin. Mazarin is called the "shade of Cardinal Richelieu." This phrase indicates that Mazarin is darker in nature than the former cardinal. It is already known in the opening scenes of the book that the people are rebelling against Mazarin because he has imposed severe taxation on the people and caused them to live in poverty.

The first chapter gives a great deal of important information that will be needed to understand the remainder of the novel. First, the Cardinal Mazarin is hated by the people of France because he has increased tax rates and forced them into poverty. Although the people demand Mazarin be put out of power, Mazarin believes that he will be protected because he has a special relationship with the queen. Meanwhile, the king, young Louis XIV, who is only ten, is forced to pass the new tax laws that Mazarin is making. It is learned in later chapters that the young king is being ordered to pass Mazarin's laws on the order of his mother. To make matters worse, Mazarin has his own fight in progress to overthrow Parliament. Mazarin has also made himself unpopular with the magistrates in the Court of Requests, which handles the civil law affairs of the poorer people, by trying to add magistrate positions.

As Mazarin realizes how much the people dislike him, he begins to take special interest in d'Artagnan, a musketeer in the queen's service who seems impervious to angry men and bad times. Although Mazarin is able to persuade d'Artagnan to work with him, he is not as lucky with Rochefort. Rochefort tells Mazarin what he wants to know about d'Artagnan's loyalty to a former queen, but refuses to become a prison guard for Beaufort who is a friend of his, but an enemy to Mazarin. D'Artagnan's desire to be useful overrides any moral issues that d'Artagnan may have with Mazarin. For instance, d'Artagnan promises to remain friends with Rochefort even though Rochefort is an enemy of Mazarin especially after he refuses to guard Beaufort on Mazarin's orders.

Another important issue to keep in mind is the amount of power that Mazarin seems to have over the queen. Even though she should be able to overrule his decisions, Mazarin is able to manipulate her and threaten her into doing as he pleases. Even though the king is too young to be a legal ruler, even he recognizes the amount of control that Mazarin has over his mother and dislikes Mazarin because of this control. Notice that by threats Mazarin is able to easily bully the queen into telling him about a part of her life that was embarrassing to her and almost ruined her. The queen holds Mazarin in high enough esteem that she presses him to read the letters she had written to Buckingham as a way of proving to him that there was no affair between the two. Even though the queen probably knows Mazarin well, she doesn't know him very well.



as she gives him the diamond ring that belongs to d'Artagnan to Mazarin to give back to d'Artagnan. Mazarin keeps this ring for himself.

As Mazarin searches for people who will shield him from any possible attacks by the people of France, he takes special interest in d'Artagnan. D'Artagnan is pleased by this special interest because he has been a lieutenant in the musketeers for twenty years with little to show for his devotion. Even though he and his friends did save the queen by returning her jewels to her, the queen gave them little recognition for their acts of chivalry and bravery. The diamond ring that the queen gave to d'Artagnan as a token of her thanks had to be sold by d'Artagnan in order to save the queen from another folly.

The premise of this novel is that the course of action takes place twenty years after the original deeds of the four musketeers - d'Artagnan, Athos, Porthos, and Aramis. Dumas is able to weave the original deeds of these musketeers into the narrative of this book in order to catch the reader up on the history of the musketeers as well as the relationships that the different characters have with one another. For instance, it is through Mazarin's curiosity about d'Artagnan and his questioning of the queen that Mazarin, along with the reader, learns how the four musketeers saved her life about 20 years ago.



Chapters 7 - 12

Chapters 7 - 12 Summary

In Chapter 7, Bazin, who was a servant of Aramis, lies and tells d'Artagnan he does not know where Aramis is. D'Artagnan follows Bazin until he learns the man has ridden to a convent in Noisy.

In Chapter 8, d'Artagnan returns to Paris to employ Madeline's "brother" who is actually Planchet in his service. The two travel to Noisy. After an incident with some armed men, Planchet is surprised when he feels a weight land on the back of his horse. As d'Artagnan starts to draw his sword, the man identifies himself as Aramis.

In Chapter 9, Aramis directs d'Artagnan and Planchet to the convent where a rope ladder is let down from his window. D'Artagnan learns that Bazin let Aramis know that d'Artagnan was looking for him. D'Artagnan suggests to Aramis that he begin working as musketeer again. Aramis refuses to work with d'Artagnan saying he is comfortable where he is. Aramis does, however, tell d'Artagnan that Porthos is living in Picardy. Aramis escorts d'Artagnan and Planchet out of town. D'Artagnan returns in secret to observe Aramis with the Duchess de Longueville.

In Chapter 10, d'Artagnan finds Porthos in the Noyon area.

In Chapter 11, d'Artagnan learns that Porthos has lost his wife and although he is free from care and rich, he is not happy, because he does not have a title. D'Artagnan suggests that if Porthos works with him, he could earn the title of baron. Porthos tells d'Artagnan that he will join him if he can be promised the title. He also tells d'Artagnan that Athos can be found near Blois.

In Chapter 12, d'Artagnan thinks about Porthos' discontent with his own situation. He believes he would be satisfied if he were in Porthos' condition, even without a title. Before d'Artagnan leaves Porthos' estate, the two make plans to meet in Paris. D'Artagnan writes the cardinal to tell him he has had luck finding and employing the help of one of his friends.

Chapters 7 - 12 Analysis

Political divisions continue to be an important issue in this section of chapters. It is learned that Rochefort plans to join Gondy, the coadjutor, in protest against Mazarin. One of the most important parts of his discussions with both Aramis and Porthos revolve around their political affiliations. It is only because Porthos has no strong political affiliation that he agrees to aid d'Artagnan in working for Mazarin. Although Aramis will not commit to a particular political affiliation, d'Artagnan witnesses a secret meeting between Aramis and the Duchess de Longueville, a lady known to be opposed to Mazarin.



Another important theme that begins to develop in this section of the novel is the idea of personal satisfaction with one's life. Although d'Artagnan has been an invaluable servant to the queen, he received no recognition for his service to her. He is a poor lieutenant working in service to royalty. D'Artagnan is very unhappy with the way that his life has turned out, but feels that his service to Mazarin is a way for him to finally make a name for himself. Contrast d'Artagnan's view of his life with that of Porthos. Although Porthos has great riches, which d'Artagnan covets, Porthos is not happy either. He believes he would be happy if he had the title of baron in front of his name. The only person in this situation who is truly happy is Mousqueton. He also, however, feels the need to shorten his name to Mouston in order to get more respect from the servants who are under his command. Even d'Artagnan sees the irony of the situation where the servant, Mouston, is happy but the rich master, Porthos, is not.

Aramis' character is one that is apparently quite complex. He has become a Jesuit but seems to have none of the characteristics of a priest or monk. His quarters are highly decorated with expensive items and implements of battle. He admits to d'Artagnan that he cannot deliver the sermons that he writes because he tends to get distracted by any pretty women who might be in the congregation. Although most of the other inhabitants of Aramis' convent are asleep when d'Artagnan and Porthos ride into Noisy, Aramis is still awake, roaming about the town and sneaking people into the convent with the use of a rope ladder. Aramis does admit to d'Artagnan how much he misses being a musketeer.



Chapters 13 - 18

Chapters 13 - 18 Summary

In Chapter 13, Planchet and d'Artagnan are surprised when they find Athos in excellent shape living on a beautiful estate. They meet Athos' adoptive son, Raoul.

In Chapter 14, Athos tells d'Artagnan that all that he has is for Raoul, who was deserted by his mother at a priest's house. The two begin talking of Milady. Athos admits to d'Artagnan that he often thinks of the lady's son. The two also speak of Lord de Winter, Charles I, Henrietta of England and Aramis. D'Artagnan notices that Athos changes the subject when he is questioned about Aramis.

In Chapter 15, d'Artagnan wonders if someone had warned Athos that d'Artagnan was going to visit. The next morning, d'Artagnan suggests to Athos that he send Raoul away for a career in the army. In this line of conversation d'Artagnan asks Athos if he wishes to return to service. Athos tells d'Artagnan that the only person to whom he feels he can be useful is the king. When Athos realizes that d'Artagnan hopes to employ him in Mazarin's service, he becomes guarded. After breakfast, Athos receives two letters. D'Artagnan knows from the writing that one is from Aramis and the other from a lady. D'Artagnan also receives a letter which he tells Athos includes orders for him to return to Paris. As soon as he is out of Athos' sight, d'Artagnan rereads his letter. It actually orders him to return to Paris and collect two hundred pistoles from the king's treasurer.

In Chapter 16, there is a rumor going about Paris that Duc de Beaufort will escape from prison. Mazarin calls for La Ramee who assures Mazarin that Beaufort cannot escape.

In chapter 17, it is learned that Beaufort was arrested by the queen because he showed displeasure when Mazarin was made cardinal. While in prison, Beaufort has amused himself by finding ways to show his disrespect for Mazarin. At one time, Beaufort even tried to employ his guards to fight for him against Mazarin. La Ramee, who is Beaufort's main guard, allows Grimaud to help watch Beaufort so that he can see his family more often.

In Chapter 18, Grimaud takes Beaufort's comb away from him inspiring Beaufort to immediately dislike him. Grimaud continues to irritate Beaufort until one day he asks the other guard to leave him alone with Beaufort. Grimaud gives Beaufort a letter from Madame de Montbazon telling him that Grimaud is part of a plan to help Beaufort escape. Grimaud requests only that Beaufort will continue to pretend like he hates Grimaud.

Chapters 13 - 18 Analysis

One of the surprises in store for d'Artagnan and Planchet is the condition in which they find Athos. When they had known him earlier, Athos apparently had a drinking problem.



D'Artagnan and Planchet expect Athos to be an old and broken down old man because of his drinking. In reality, however, Athos is in excellent condition living on a beautiful estate. Athos shares with his friends that the secret of his happy life is Raoul, his adoptive son. Although Athos does not admit it and d'Artagnan does not ask outright, he wonders if Raoul is Athos' biological son because of the resemblance between the two.

In this section of the novel, a part of the musketeers' past, which will come to play a role in their current adventures is introduced. D'Artagnan and Athos briefly speak about a lady whom they call only "Milady." It is apparent from their conversation that the death of this lady is a situation of which the two men are not proud. Athos shows concern that she had a son who was left behind when she died. Besides this, however, Athos tells d'Artagnan that has no feelings of remorse for what they did. He believes Milady would have gone on with her cruelty, which apparently included having people killed, had they not stopped her.

One unusual response that d'Artagnan notices from Athos is his lack of interest in Aramis. As d'Artagnan talks about what he has learned about Aramis, he notices that Athos shows no curiosity about Aramis' chosen lifestyle and his relationships. Another unusual factor that d'Artagnan notices at Athos' estate is that his servant, Grimaud is not there. When d'Artagnan questions Grimaud's absence, Athos will say only that he has lent the servant to a friend. A few chapters later, Grimaud surfaces as Beaufort's new personal "jailer" who has been sent into the prison to help Beaufort escape. This, along with Athos' pretended lack of interest in Aramis, may give a clue that the two are both working on the side of the Fronde to help Beaufort get out of jail.

In Chapter 16, gears change quickly in the book as d'Artagnan is called back to the cardinal not only because he has a reward waiting for him for enlisting Porthos' service, but also because there are rumors circulating that Beaufort will escape from prison. It is learned that Beaufort is one of the unfortunate who has been imprisoned simply because he showed his dislike for Mazarin. Beaufort is unhappy because his jailers punish him in some way every time he tries to speak out against Mazarin. For instance, he can't draw offense Mazarin pictures because all of his paper has been taken away. The dog that Beaufort teaches offensive tricks is also mysteriously poisoned. Beaufort is even more unhappy when Grimaud becomes his guard. His attitude changes when Beaufort learns that Grimaud has been sent to help him escape.



Chapters 19 - 24

Chapters 19 - 24 Summary

In Chapter 19, Rochefort sends Grimaud and Beaufort a message in a tennis ball instructing Beaufort to request a pie from the newest confectioner. Although Le Ramee is a little bit suspicious when Beaufort suggests they have a supper together on Pentecost, he decides to have Grimaud with them for safety. Beaufort questions Grimaud about his escape but Grimaud can only tell him that pie he has requested will contain a knotted rope, two daggers and a choke pear.

In Chapter 20, Athos and Raoul arrive in Paris. Athos takes Raoul to meet Madame de Chevreuse. Athos has told the lady that she is the boy's mother, but warns her that Raoul is not aware who his mother or father is. Raoul tells the lady that he wishes to join the army, and she promises to support him in this career.

In Chapter 21, the townspeople of Paris are infuriated because the cardinal has stopped the Abbe Scarron's pension. During an evening at the Abbe Scarron's home, Madame de Chevreuse tells Athos that Raoul will have a place in the army. Athos has Raoul walk the lady to her carriage. She surprises Raoul by giving him a hug and kiss and wishing him good luck.

In Chapter 22, as Athos rides with Raoul to his destination to sign up for the army, Athos gives the young man advice considering how to be a good soldier, rider and shooter. The two go to a church where they visit the temporary sepulture of the former Cardinal Richelieu. It is here that Athos gives Raoul a sword, which was Athos' and his father's before that. Athos separates from Raoul.

In Chapter 23, as La Ramee and Beaufort begin their Pentecost meal, he asks Beaufort to describe one of the forty ways that he had thought of using to escape the prison. When Beaufort asks for the pie and pulls a dagger out of the pie, La Ramee realizes the escape plan is really happening. La Ramee asks only that Beaufort and Grimaud bind his hands and feet and gag him so that he will not appear to be an accomplice in Beaufort's escape. As Grimaud goes down a silk cord intended to carry him safely down the prison wall, the cord breaks and Grimaud falls into the moat. The duke, however, is able to climb down with no injury.

In Chapter 24, D'Artagnan takes Porthos to meet the cardinal. Mazarin is pleased when he learns that Porthos is rich and wishes only to become a baron in exchange for his service. While the two are with Mazarin a guard from Vincennes rushes in to tell Mazarin that Beaufort has escaped. D'Artagnan and Porthos go after the duke. On their way out of town, they accidentally knock down a man in the street.



Chapters 19 - 24 Analysis

Dumas has the habit of developing a theme or facet of his story up to a certain point, then leaving that particular story for another topic. In this section of six chapters, Dumas begins the story of Beaufort and his imprisonment. He builds up to a climax point just before the escape plan is about to play out and then switches gears and returns to the story of Raoul and Athos. Several chapters later, in chapter 23, Dumas returns to the story line involving Beaufort's escape.

In this section of chapters, the already unpopular cardinal loses what little respect he had from the people because he cuts off the pension of the invalid Abbe Scarron. It is rumored that the cardinal has left the popular invalid without his pension because the Abbe continues to allow the coadjutor to visit in his home even though the coadjutor is an enemy of the cardinal. This action shows the true nature of the cardinal. He has the habit of rewarding those who support him and punishing those who go against his wishes even if their actions aren't threatening to the cardinal. The cardinal also appears to be a miser, not only because he has cut the Abbe's pension but because in Chapter 24 it is noted that when D'Artagnan and Porthos visit the cardinal he is busy trying to decrease the list of beneficiaries and pensions.

Notice also in these chapters that Athos and Aramis meet with each other to talk at the home of a person, the Abbe Scarron, who is friends with the coadjutor, who is an enemy of the cardinal. This choice of a meeting place gives some indication that Athos and Aramis are working against the cardinal and in conjunction with each other. Later Raoul overhears the two making plans for something to occur at 6 p.m. the following day at Saint Mandé. Since it is Rochefort who has told Aramis about these arrangements it can be assumed that the two are to be included in the plan to help Beaufort in some way.

In chapter 23, La Ramee sets the perfect scene for Beaufort to introduce his plans for escape when he asks the prisoner to describe one of the ways that he might try to get out of prison. It is not until it is too late that La Ramee realizes that Beaufort is actually carrying out an escape plan and that he may actually escape, even under what La Ramee has believed to be close watch.

In Chapter 20 the reader learns that d'Artagnan was right in his suspicions about Raoul's parentage. Athos is Raoul's father, but when Athos takes the boy to meet his mother, he tells her that he does not wish the boy to learn who his parents are. In a weird twist of fate, Athos tricked Madame de Chevreuse, who was pretending to be a maid, into sleeping with him. It was from this union that Raoul was born. Madame de Chevreuse returns the baby boy to the priest whom she believes she slept with and is the boy's father. Since the infant is left anonymously, the priest does not know where the child came from. When Athos visits the priest, he puts the child's age, the date he and Madame de Chevreuse slept together and the fact the boy was left with the priest together to determine the boy is his. He "adopts" the boy and raises him as his own because the child is his own.



Chapters 25 - 30

Chapters 25 - 30 Summary

Chapter 25 details the experiences of Porthos, D'Artagnan, and Mouseton as they pursue the duke. At the conclusion of the chapter, they believe they have caught up with the duke and his followers.

In Chapter 26, D'Artagnan realizes they are fighting against Aramis and Athos. Because the duke, Aramis and Athos have fifty men with them, they allow D'Artagnan and Porthos to go free. They arrange a meeting as to decide how they should handle their division in loyalty. At the end of the chapter, it is learned that the man who was injured on the street when D'Artagnan and Porthos left town was Councillor Broussel.

In Chapter 27, d'Artagnan tries to back out of the planned meeting with Aramis and Athos but Porthos convinces him to attend. The four meet at the Place Royale as agreed. All are armed.

In Chapter 28, the four men share tense conversation at first but Athos inspires peace when he swears never to fight against any of his three friends. The other three follow suit.

In Chapter 29, after Raoul writes to Athos, he decides he and Olivian should try to catch up with the other young man who has joined the army. As the two ride up to catch a ferry, they hear a scream and see someone struggling in the water. Raoul jumps into the water and swims to the aid of the drowning man. The man turns out to be the Count de Guiche, the young man with whom Raoul had been trying to join.

In Chapter 30, Raoul, the count and Olivian spend the night at Noyon. The next day, Raoul and the count come upon some men who have been attacked.

Chapters 25 - 30 Analysis

It is in chapter 26 that the main difficulty of this novel is first introduced. The four musketeers, Athos, Aramis, Porthos and D'Artagnan, are together again but are divided by their loyalties. D'Artagnan and Porthos fight in the name of the cardinal. They have been sent to capture the duke. Athos and Aramis, however, are enemies of the cardinal and part of the uprising that has helped to free the duke. They must either fight against each other, with some of them standing a chance of being badly injured or killed, or one side must surrender to the other. It is d'Artagnan and Porthos who allow the duke to go free, mainly because Athos and Aramis have more manpower and would be able to easily overtake them. An interesting point in this section of the novel is that Beaufort sends a letter to the cardinal bragging on the valiant effort that d'Artagnan and Porthos put forth in trying to capture him. This letter of recommendation from a man who has



just been hunted down by his enemy seems very out of place. Perhaps a letter cursing the cardinal for sending men after him might have been more appropriate.

Another interesting aspect of this section of the novel is the distrust that the four friends suddenly feel toward one another once they learn they are on opposite sides. D'Artagnan is distrustful of Aramis especially after he realizes the man was not completely honest with him during their first discussion. In turn, Aramis and Athos are distrustful of d'Artagnan and Porthos because they are working for the cardinal. As a result of their distrust, all four wind up carrying weapons to the meeting. At the conclusion of the meeting, however, the four friends are able to overcome their differences and emerge as friends. D'Artagnan makes an interesting point as he discusses the differences in the four friends with Porthos before they have their meeting. He indicates that it is not actually the political differences that divide the four of them, but instead their own desires and ambitions that cause the differences. This point is interesting coming from d'Artagnan especially because it is he who is serving the cardinal, not because he believes the man has Paris in his best interests, but because he wants some recognition for himself. Athos and Aramis, on the other hand, don't seem to be fighting for the Fronde because they wish to gain any notoriety but because they believe in the principals of this group and believe the cardinal and his acts are bad for Paris and the people who live there.



Chapters 31 - 36

Chapters 31 - 36 Summary

In Chapter 31, Raoul and the count find that one of the men who was attacked has been mortally injured. They take the man to an inn, and on their way out of town, send a man whom they believe is a monk to absolve the man. Meanwhile, Grimaud stops at the same inn and hears the man, who has been identified as the executioner of Bethune, cry out as the "priest" takes his confession. Grimaud breaks into the room, but the monk is gone. There is a dagger in the man's side.

In Chapter 32, Dumas recounts what happened between the monk and the dying man. The man tells the monk about an execution he performed on a woman. When the executioner mentions the woman he killed was Anne de Bueil, the monk admits he is not a priest. He is the son of Anne of Bueil. He refuses to forgive the executioner.

In Chapter 33, the dying man warns Grimaud to tell the four musketeers of the danger to them. Grimaud rides to the inn and tells Raoul that he must return to Paris. Grimaud also tells Raoul that if he ever meets the monk again that he should kill him.

In Chapter 34, Raoul and the count meet with the prince and update him on the location of the enemy Spaniards. Raoul rides with the prince toward the city of Lens. A man from the village of Aunay leads to men to a spot where they can overlook the city of Lens. The prince sends Raoul to Monsieur de Grammont with a letter explaining how they will overtake Lens and save France.

The musketeers meet a second time in Chapter 35. It is during this meeting that Grimaud arrives and tells them that Milady's son is alive and on his way to Paris, seeking revenge for the murder of his mother.

In Chapter 36, the action of the novel moves to the wife and daughter of King Charles I. Lord de Winter brings the women a letter from the king reporting the dismal situation he is in with his subjects rebelling against him. De Winter tells the lady that her husband wants her to find out how Mazarin feels about King Charles. Madame Henrietta agrees to plead Charles' case to the cardinal.

Chapters 31 - 36 Analysis

The plot thickens in this portion of the novel as Mordaunt, the son of Milady, happens to be brought together with the man who killed Mordaunt's mother. The man, the former executioner of Bethune, was hired by the four musketeers to kill Milady. Although the executioner had killed many people in his job, he admits that it was this job that bothered him the most. It is for his actions in this death that the executioner wishes absolution for before he dies. Unfortunately, Mordaunt uses his accidental meeting with the man as a way to get information about the people involved in his mother's death. At



the conclusion of the executioner's story, Mordaunt not only does not absolve him, he actually inflicts another wound on the man, one certain to take his life. It is interesting to note the reaction of Raoul and the count to their first meeting with Mordaunt. Although they have never met this man before, they are instantly repulsed by his appearance and the oddity of his behavior.

Although the incident with Milady occurred nearly 20 years prior to this story, Dumas works this storyline into the current story in various ways. Some of the story is told as the musketeers discuss their former adventures together. More of the story is shared as the executioner tells his story to Mordaunt. This way of telling the story of Milady allows the narrator to stay distant from the action of the novel. As it is, the narrator only records the action going on in the present story.

Much of what happens in this section of the novel is the result of people being in just the right place at the right time. For instance, Mordaunt just happened to be riding into town as Raoul and the count were looking for a priest. The person who needs to be absolved just happens to be the one whom Mordaunt is looking for to get information about the death of his mother. Meanwhile, Grimaud just happens to arrive at the same hotel where the executioner is being "absolved" in time to hear the ruckus in the room. Grimaud and the executioner also happen to recognize one another so that the executioner can give Grimaud a warning to the musketeers that Mordaunt is after them.

Again in this section of the novel, Dumas changes to another topic just as he almost reaches a climax point in his story of the musketeers. Grimaud has just arrived at the inn and told the four friends Mordaunt is after them when Chapter 35 closes. Chapter 36, however, opens with a new problem faced by Henrietta, queen of England. In this chapter she receives a letter from her husband requesting her to find out if he can seek refuge in France.



Chapters 37 - 42

Chapters 37 - 42 Summary

In Chapter 37, John Francis de Winter, who has taken the name Mordaunt, appears before Mazarin with a letter from General Oliver Cromwell requesting that Mazarin refuse King Charles admittance into France.

In Chapter 38, Madame Henrietta presents her request that her husband be allowed to find refuge in France to Mazarin. Mazarin attempts to convince Henrietta that France is not safe for the king. Mordaunt waits until de Winter and Henrietta are finished with Mazarin, then follows them.

In Chapter 39, de Winter suggests to Henrietta the musketeers might be able to help her. As they talk, Raoul arrives with a letter saying that the battle of Lens had been won. De Winter connects Raoul with Athos and decides to go see Athos immediately.

In Chapter 40, Mordaunt follows de Winter up to his room. Mordaunt confronts de Winter about the murder of his mother but de Winter contends that she deserved her death. Morduant tells de Winter he will allow him to live until he discovers the names of the other four who aided him in the assassination of his mother.

In Chapter 41, Athos listens as Raoul tells about his battle experiences. As they talk, Athos sees de Winter standing in the doorway. De Winter tells Athos that Milady's son is in Paris. De Winter arranges a meeting for himself, Athos and Aramis on the following morning.

In Chapter 42, Queen asks Athos and Aramis to act as her husband's friends and protectors in England. The men agree to do so.

Chapters 37 - 42 Analysis

In this section of the novel, the reader learns that Mordaunt not only dislikes the four musketeers because he believes they were responsible for his mother's death, but he also hates King Charles I because he believes it is this man who was responsible for causing him to lose his title and his fortune. Mordaunt is the nephew of Lord de Winter, the man who had escorted Henrietta to Mazarin to seek refuge for King Charles. Mordaunt also hates his uncle because his uncle turned him away three times when Mordaunt was a child with not mother.

When Mordaunt appears before Mazarin as an emissary to General Cromwell, Mazarin shows interest in Mordaunt's story. Mazarin does not seem to be interested in the young man because he feels any sort of pity or compassion for him but his interest seems to be more because he sees the young man will do anything to get what he wants. This quality may be of special interest to Mazarin because Mazarin has the same



characteristics. Mazarin is willing to do whatever it takes, even destroying his own kingdom, to get what he wants.

Mordaunt shows his intelligence and cunning when he follows Lord de Winter back to his hotel to confront him with what he has learned about the death of his mother. Although Mordaunt could have taken revenge on de Winter and killed him at that point, Mordaunt instead has decided to let him live so that he can learn the identities of the men who helped with the murder of his mother. Although de Winter tries to convince Mordaunt of the threat that his mother was to society, Mordaunt will not be swayed and responds only that she was his mother. He asks what happened to the estate that should have been his through his father. Mordaunt assumes that de Winter is the one who took care of this estate, but the question is never directly answered.

Other important aspects of this chapter include Henrietta's visit to Mazarin. Her husband, King Charles I, want her to find out if Mazarin will allow him to seek refuge in France. Henrietta and one of her daughters is now living in France, albeit in poverty, because she is of French descent. Mazarin tries to reason with Henrietta that Charles would not be safe in France when he has, in reality no interest in the man's safety, he is only following the orders given to him by Cromwell. Because Cromwell hold more power than Charles or Henrietta, Mazarin would rather stay on this general's good side.



Chapters 43 - 48

Chapters 43 - 48 Summary

In Chapter 43, Mordaunt follows Athos, Aramis and de Winter to Boulogne where they expect to catch a boat to England. As they pass Morduant in the boat, Morduant warns de Winter that he now knows the identities of his companions. Aramis tries to fire his gun at the man but Athos stops him.

In chapter 44, a special Te Deum is planned in Paris in honor of the victory at Lens. During this celebration guards arrest Monsieur Broussel. Raoul stands up to the citizens who try to protest this arrest. D'Artagnan pulls Raoul from the mob just as he is about to faint.

In Chapter 45, Mazarin praises d'Artagnan and Porthos for their work during the arrest of the councilor. The queen ignores the coadjutor's request to release Broussel. When the coadjutor returns to his own home Broussel's son, Louvieres, is waiting to offer to aid him in overthrowing Mazarin. Three curates agree to help Gondy. They suggest Planchet, Count de Rochefort and the beggar Maillard as people who might be of help in this cause.

In Chapter 46, Planchet and Rochefort agree to join to revolt against Mazarin. During their meeting, the mendicant announces that he has found not five hundred men, but ten thousand men. He gives the sign for the men to start their work.

In Chapter 47, the workers gathered by the mendicant are busy preparing for the rebellion. The next morning, the queen sends Marechal de la Meilleraie to find out what is going on in the streets of Paris. Gondy approaches him and tells him that if he promises to demand the queen release Broussel he will be allowed to go back to the palace without being harmed. Meanwhile in the palace, a gunshot is fired into the palace and shatters one of the cardinal's mirrors. Porthos and d'Artagnan both suggest to Mazarin that he allow Broussel to be released to the people in order to stop the rebellion.

In Chapter 48, even after both Marechal and Gondy tell the queen the people will not stop the rebellion until Broussel is released, the queen refuses. The people force open the gates of the palace. Mazarin announces to the people that the queen is signing for Broussel's release in order to placate them.

Chapters 43 - 48 Analysis

In Chapter 43, Dumas presents a tone of fright and terror as Athos and Aramis realize they are being followed. Although they do not know the man who questions them about whether or not Mazarin is still in power, the two men comment that he looks like a female version of Milady. They notice that the man continues to stalk them as the wait



for de Winter to appear so they can board the boat to England. When the three are finally on a small boat that ferries them to the larger ship, Mordaunt stands on a point above them. The description of his placement above the men's boat puts him in a position that is not only physically higher than them, but also gives him the advantage of getting a clear view of de Winter's friends. Athos, Aramis and de Winter are exposed in the small boat with no place to hide should Mordaunt decide to try to shoot at them. They also have no way to hide their identity from their enemy. Aramis raises his gun to shoot Mordaunt but Athos knocks the gun off its target. The other two men are angry with Athos because he messed up Aramis' chance to kill this mortal enemy. However, this is not the first time that Athos has expressed pity for the young man whose mother they killed. It may be because Athos has his own son that he feels pity for this son of Milady.

Mazarin makes a major mistake in this portion of the novel when he has the Councilor Bousset arrested while the townspeople are celebrating a special Te Deum in honor of the victory at Lens. Nannette and Friquet make enough noise that the townspeople are alerted and rebel against the soldiers trying to take the councilor away. Believing that he is doing a good deed, Raoul rushes into the brawl and begins to fight against the townspeople. D'Artagnan pulls him out of the fighting before he gets badly injured and warns him not to tell anyone who he is. D'Artagnan explains to the young man that there is a difference between fighting for the king and fighting for Mazarin. In this case, the townspeople are rebelling against an action of Mazarin, a decision the king had little or nothing to do with. It is after the councilor is arrested that the people rebel in earnest. They are at the point of breaking into the palace when Mazarin tells them an order is being signed to release the councilor. Even though the councilor was arrested at Mazarin's command, Mazarin is two-faced in that he reverses his decision when he sees how badly this decision might affect him. He is highly upset when a bullet from a gun breaks a Venetian mirror in his room. He is also preoccupied with hiding his riches instead of trying to make peace. These actions show that Mazarin is more worried about his things instead of the people he should be serving.

After the arrest of the councilor, Gondy, the coadjutor, decides to start a revolution with the help of three leaders in Paris. When he sees how quickly the people of Paris get on board with the revolt and how passionately they work, Gondy expresses a fear that although he is the one who is starting the rebellion, he might not be able to end the rebellion. This fear that Gondy might lose control of what he has started stays in the back of his mind as he walks through the city looking at what those working in the rebellion have done to enforce the city.



Chapters 49 - 54

Chapters 49 - 54 Summary

In Chapter 49, Broussel is released and Paris appears to go back to normal. The people, however, are trying to develop a plan to kidnap the king. The queen, alternatively, consults with the Prince de Conde and forms a plan for herself and the king to leave Paris. Mazarin tries to prove to the queen she is a prisoner in her own city and will not be able to get out. He angers and humiliates her. Back in her own room, the queen decides to call on the help of d'Artagnan.

In Chapter 50, the queen and the cardinal both seek d'Artagnan's help in leaving Paris. A plan is worked out that will allow d'Artagnan and Porthos to help both of them. Porthos and d'Artagnan return to the Palais Royal as directed. They are armed to the teeth.

In Chapter 51, Mazarin tells d'Artagnan that he wants to leave Paris before the queen and king. He also returns d'Artagnan's ring to him. Mazarin is taken safely out of Paris.

In Chapter 52, d'Artagnan returns to Paris through a different gate then uses the coadjutor's carriage to get safely into the Palace Royal. Just as the king and queen are preparing to leave, the people arrive demanding proof the king is still in Paris. The king agrees to let himself be seen by the people, but requests that no one be allowed to touch him. D'Artagnan promises it will be so. After the people are satisfied by their look at the king and queen, they leave. The queen and her child are able to escape from Paris safely in the coadjutor's carriage.

In Chapter 53, the group that has abandoned Paris arrives at Saint Germain and the 200 people settle into the chateau there even though there are only three beds. Porthos and d'Artagnan 250 louis selling straw to the people for beds. Just as they are laying down to sleep d'Artagnan and Porthos are awakened. Mazarin once again gives d'Artagnan the letter to deliver. He and Porthos are to meet a man named Mordaunt in England whom he is to follow wherever he desires.

In Chapter 54, before leaving to meet Mordaunt, d'Artagnan, Porthos and Mosqueton go to Paris to settle some affairs. At his hotel in Paris, d'Artagnan has a letter from Athos warning d'Artagnan of the danger Morduant represents. As soon as d'Artagnan and Porthos reach Boulogne, they are met by a man who introduces himself as Morduant. He tells them the letter they carry is addressed to Cromwell and they must go to England with him.

Chapters 49 - 54 Analysis

One of the major events in this series of chapters is Anne of Austria's decision to take the young king and abandon Paris. She is angry with the people not only because they have rebelled against the royalty, but more so because they rebelled so strongly,



demanded, and then received, the release of Broussel. Anne believes the royalty of Paris should be followed and respected unconditionally, no matter how badly they rule. She has little patience with her rebelling people. At one point in this section, she says that she wishes that she could choke the people. As they try to leave Paris and the people come to the Palace Royal demanding to see the king because they have heard he has been taken from the city, it is d'Artagnan who gently encourages to queen to humor the people.

Notice also in this section both the queen and Mazarin's sudden allegiance to d'Artagnan when they realize their safety as well as the safety of the king depends on this man whom they have slighted in the past. When Mazarin talks to d'Artagnan about his desire to leave Paris safely, he finally returns the diamond ring to d'Artagnan. Mazarin does not give the ring back because this was what he was supposed to do to begin with. He gives it as a bargaining chip to try to influence d'Artagnan to do as Mazarin wishes. Ironically, however, this "bargaining chip" was never the rightful property of Mazarin to begin with since it was a gift from the queen to d'Artagnan. Although the queen does not stoop low enough to tempt d'Artagnan with material possessions, she does promise him that she will not forget him if he helps her and her son run from Paris, as she did the first time that he saved her life. One can only wonder if the queen actually planned to carry through with that intention.

It is also in this section of chapters that the reader is given proof of d'Artagnan's opinion of the cardinal and his way of ruling. As d'Artagnan is in a conference with Mazarin he thinks to himself that if Mazarin should suggest he plans to put d'Artagnan in jail, he would strangle Mazarin and then become Frondist. Although d'Artagnan serves Mazarin and does as the man wishes, it is clear here that his actions are out of duty alone and don't stem from any sense of loyalty.

Mazarin has already shown himself to be a shallow, selfish and greedy person. These characteristics are developed even further in this portion of the novel. First, Mazarin requests that he be taken out of Paris first. Although he gives excuses that his intention is not self-serving, he knows that he would be in trouble if the queen and king were to leave Paris first and the people were to find him there alone. Although a truly loyal servant would have wanted to see the king and queen safely out of Paris first, Mazarin is concerned only for his own safety. When d'Artagnan and the others are discussing whether the people should be allowed to see the king, those in the room see the king's thread bare bed sheets. Although it had been rumored how stingy Mazarin was with money, this documents that rumor. In fact, Mazarin is even stingy in the gift that he gives d'Artagnan in hopes to buy his safe passage out of Paris. Instead of giving d'Artagnan a new gift, a title, or even a gift in addition to, Mazarin only gives d'Artagnan back the ring given to him by the queen twenty years ago. Mazarin had been given the ring by the queen with instructions to return it to d'Artagnan so Mazarin is really only giving d'Artagnan back something that already belonged to him.

Another thread in the story is also developed as d'Artagnan and Porthos' next assignment given to them by Mazarin is to meet Mordaunt and follow him wherever Mordaunt wishes to go. D'Artagnan is not aware of who Mordaunt is until after he has



already promised Mazarin he will deliver the letter. At the conclusion of the final chapter in this section, it appears that d'Artagnan has decided to go with Mordaunt even though Porthos suggests that they go in search of their friends.

Another irony that comes to light in this section of the novel is the fact that Mazarin and the queen are actually being assisted by the Frondistis even though they don't realize it. Because d'Artagnan is not completely loyal to the cardinal and has many friends who are frondists, he is able to get both the cardinal and the queen out of Paris with very little uproar. Also, when the people demand to see the king in his bed, it is Planchet, a man who d'Artagnan trusts to have no ill intentions against the king, who steps forward to positively identify that it is the king in the bed and not some impostor.



Chapters 55 - 60

Chapters 55 - 60 Summary

In Chapter 55, Morduaunt is taking d'Artagnan and Porthos to Durham instead of London. Meanwhile, Athos and Aramis meet with Lord de Winter at a royalist camp near Newcastle. The two men tell de Winter and King Charles that Cromwell has bought Charles from the Scottish for two hundred thousand pounds. The two men beg him to escape to Scotland where he can rejoin Lord Montrose, whom they believe will not allow him to be sold. Charles finally agrees and the group is about to ride out when they see the enemy approaching them. The king asks his troops to fight against the enemy but they refuse.

In Chapter 56, Charles, Winter, Aramis and Athos make another escape plan but Mordaunt foils the plan when he recognizes de Winter and kills him. In a twist of fate, Porthos and d'Artagnan take Aramis and Athos "prisoner." King Charles is also taken prisoner.

In Chapter 57, Mordaunt congratulates Cromwell on his victory in capturing King Charles but Cromwell chides Mordaunt for killing his own uncle. Mordaunt reminds Cromwell that the treaty that gave him King Charles was Mordaunt's idea and asks for In exchange for two prisoners whom Mordaunt claims are friends of his.

In Chapter 58, once their "prisoners" are safe, Athos and Aramis learn how d'Artagnan and Porthos came to have joined forces with Mordaunt. As they talk about what their futures might hold, Mordaunt rides up to the house in which they are staying. Mordaunt announces that the prisoners have been given to him by Cromwell. D'Artagnan asks for proof in writing. When Mordaunt leaves to get the written order horses are prepared for the four friends so they can "escape" before Mordaunt returns.

In Chapter 59, the group rides out of Durham. D'Artagnan plans for them to return to France but Athos tells him that he and Porthos cannot leave England. Athos says they must attempt to defend and save the king. At the end of their discussion, Athos and Aramis have convinced d'Artagnan and Porthos to remain in England and fight for the king.

In Chapter 60, the four friends reach a house at which they hope to have supper and find signs that there has been a fight. They find a wounded man, who is the brother of King Charles' lackey, in one of the rooms. The friends learn this man led an attempt to help the king escape when he was brought to the house for food. During this unsuccessful escape attempt the brother was injured. D'Artagnan decides the best line of action for the group to take is to join the men who are escorting the king. They also manage to pass along information to the king in a masked way that Parry's brother was not killed, merely injured.



Chapters 55 - 60 Analysis

Notice in this section of the novel, Dumas makes a break in the action of novel for the writer to make a direct comment to the audience. This comment comes just at the beginning of Chapter 55 as Mordaunt heads to Durham, England with d'Artagnan and Porthos. The two friends believe they are instead headed to London. Instead of his usual shift from one story line to another where Dumas simply begins the next chapter with another topic, he feels the need here to tell his readers that d'Artagnan and Porthos are actually headed to Durham, a place very close to Fairfax.

Also important in this section of the novel is de Winter's precursor that he will be killed. De Winter first notices the color of the moon, which he describes as red, as he talks to Athos and Aramis. It is also noted by de Winter that Henry IV said he saw splotches of red before he was killed. The next day, de Winter says that he sees splotches of red on the ground when he walks. It is that same day that he is killed, or perhaps more correctly murdered, by his nephew as he tries to help King Charles escape from the Scottish.

The unadulterated evil of Mordaunt's character becomes clear in this section of the novel. The reader learns that it was Mordaunt who arranged for King Charles to be purchased from Cromwell by the Scottish. Although Mordaunt believes this should be a great victory for Cromwell, Cromwell does not seem to be of the same mind as Mordaunt. Cromwell also cannot seem to comprehend that Mordaunt killed his own uncle on the battlefield. In fact, Cromwell seems to be having difficulty believing that he is taking counsel from such an unfeeling person. At the conclusion of these chapters, Cromwell says to himself that he is a person with no friends when even King Charles, who is believed to be a tyrant, has friends willing to die for him.

The division in the beliefs of the four friends is called under question as Aramis and Athos try to convince d'Artagnan and Porthos they must stay in England and try to help King Charles. Athos and Aramis claim themselves to be gentlemen fighting on the side of fallen royalty while d'Artagnan and Porthos have been part of the force responsible for imprisoning the man whom they hope to save. In fairness to d'Artagnan and Porthos, they had no idea what they were getting into when they went with Mordaunt. They did not even know their destination as they were taken to Durham instead of London, the place they believed they were going. This division in loyalties between Aramis and Athos, and d'Artagnan and Porthos will continue to color the way they deal with their attempt to try to free King Charles.

Betrayal is a main topic of this section of the novel as King Charles' people, the Scottish sell him to Cromwell. Although Charles is king of England, he is Scottish by nationality. The Scots had agreed to fight on Charles' side against the people of England but when they are not paid, they are quickly convinced to give up the king in exchange for money. Note that the Scots aren't even given the full price they are owed in back pay for the king, they are happy to part with the man for only half of the money actually owed to them. Cromwell is stuck in the unhappy position of being the one who allows the Scots

to go along with this deal even though it was Mordaunt's idea. Cromwell will always be remembered as the man who convinced the Scottish to betray their fellow countryman for money. At one point Cromwell notes that he wants nothing to do with the Scottish and hopes they will go back to their own country and hide in their shame. Although out loud Cromwell says that he believes the Scottish should be ashamed of themselves, it seems it is really he that is ashamed because he allowed the deal to betray the king to go through.



Chapters 61 - 66

Chapters 61 - 66 Summary

In Chapter 61, d'Artagnan concentrates on making friends with Groslow and convinces him to allow his guards to play games while they watch King Charles. D'Artagnan and his friends devise a plan to rescue the king on the second night they play cards. The escape plan is halted when a group of soldiers disrupts the card party with news the king is to be taken directly to London. Mordaunt tries to have the four musketeers taken prisoner but they escape and are able to trick the guards by hiding under a bridge.

In Chapter 62, the four friends arrive in London. They change their clothes and appearance so they will blend in with the Puritans. Dressed in this way, they watch as the king is escorted into London. They also learn that indictments against the king were drawn up before the king had even arrived in the city.

At the trial in Chapter 63, there are 65 men sent to serve as guards including Mordaunt. As the trial commences, Athos realizes that the king has already been condemned. As the sentence is read, Athos speaks out in favor of the king but Athos' outburst only allows Mordaunt to know the identities of the men whom he wishes to kill. Mordaunt orders the soldiers to fire at the bench on which the men are sitting but they are not hit. At the conclusion of the chapter, King Charles is forced to walk past the axe of the executioner when he leaves the court room.

In Chapter 64, Aramis pretends to be Bishop Juxon in order to talk to King Charles about another escape attempt. When Aramis leaves the king and returns to his own clothes, he notices Porthos is following him. It has been Porthos' job to be sure that Aramis remained safe. Athos has also done his job by getting them a boat on which they can escape to the open sea. D'Artagnan has sold the queen's diamond for the money needed to lock up the executioner. The executioner's assistant had his leg broken at the site of the execution and agrees to have four men sent to take his place. Aramis, Athos, Porthos and d'Artagnan take the place of these four construction workers.

In Chapter 65, King Charles learns that the four chevaliers are pretending to work on the scaffolding but in reality are removing a portion of the wall. Their plan is to make a trapdoor under the king's room, so that he can disguise himself as one of the workmen, then slip out unnoticed before the execution. As Athos is waiting for the sign that he can cut the trap door without being discovered, Aramis visits the king again. During their visit, men come to the king's room to tell him another executioner has stepped in to take the place of the one who had gone missing. Charles asks to see his children one last time, then gives his confession to Juxon.

In Chapter 66, Athos wonders why he is not given the sign to continue working, so he creeps to the hole in the wall below the scaffolding to look. He sees people gathering



and hears footsteps above him. Athos hears the king request to be allowed to speak to the people. The king requests a moment to pray. During this time he kneels down and speaks to Athos, who is under the scaffold. He tells him of a treasure of gold buried in the cellars of Newcastle Keep. Athos feels blood drop on his face when the executioner strikes at Charles' command.

Chapters 61 - 66 Analysis

In this section of chapters, the four friends concentrate on saving King Charles. Although their attempts are well-meaning and generally well thought out, all of their plans fail. Perhaps the most upsetting rescue attempt comes just before King Charles' execution when the friends believe they have a plan for Charles' escape that cannot fail. Note that d'Artagnan once again is forced to sell the diamond given to him by the queen in order to pay someone to kidnap and lock up the executioner.

One mystery that is introduced but not answered in this section of the chapters is that of the identity of the man who steps in to execute the king. No one in the crowd seems to know who this man is. Because his face is covered, he cannot be seen. The only hint of who he might be is the edge of a grey beard peeking out from under the executioner's mask.

As the more emotionally driven of the four friends, it is sadly appropriate that Athos should be the one under the scaffolding when the king is killed. It is apparent that Athos cares deeply for the king even though this attachment is never fully explained in the novel. Athos' reaction to the living conditions being endured by Henrietta and her daughter, Charles' wife and daughter, was one of surprise and disbelief that these ladies could be treated as they are. He is similarly surprised that Charles' people will allow him to be killed.



Chapters 67 - 72

Chapters 67 - 72 Summary

In Chapter 67, Athos and Aramis wrap the cross and order that King Charles wanted given back to his wife in the bloodstained handkerchief. Athos voices his displeasure at d'Artagnan's position in the front row at Charles' execution. D'Artagnan tells Athos he plans to stay in London until he finds out who the executioner was. He tells Athos he followed the executioner to a house that Grimaud is keeping watch over. When the four friends go to the house, Grimaud climbs to a window and identifies the men inside as Cromwell and Mordaunt.

In Chapter 68, Cromwell tells Mordaunt he had hoped Charles would be saved from his execution. He explains to Mordaunt the ship on which the four musketeers planned to flee with Charles out of town on had five barrels of powder in the hold. Cromwell offers the boat to Mordaunt for his personal agenda if he wants it. Cromwell leaves by way of a secret passage so that when Grimaud climbs up to the window again, Mordaunt is alone. D'Artagnan and Porthos stop Mordaunt on his way out.

In Chapter 69, a duel is suggested. Although d'Artagnan wants to fight Mordaunt first, Mordaunt will fight no one other than Athos first. Mordaunt interprets Athos' refusal as fear. It is suggested they draw names to determine who will fight first. d'Artagnan's name is drawn. During the fight, Mordaunt arranges himself so that he has access to the hidden door to the secret passage and is able to escape. D'Artagnan suggests at this point that if they stay in London they will be killed.

In Chapter 70, Mordaunt leaves through the secret passage and reaches the boat almost an hour before his foes. Groslow, who is in command of the boat, hides Mordaunt on board. When the musketeers arrive at the boat, d'Artagnan is distrustful, but the men agree they can take care of the captain if he does not do as directed. Once on board, d'Artagnan has the captain take him for a tour of the boat. He sees the barrels but believes the captain when he says they are full of port wine.

In Chapter 71, Blaisois, Grimaud and Mousqueton decide to try some of the port wine. While in the hold with the barrels, Grimaud hears a man he recognizes as Mordaunt discussing the wick with the captain of the ship. Grimaud recognizes the captian as Groslow. When he comes out of the hold, they servants look at the flask that Grimaud filled and realize the barrels contain gun powder and not liquor.

In Chapter 72, the three servants hurry to tell d'Artagnan what they have learned. D'Artagnan wakes the others and tells them what is happening. D'Artagnan orders his men to jump out the window into the ocean and swim to the small boat tied up behind the ship. Once they are all on board, Athos cuts the rope and the small boat separates from the larger vessel.



Chapters 67 - 72 Analysis

In this section of the novel, Cromwell's cowardice becomes evident. Although he wanted the king dead, he did not want to seem like the one responsible for having done the deed. Cromwell had intended for Charles and his friends to escape, only to be killed on the ship they had hired to escape. In this way, Cromwell believed the people would be more pacified because they would see the fate in the fact that even though Charles escaped the executioner, he could not escape the judgment of God as he was killed on the ship. Although this death would have been just as much Cromwell's doing as Charles' death by the executioner, Cromwell seems to think it would have been better had Charles died in the ship.

Even though Cromwell is unhappy with Mordaunt, whom he seems to strongly suspect of being the executioner even though Mordaunt won't take responsibility, Cromwell allows him to use the ship loaded with gunpowder. Mordaunt believes that with this ship, he will finally be able to put an end to his four enemies, however, it is a lucky chance that the musketeer's servants decide to try to help themselves to some port wine because they discover the plot and are able to warn the musketeers before it is too late.

One theme of the novel is addressed in this section when the four musketeers learn the identity of the men who are in the house to which d'Artagnan followed the executioner. When he learns that one of the two men inside is Mordaunt, Athos makes the comment that it is "fatality." Fatality is the idea that if a certain thing is determined by fate, such as the death of King Charles, it will happen no matter what effort one puts into keeping it from happening. This strike of fate is even more bitter because it is Mordaunt, the bitter enemy of the four friends, who has assisted fate.



Chapters 73 - 78

Chapters 73 - 78 Summary

In Chapter 73, the musketeer watch as the men left behind on the ship search for their escape vessel. Mordaunt has already lit the fuse before those on board realize their boat is gone. He jumps into the sea but the captain and other three men are consumed by the explosion. After the noise of the explosion is finished, the musketeers hear Mordaunt's cries for help. Athos' pity is roused and he keeps d'Artagnan from hitting the man on the head with an oar. When Athos reaches out his arm to Mordaunt, Mordaunt pulls Athos overboard to drown with him. As they watch, Mordaunt's body floats back to the surface with a dagger in his chest. Athos, in turn, climbs into the boat.

In Chapter 74, Mouston voices his fear that the others may choose to eat him if they are unable to reach land soon. However, he discovers the provisions of bread, wine and salted meat stored on the boat. After eating, the men sleep. They are awakened at dawn by Athos who has spotted a boat which takes them back to France. One on France's soil, the four decide to split up again.

In Chapter 75, d'Artagnan and Porthos learn that the queen is in full war with Paris because they asked her to return, which she refused, then they asked Mazarin to be replaced, which she also refused. When Athos and Aramis try to enter Paris they are at first believed to be Mazarin spies. Planchet recognizes them and they are allowed access to the town. The two also learn from Planchet that Raoul is doing well.

In Chapter 76, Athos and Aramis arrive at Queen Henrietta's palace but three other men have arrived ahead of them. These men are reporting to Henrietta that her husband was condemned to die but was saved by an indignant people and is alive and well. The queen begs Athos and Aramis to tell their stories also. Athos begins by saying he believes the men are mistaken in their story. He gives the queen the cross and order belonging to Charles. After Athos and Aramis have words with the two men who lied to the queen, they go to see Raoul.

In Chapter 77, Athos and Aramis happen to see again Monsieur de Flamarens and Monsieur de Chatillon with the cardinal. These three men are allowed to walk freely wherever they wish in the city. When the two arrive at the hotel of Monsieur de Bouillon, who is unable to fight because of his gout, they are surprised to learn the Flamarens has also told Bouillon that King Charles is still alive. They convince the man that Charles has been executed. They also encourage Bouillon to accept whatever proposition has been given by Chatillon. Next, Athos and Aramis pay a visit to Monsieur de Beaufort. They meet Flamarens and Chatillon leaving this place also. They also see their old friend Rochefort who asks if they still fight on the side of the Frondeists. The next day Athos and Aramis become concerned because d'Artagnan and Porthos have not met them in Paris yet. With nothing else to do, the men decide to join the battle against Chatillon.



In Chapter 78, when they reach the battlefield, Athos and Aramis find there has been a truce and a conference is now underway. They ask about d'Artagnan but no one has seen him. As they go to see Raoul, the truce is broken and battle begins again. During the battle, Aramis shoots Chatillon. He and Athos also locate Raoul and take him "prisoner." They learn that Raoul had been sent on a mission to carry a message to the cardinal when he rode into the battle. Athos and Aramis read the message, which they believe makes reference to d'Artagnan and Porthos. They seek out Planchart, whom they believe might have been killed, but find the citizens of Paris still drinking and carousing at the Place Royal.

Chapters 73 - 78 Analysis

Athos' idea of fatality carries through this section of the novel as the evil son of the equally evil Milady is killed. For a second time, Athos has pity on Mordaunt, believes he is truly penitent and tries to pull him into the boat to keep him from drowning. Instead, Mordaunt pulls Athos overboard and attempts to kill him. Remember that when the musketeers first faced Mordaunt in Cromwell's house in London, it was Athos whom Mordaunt wanted to kill him. Although Athos refused to do so at the time, Mordaunt has gotten his wish in a way because Athos is put in a position where he must fight against the man. Athos later tell his friends that he believes that Mordaunt's death was destiny.

Although Athos and Aramis want to get out of England as quickly as possible, d'Artagnan and Porthos are not as eager to leave. When Mazarin sent d'Artagnan and Porthos to England it was with the intention of them serving Cromwell, not assisting in an escape attempt for King Charles. If d'Artagnan and Porthos return to France, they stand the chance of getting arrested because they disobeyed orders. For this reason, the four separate when they reach France. When d'Artagnan and Porthos have not joined Athos and Aramis by the appointed time in Paris, they assume that the two have been arrested.



Chapters 79 - 84

Chapters 79 - 84 Summary

In Chapter 79, Athos and Aramis leave Paris in search of d'Artagnan and Porthos. They begin to find clues the men have left as to their whereabouts including a carving on a table at Montreuil, a chalk drawing on a wall and scratchings on a boulder. The clues lead them to the inn The Peacock where they learn that d'Artagnan and Porthos were arrested by men in the king's service and taken toward the town of Louvres. At another inn they find a scratched note indicating their friends are being taken to Rueil. As they question the people in Rueil, they are able to learn nothing of their friends. Athos proposes they go to the queen but Aramis refuses to go with him. As Athos prepares for his meeting with the queen, Armais heads back to Paris to gather an army of supporters.

In Chapter 80, Athos gets an appointment with the queen with surprising ease. The queen says she knows nothing of the two, but the cardinal tells Athos that d'Artagnan and Porthos have been arrested because they disobeyed his orders. The queen and Mazarin make a show of helping Athos, but after he leaves, the queen issues an order for him to be arrested. When a man comes to ask Athos for his sword, Athos calls out the window to Aramis that he has been arrested.

In Chapter 81, the deputation that speaks in Athos' favor lets it be known that they want Mazarin to be done away with. He decides to do what the people want and announces his retirement. Once the deputies leave, however, Mazarin indicates to Anne that he does not intend to retire.

In Chapter 82, after his discussion with Anne, the cardinal escorts Athos to Rueil. Aramis follows the group as far as the road to Paris, then separates from them. Aramis requests to be allowed to see his friends but Mazarin will not allow him to do so. He first wants to talk to Athos alone. When Comminges tells Athos this, Athos asks only that he tell d'Artagnan that they are prisoners in the same facility.

In Chapter 83 Comminges tells d'Artagnan and Porthos that Athos is a prisoner in the same building as they when he delivers their supper. D'Artagnan also manages to learn from Comminges that Mazarin walks alone every evening in the orangery where they are being held.

In Chapter 84, d'Artagnan begins to tell Porthos about his plans to break out of their prison. He has Porthos remove one of the iron bars from the window of their jail cell then lures one of the guards to stand on a bench outside the window so that Porthos can grasp him by the neck and pull him in. Porthos then snags the second guard. They strip the two guards so that they will have disguises and weapons for their escape. D'Artagnan plans for the two to escort Mazarin to his visit with Athos. The two are locked into a guardroom while Mazarin passes into the orangery. D'Artagnan and

Porthos block one of the entrances to this room and then plan for Porthos to break the other door down.

Chapters 79 - 84 Analysis

In this section of chapters, Athos and Aramis have finally gotten some solid clues as to what has happened to d'Artagnan and Porthos. Athos visits the queen and allows himself to be arrested. He might have done this in the hopes that he would be taken to the same prison where his friends are being kept. If this is the case, Athos is taken to the same jail as his friends. When d'Artagnan learns that Athos is also in jail with them, he devises an escape plan which he believes the three of them, working together, can carry out.



Chapters 85 - 90

Chapters 85 - 90 Summary

In Chapter 85, D'Artagnan and Porthos find the cardinal in a secret underground room where he keeps money stored. They hear Mazarin discussing with himself how he has enough to pay off five councilors of parliament and two generals. As Mazarin looks for a man to stand guard during his discussion with Athos, d'Artagnan and Porthos step forward and offer their services. Mazarin tries to offer the two their liberty, but d'Artagnan reminds Mazarin he is now their prisoner and must buy his own freedom. D'Artagnan asks that they be taken to visit Athos.

In Chapter 86, d'Artagnan and Porthos are reunited Athos. D'Artagnan convinces the cardinal to show them the way out of the jail. When they reach the wall, d'Artagnan surprises the cardinal by having Porthos hand the cardinal over the wall. When d'Artagnan indicates to Mazarin he knows of the secret treasure, the cardinal admits he is ruined. At the cardinal's suggestion, the men follow the wall until d'Artagnan touches something warm that moves. Grimaud has been posted there to take care of the horses left there by Aramis.

In Chapter 87, Aramis tells Porthos and d'Artagnan that he is there because had heard the cardinal was going to transfer his prisoners from Rueil to Melun and planned to wait in ambush for them. He also has intercepted a letter from the cardinal telling the queen that the coffers are empty. It is not until d'Artagnan "introduces" the cardinal to Aramis that he realizes that they have the cardinal as their captive. The men, including Raoul who has joined them, have decided to take the cardinal to Porthos' estate to hold him prisoner. Mazarin warns the men that once the people know they have Mazarin in their possession they will be besieged. He also asks for the conditions under which the men will allow him to go free. They him that he must agree to the general conditions as requested by the people of Paris as well as some personal requests by the musketeers. The men make Mazarin sign the treaty presented to him by the Fronde and d'Artagnan prepares to take the signed treaty to the queen.

Before he leaves Porthos' estate in Chapter 88, d'Artagnan makes efforts to be sure that none of his friends consider letting Mazarin go free. In Saint Germain, Anne of Austria has told no one yet of the disappearance of Mazarin. The queen holds that d'Artagnan should be arrested. D'Artagnan tries to convince the queen, that action is not in her best interests because if that happens, Mazarin will be handed over to parliament. D'Artagnan vows to her that he does not intend his comments to be taken as threats but reminds her that the men whom she threatens have been her servants for the past twenty years even though they were largely forgotten. D'Artagnan shows the queen the conditions, then repeats the personal requests that he and his friends have. When the queen cries at the conclusion of their conversation, d'Artagnan finds himself telling her that she may have the cardinal back under no obligations. The queen, however, tells



d'Artagnan that he was right in the items he has requested from her. She grants him his requests and asks only that he return the cardinal as soon as possible.

In Chapter 89, as the queen, king and Mazarin plan to make their way back to Paris, the queen asks d'Artagnan to guard the king's side of the coach. Porthos is set on the left side of the coach to guard the cardinal. As the carriage makes its way to the Palais Royal, the people begin to curse Mazarin. Two men seem to be leading armed forces against the king and cardinal. Rochefort, whom d'Artagnan recognizes only after he has fatally hit him with sword, is one of the leaders. Porthos kills a man who he does not recognize immediately, but is later identified as Maillard. The man makes Friquet, who goes after the coadjutor so he can confess, his heir. D'Artagnan and Porthos are invited to dinner with the king after they arrive back at the Palais Royal.

In Chapter 90, the four friends separate from one another and return to their own lives.

Chapters 85 - 90 Analysis

In these chapters, the musketeers learn that the secret to peace in Paris comes only by separating the cardinal and queen from one another. They have discovered that although Mazarin has sent a letter to the queen telling her they have no more money, they actually do have money that Mazarin is planning on using to pay off certain members of parliament. The musketeers kidnap the cardinal and tell him he will only be released to go back to the protection of the queen if he agrees to the demands of the people. In turn, d'Artagnan pays the queen a visit and tells her the only way she will get the cardinal back is to also agree to the terms set forth by the people of Paris. D'artagnan almost cracks when the queen cries from embarrassment, but when d'Artaganan tries to withdraw all of his demands, she tells him that he is right in forcing her to sign the treaty.



Characters

Mordaunt or John Francis de Winter

Mordaunt is the son of Milady. He is twenty-three years old but believes he is actually older because of his experiences in life. He hates the four musketeers and the executioner of Bethune because they killed his mother. He also hates his uncle, Lord de Winter because he believes this man stole money that should have come to Mordaunt through his father's side of the family. Mordaunt also hates King Charles because he believes this man took away the royal title and privilege that should have been his. Since the time he was a young boy he has lived with a minister from Kingston. Before the age of five, he lived with a French nurse, but this nurse turned him out on the street when no one came to pay his bills. Mordaunt has asked his uncle for help, only to have his uncle deny their relationship, an act that only deepened Mordaunt's hate for the man. Of all the musketeers, Mordaunt seems to hate Athos the most which is strange because it is Athos who feels the most pity and compassion for the boy whom he and his friends left an orphan.

Mordaunt is able to get revenge on most of his enemies by siding with Cromwell. For instance, it is Mordaunt who delivers the letter to Mazarin requesting that he not allow King Charles solace in France. Mordaunt is also the one who suggests that money be offered to the Scottish in exchange for King Charles. During one of the escape attempts devised by the musketeers, Mordaunt takes the opportunity to shoot and kill his uncle. The musketeers have also made a plan to delay the execution of King Charles by detaining the executioner in the hopes that this will give them time to allow the king to escape. These plans are squelched when Mordaunt steps in the place of the executioner and kills King Charles himself. Mordaunt is also able to take his revenge on the executioner of Bethune as he is sent to take the man's confession because he is believed to be a priest. After the man confesses to the execution of Mordaunt's mother, Mordaunt not only refuses to forgive the man, but also stabs him in the chest with a dagger.

The only people Mordaunt is not able to get revenge on is the three musketeers. Mordaunt believes that he will be able to kill all four of these men by blowing up a boat loaded with gunpowder. To make sure the job is done correctly, Mordaunt even lights the fuse himself. He does not realize that the musketeers have learned of his plan to kill them and have already escaped in the boat that Mordaunt intended to use as an escape vessel. When Mordaunt realizes what is about to happen, he jumps overboard and swims toward the smaller escape boat. He pretends to be penitent and arouses Athos' pity. When Athos reaches out to him, Mordaunt pulls Athos overboard. Mordaunt is fatally stabbed by Athos as they struggle in the water.



d'Artagnan

D'Artagnan is the main character of the novel. When d'Artagnan first enters the action of the novel, he has been serving as a lieutenant in the musketeers for twenty years. He is called into service by Mazarin because he happened to be in the anteroom of Mazarin's chambers when Mazarin called for someone to be of service to him. For the past twenty years, d'Artagnan has wanted nothing but to be of service to someone. He believes that he is finally getting this opportunity when he is called upon by Mazarin. D'artagnan does not realize that when he tries to enlist his friends to help him that two of these men will be fighting on the opposite side from himself.

D'Artagnan is first sent by Mazarin to capture Rochefort who has escaped from jail. D'artagnan and his side kick, Porthos do catch up with the man but find him in the company of their friends Athos and Aramis, and fifty other armed guards. D'Artagnan and Porthos are forced to return to Mazarin empty handed. The next task given to d'Artagnan is to escort the king, queen and Mazarin out of the city of Paris safely. D'artagnan is successful in this task but the next task goes badly astray. D'Artagnan and Porthos are sent with Mordaunt to aid Cromwell in his fight against King Charles. Instead of aiding Cromwell, however, the two actually assist Aramis and Athos in a plan to help Charles escape. The plan does not succeed, but d'Artagnan and Porthos realize their disobedience will result in their arrest when they return to France.

One of d'Artagnan's best qualities is his resourcefulness. While in prison, he devises a plan to get himself, Porthos, and Athos out of jail and also kidnap the cardinal. With the cardinal in his possession, d'Artagnan has a bargaining chip to use against the queen. Although d'Artagnan feels guilty manipulating the queen, he does get her to agree to the demands of the people and the musketeers. The queen also admits to d'Artagnan that he is correct in the arguments that he has used against her. At the conclusion of the novel, d'Artagnan has been promoted to captain and has been put in charge of his own group of musketeers. He also make a promise to the king that he will always be available to protect him whenever this protection is necessary.

Athos Comte de la Fere

Athos is one of the original four musketeers. He surprises d'Artagnan and Planchet when they first visit him because they expected him to be old and broken down as a result of his drinking. Instead he is in good health and living on a beautiful estate. He has adopted son named Raoul who is actually his own son even though he does not want Raoul to know the circumstances of his birth or who his parents are. Athos tells d'Artagnan and Planchet that he bought his estates with the money he received when he got out of the army. Athos openly tells d'Artagnan that he cannot serve Mazarin. He does not tell him that he and Aramis are secretly concocting a plan to free Beaufort from jail or that he is a supporter of the Frondist party.

Athos appears to be the most emotionally sensitive of the four men in the novel, especially when it comes to the execution of Milady. Although he admits she was a cruel



woman and that the four men were probably meting out divine justice, he still feels guilt, especially when he considers that the lady had a child. At one point in the novel, Athos tells his friends that if Raoul were killed in battle, it would probably be justice for the death of Milady. When the four friends are threatened by Mordaunt, Milady's son, Athos feels pity for him even though he knows the man wants to kill them. At one point, Aramis has a clean shot of Mordaunt but Athos pushes the gun so that Mordaunt is not killed. After the explosion on the boat, Mordaunt pretends to be repentant and begs the musketeers pull him into their boat. When Athos reaches out, the man pulls Athos overboard in an attempt to drown him. Athos stabs Mordaunt with his dagger killing him.

Aramis The Abbe D'Herblay

Aramis enters the action of the novel by jumping onto the back of Planchet's horse in Noisy. Aramis has become an abbe and is living in a Jesuit convent. Aramis, however, does not appear to be dedicated to his calling as he does not follow the demands to be poor and has been released from the practice of fasting because of health reasons. While the other monks are asleep, Aramis is busy sneaking out of his room by way of a rope ladder. It can be assumed that during several of these nocturnal travels are spent visiting Madame de Longueville, a Frondist supporter.

When d'Artagnan first approaches Aramis about working for Mazarin, Aramis will claim no political affiliation but claims to be happy where he is. It can be deduced, however, that Aramis and Athos have been in communications about their support of the Frondist. They have also been creating a plan to help Rochefort escape from jail. Aramis discovers with assistance from Athos where d'Artagnan and Athos have been imprisoned. While Athos allows himself to be arrested and taken to the same jail as d'Artagnan and Porthos, Aramis goes to Paris for help in organizing a group of men to besiege the prison and free his three friends.

Porthos du Vallon de Bracieux de Pierrefonds

Porthos is another main character of the novel. He is one of the original four musketeers. Porthos is rich. He lives in ease on a beautiful estate. His wife, whom he apparently did not like, has passed died. Despite the benefits that life has brought him, Porthos is not happy. He believes the only thing that will make him happy will be to add the title of baron to his name. He believes also that people will respect him if he is a baron. For this reason, Porthos quickly agrees to join d'Artagnan in his quest when he is promised it will give him to opportunity to earn his title of baron.

One characteristic that sets Porthos apart from the others is his large size and incredible strength. These characteristics are not introduced until Porthos and d'Artagnan are in jail and d'Artagnan calls upon Porthos to pull a bar out of the window so they can snag the guards. In one part of the novel, Porthos is referred to as being prideful, in another he is described as being a good soldier. Information in the novel also notes that understanding was not Porthos' strong point. This makes it appear that



Porthos was perhaps not as intelligent as some, but had the physical brawn to make up for his lack of knowledge. Through the course of the novel, Porthos stays with d'Artagnan in all of his adventures.

Cardinal Giulio Mazarin

Mazarin is the Italian cardinal who is disliked by the people of Paris because he has raised taxes to the point that the people are living in poverty. Mazarin and the queen have a relationship which Mazarin believes will keep the queen from ever banishing him or allowing the people to kill him. Mazarin is very resourceful when it comes to dealing with people and has ways of finding out what he wants to know from them. One example of this is Mazarin's questioning of the queen when he is trying to find out the capacity in which d'Artagnan served her in the past as well as his capacity to serve.

Mazarin has his own ways of dealing with people whom he does not like. He simply finds some reason to put them in jail. This has happened with both Rochefort and Beaufort. What Mazarin doesn't count on is a group of organized citizens rising up to free these men. Mazarin knows that his imprisonment of these men is wrong because he is clearly afraid when he learns that Beaufort has escaped from jail. Mazarin had the man jailed because he believed Beaufort wanted to kill him. Now these fears are doubled since Beaufort has spent five years falsely imprisoned. Mazarin is also not above paying people off to get his way. When d'Artagnan and Porthos find him in the orangery at the conclusion of the novel, for instance, Mazarin is counting the queen's money trying to determine how many members of parliament he can pay off with the money that is there.

Planchet

Planchet is a man who was a servant to d'Artagnan during their adventures twenty years ago. In this story, he again pairs up with d'Artagnan to assist him in his current duties even though Rochefort had made him a sergeant in Piedmont's regiment. When d'Artagnan first meets Planchet, Planchet is trying to escape because he has helped free Rochefort as his carriage was headed back to the Bastille. D'Artagnan disguises Planchet as the brother of d'Artagnan's mistress then "hires" him as a servant. While the two are looking for Aramis it is upon the back of Planchet's horse that Aramis jumps and orders them to ride to his monastery. Planchet also accompanies d'Artagnan when he goes to visit both Porthos and Athos.

Later, when d'Artagnan is trying to sneak Mazarin out of the city, he uses his friendship with Planchet to his advantage. Planchet is guarding one of the gates to the city but allows d'Artagnan through when he tells Planchet that Porthos has suffered a sword wound and must be taken to the doctor. Planchet is also the Frondist who steps forward in the king's bedroom to convince the people that it really is the king who is sleeping in the child's bed. As the novel progresses, Planchet is made a lieutenant in the Paris city militia and promised an advance to captain. During his time in Paris, Planchet has also



been keeping an eye on Raoul as promised to Athos. In the battle at the end of the novel, Athos and Aramis are worried about the health of Planchet but later learn that Planchet and his unit never left the limits of Paris to join the fighting.

Duc de Beaufort

At the beginning of the novel, Duc de Beaufort is in prison at Vincennes. Mazarin had Beaufort arrested because he believed Beaufort was trying to have him assassinated. By birth, Beaufort is the grandson of Henry IV. As d'Artagnan is trying to persuade Athos to work with him, a rumor is started that Beaufort will break out of prison so Mazarin requests d'Artagnan come back to Paris as soon as possible. With the help of Grimaud and Rochefort, Beaufort does get out of prison safely. Beaufort takes refuge in Vendome where he plans to stay until Rochefort and the coadjutor write to him and instruct him to come back to Paris to help with the revolt. Beaufort is one of the people who Aramis and Athos visit when they return to Paris during the revolt. Beaufort tells the men he is unhappy with the fact that the cardinal and queen have taken away his right to be king and will not seek peace until they allow him the place his birth should have secured for him. At the conclusion of the novel, Beaufort receives the office of admiral, which had been held by his father, as well as reimbursement for the houses and castles that had been destroyed by parliament.

Monsieur de Gondy

Monsieur de Gondy is the coadjutor and an enemy of the cardinal. Although Gondy is against Mazarin, he remains a friend and supporter of the king. After the arrest of Councilor Broussel, Gondy tries to convince the queen that it is in her best interests to release the Councilor but the queen will not agree to do so. When Gondy returns from the Palais Royal, Louviers invites Gondy to join him in a revolt to overthrow Mazarin, an invitation that Mazarin accepts. Gondy encourages Rochefort to write to Beaufort and request he join their revolt. Once the revolt is actually underway, however, Gondy wonders if he will be able to stop the rebellion or if it has taken on a life of its own. After Anne of Austria is made aware of the revolt, she asks Gondy's opinion of what should be done to placate the people. He once again requests that she release Broussel. After peace is made in Paris, Gondy is the only one who is not satisfied with the terms of the treaty. Later, when the mendicant who helps in the rebellion is injured by Porthos, it is the coadjutor whom he calls to hear his confession.

Councilor Broussel

Councilor Broussel is the man whom D'Artagnan and Porthos run down in the street as they attempt to leave Paris in pursuit of the Rochefort. Mazarin is pleased that Broussel is injured because he does not have to worry that the man will cause problems for him. The queen later commands that Comminges arrest Broussel while most of the people of Paris are celebrating a Te Deum after the victory at Lens. He is put into the prison at



Saint Germain. The people complain so loudly that Broussel has been arrested that the queen and the cardinal are forced to arrest him. He helps Louvieres organize a revolt against Mazarin after he is released from prison.

Broussel is popular among the people because he is one of the parliament members who has spoken out against the new taxes installed by Mazarin. Broussel wins the people's admiration when they learn he has spoken against the king in favor of the people. Although Mazarin tries to down play the relationship between Broussel and the people, there is no way to deny the strong connection that Broussel has made with the people of Paris.

General Oliver Cromwell

General Oliver Cromwell is the enemy of King Charles. Cromwell allows Mordaunt to make an arrangement that allows Cromwell to buy the king from the Scottish. Although Cromwell does not like the king, it is apparent that he does not want to take such drastic measures to destroy him. He seems disturbed that the Scottish actually agreed to the deal and refers to them as being cowardly. Cromwell also seems shocked that Mordaunt would go so far as to kill his own uncle but he does recognize that the young man is useful to him. Later, Cromwell is again shocked when Mordaunt steps into the place as the executioner when the London executioner disappears. He chides Mordaunt for his impulsive actions and tells him of his plan to have King Charles killed in the escape boat. It seems Cromwell believes he would not feel as badly about murdering the king if it appeared to be an accident than he would if he were responsible for the execution of the king. Cromwell offers Mordaunt the boat stocked with gunpowder to use for his own devices.

Anne of Austria

Anne of Austria is the queen of France and mother of King Louis XIV. Twenty years prior to this novel, Anne relied upon d'Artagnan and his three friends to save her from a sticky situation in which she had gotten herself into. Although the queen could possibly have been put to death had the musketeers not saved her, the queen appears to have forgotten what these men did for her when they appear again twenty years later. The queen allows Mazarin to run the country in whatever way he wishes even though the decisions that he makes do not always appear to be the best for France. Because she loves the cardinal she allows him to manipulate her and the city to his best interests. Anne also allows the cardinal to use her as a shield through which she believes no one will try to attack or overthrow him. At the conclusion of the novel, Anne encourages her son to say something in thanks to d'Artagnan for his service. This may indicate that Anne has finally learned the worth of the men who serve her.



Louis XIV

Louis XIV is the ten-year-old king of France. It is required as a formality for him to sign into law the changes that Mazarin makes in the country's policy. Because of his age, however, Louis is not allowed to have an active hand in the leadership. Even at his young age though, Louis realizes that Mazarin does not have Paris' best interests in mind. When the people want proof that the royal family has not deserted Paris, it is the king whom they want to see. Louis allows himself to be viewed in his bed but requests that no one be allowed to touch him. D'Artagnan hides behind the curtains of Louis' bed to make sure this wish is followed. When d'Artagnan stands guard at Louis' door as the royal family returns to Paris, Louis' recognizes d'Artagnan for his service. D'Artagnan promises to guard Louis at all times if he would like.

Friquet

Friquet is a servant boy from whom Planchet learns the details of the councillor Broussel's accident and the outcomes of this accident. He is a son of Monsieur de Broussel's servant, Nannette, and a singing boy at Notre Dame. Friquet is also the one who gives d'Artagnan the information about where Bazin has gone when he rides out of town after his discussion with d'Artagnan. Friquet learns about the plan to arrest Broussel and goes to his house to warn him of the troops headed his way. He and his mother get the attention of the people of Paris when they scream and make noise about what is happening to the councilor. During the rebellion, even Friquet leads a troop in children in the revolts. At the conclusion of the novel, Friquet earns his fortune when he gets the coadjutor for the mendicant so he can confess to him before he dies.

Grimaud

Grimaud is Athos' taciturn servant. Although he was once commanded to remain silent, Athos has given Grimaud permission to speak, but the man still communicates often by signs and doesn't talk much. When d'Artagnan visits Athos at his estate one of the things that appears to be unusual is the fact that Grimaud is not there. Athos tells d'Artagnan he has lent Grimaud to a friend. In reality, Grimaud has been hired as a guard for Beaufort. La Ramee allows this second guard to be hired so he can spend more time with his family. In reality, Grimaud is strategically placed inside Beaufort's prison so that he can aid in the escape plan and help get information to Beaufort. It is also Grimaud who learns from the executioner of Bethune that Milady's son is seeking revenge from the musketeers and warns them that they must be wary of Mordaunt.

Raoul Vicmote de Bragelonne

Raoul is the son of Athos by the Duchess de Chevreuse. He is fifteen years old. Even though Athos is Raoul's real father, Athos doesn't want the boy to know this information. When Athos speaks of his concern for Raoul in his engagement to the seven-year-old



Louise, d'Artagnan suggests Athos get Raoul a career in the army. Raoul excels at this career. One of the times that Raoul impresses those around him takes place when Raoul, the count and his father meet with the prince during battle. Of all of them, it is Raoul who has the certainty of mind to suggest they question the prisoner about the moves the Spanish army is planning on making. He also correctly guesses the nationality of the man so he can be questioned in his own language.

Comte de Rochefort

The Comte de Rochefort is a friend of d'Artagnan and Richelieu, the cardinal who ruled before Mazarin. Rochefort has been imprisoned in the Bastille for five years for stealing, a crime he tells d'Artagnan that he did not commit. Rochefort learns from Mazarin that it for stealing that he was instead because he refused to go to Brussels for the queen. Mazarin asks Rochefort to serve him by guarding a prisoner who is a friend of Rochefort. When Rochefort says that he cannot do so, Mazarin sends the man back to prison. On the way back to prison, Rochefort escapes from his carriage and becomes the leader of the revolt against Mazarin. At the conclusion of the novel, Rochefort is killed by d'Artagnan as he tries to attack the cardinal when he returns to Paris.

Madame de Longueville

Madame de Longueville is a rich and powerful lady with whom d'Artagnan believes that Aramis has fallen in love. She lives in a chateau near the monastery in which Aramis serves. She is a Frondeur and becomes the queen of Paris in the absence of Anne of Austria, the true queen. She is sister to the Prince de Marsillac. She is also one of the people who helps Raoul get into the army. Madame de Longueville does not leave Paris with the king and his company with the excuse that she is ill. When the musketeers are making their deals with Mazarin for his release, Aramis asks that Madame de Longueville be given charge of Normandy and that the king act as godfather to her baby.

King Charles I Stuart

King Charles is the king of England. He is charged with treason, abuse of power and murder. The people of England revolt against him. His wife, Henrietta, has taken refuge in France. She had employed Athos and Aramis to help save her husband. Although King Charles has been supported by the people of Scotland, Morduant and Cromwell work out a deal to purchase King Charles from the Scots for a portion of their back pay. All through his captivity, King Charles is cooperative with the musketeers and their attempts to help him escape. When it is apparent to Charles they will not be able to save him, he steps forward and allows himself to be executed.



Groslow

Groslow is the man who injured Parry's brother's head as the brother tried to help the king escape from the Scottish. D'Artagnan befriends the man and declares him to be both conceited and stupid. Groslow is one of the guards who plays cards with the musketeers as part of their ploy to free the king. Groslow is also the man whom Cromwell had hired to navigate the ship on which he believed King Charles would be killed in an explosion. Groslow is killed on this boat when the musketeers discover the plot to blow up the boat and escape in the dinghy in which Groslow and the rest of the crew intended to escape.

Louvieres

Louvieres is the son of Broussel. When his father is arrested, Louvieres offers to help the coadjutor lead a rebellion and overthrow Mazarin. During the commotion in which the councilor is arrested, d'Artagnan knocks Louvieres down and is about to kill him when Raoul calls out to him to stop. Louvieres tries to surrender to d'Artagnan but d'Artagnan will not allow him to do so. Louvieres is leading a troop of several thousand men to siege the palace when the coadjutor calls to him to stop because the queen was signing a release order for his father.

Mousqueton or Mouston

Mousqueton is Porthos' hired man. D'Artagnan and Planchet mistake him for Porthos when they first see him on Porthos' estate. Mousqueton has grown fat and enjoys his leisure since his master has stopped working with the musketeers. Mousqueton tells d'Artagnan that he would prefer to be called Mouston because it sounds more dignified than Mousqueton. Mouston is deeply disturbed when he learns that Porthos has decided to go back into service as he is very happy and satisfied at Porthos' estate. Mousqueton is shot in the side as d'Artagnan and Porthos are trying to capture Rochefort.

Comminges

Comminges is one of the queen's guards who is injured in the first of the revolts by the people of Paris. Comminges is the man ordered by the queen to arrest Councilor Broussel during a special Te Deum celebrating their victory at Lens. It is also Comminges who takes Athos' sword when he is arrested by Anne. Near the end of the novel, Comminges admits to Athos that he serves the queen with joy but does not like Mazarin. Comminges is one of the guards responsible for watching Porthos, d'Artagnan and Athos while they are imprisoned in Rueil.



The Executioner of Bethune

The executioner of Bethune has been out of the office for 15 years when Raoul and the count find him mortally injured in the woods. He asks for a priest who can hear his confession before he dies. Raoul and the count direct a man who they believe is a monk to the inn where the executioner is waiting. The monk, who is Mordaunt, learns through the man's confession that he was in charge of the execution of Milady, who was Mordaunt's mother. Although the man is already dying, Mordaunt stabs the man confirming that he will die.

Queen Madame Henrietta of England

Queen Henrietta is the daughter of Henry IV. Although she has been granted asylum in England and has been staying at the Louvre, this palace has been stripped of its finery as a result of the queen's extreme poverty. As a result, Henrietta and her daughter have taken refuge in a convent. Henrietta is also the sister of Anne. Lord de Winter encourages Henrietta to ask Mazarin if Charles can take refuge in France. When Mazarin refuses to allow Charles refuge, Lord de Winter encourages Henrietta to call upon the four musketeers.

Mademoiselle Louise de la Valliere

Louise is Athos and Raoul's neighbor and Raoul's love interest. The girl has just hurt her ankle when d'Artagnan and Planchet arrive at Athos' home. Raoul blames the accident on himself because she was jumping off some timber to run to him when she hurt herself. The doctor to which she is taken is afraid the injury may leave the girl lame for life. Even though Raoul is fifteen and the girl is only seven years old, Raoul says that the two are engaged. One of the reasons that Athos wants to get Raoul in the army is to take the boy's mind off the girl.

La Ramee

La Ramee is one of Beaufort's main guards while he is in prison. It is this man who reports to Mazarin about the conditions under which Beaufort is being held. La Ramee makes a mistake, however, when he allows Grimaud to help watch Beaufort so that he can spend more time with his family. On the day of Beaufort's escape, La Ramee requests that Beaufort and Grimaud tie him up and gag him so that it will appear that he had no way to call for help or stop the escape.

Anne de Bueil Milady

Anne de Bueil, more often referred to as Milady in this novel, does not actually appear in the action of this book. She has been dead for twenty years. She was killed by the



executioner of Bethune by the order of the four musketeers. References to Milady in this novel describe her as a monster. She had poisoned her own brother and had an assassination plan for Lord de Winter from whom she hoped to inherit the family's money. The lady also caused the death of the Duke of Buckingham in addition to other deaths and tragedies.

Lord de Winter

Lord de Winter is the brother to Milady and the uncle to Mordaunt. He is in high favor with King Charles. He brings Henrietta and her daughter a letter from Charles at the Carmelite convent where they are staying. He encourages her to see if Mazarin will allow Charles to seek refuge in Paris. During an attempt to help King Charles escape from the English, de Winter dresses up like Charles to distract the troops. Mordaunt recognizes the impostor as his uncle and shoots him.

Bazin

Bazin is Aramis' servant. When d'Artagnan first locates Bazin, the man lies and tells d'Artagnan that he does not know where Aramis is. D'Artagnan later has Bazin followed as he rides out of town and learns that he is going to Noisy. Once d'Artagnan is found by Aramis in Noisy, he sees Bazin working as a servant in Aramis' convent. At the conclusion of the novel it is to Bazin that Friquet gives the news that Maillard wants the coadjutor to come and hear his confession before he dies.

Bishop Juxon

Bishop Juxon is the man King Charles has asked to come and visit with him so that he can make his confession before his execution. D'Artagnan dresses up as this bishop so that he will have an opportunity to talk to King Charles about the rescue plans. On the day of the execution Bishop Juxon again helps d'Artagnan get into the king's room as he allows him to dress as a deacon and accompany him to visit the condemned man.

Duchess de Chevreuse

The Duchess de Chevreuse is the woman to whom Athos introduces Raoul on their first day in Paris. This duchess is Raoul's mother. In her youth, she was masquerading as Marie Michon and had wanted to ruin a priest. She slept with Athos believing incorrectly that he was an abbe. She left the child at the priest's home one year after the affair. The duchess helps Raoul to secure a place in the army.



Guitant

Guitant has served as a captain in the queen's guard for 20 years. Guitant is the man who explains to Mazarin what a fronde is. Guitant is one of the men who goes with the cardinal and d'Artagnan to scope out the city on the night the revolts begin. When asked about d'Artagnan's service for the queen, Guitant tells Mazarin he needs to talk to the Comte de Rochefort to learn the truth about d'Artagnan's exploits.

Laporte

Laporte is the young king's personal servant. He reports about the shameful conditions under which the king is living but no one does anything about these conditions. On the night that the royal family is to leave Paris, Laporte balks at riding in the same carriage as the queen and king.

Count de Guiche

The Count de Guiche is the young man who joins the army at the same time as Raoul. Raoul saves this young man when his horse jumps off a ferry into a river. From this time forward the two are fast friends. Count de Guiche is the love interest of Princess Henrietta.

Lord Leven

Lord Leven is the name of the man who oversaw the sale of King Charles to Cromwell. When the king learns of the plan and confronts Leven about it, Leven lies to the king and tells him the story of the sale is a lie.

Henrietta

Princess Henrietta is the daughter of Queen Henrietta and King Charles of England. She is taking refuge with her mother in a Carmelite convent in France while King Charles is being tried and executed in England. Henrietta has a love interest in the Count de Guiche.



Objects/Places

Palais Royal

The Palais Royal is the home of Cardinal Mazarin, Anne of Austria, and the young king, Louis XIV, in France.

Fronde

A fronde is a political party formed by the discontent.

The Bastille

The Bastille is a prison, the place to which Mazarin sends d'Artagnan to pick up the Comte de Rochefort.

A Small Coffin of Rosewood Set in Silver

It is upon this sacred item that the queen swears to Mazarin that Buckingham was not her lover. The coffin contains the only two letters that the queen ever wrote to Buckingham along with the knife that Felton used to kill Buckingham.

A Superb Diamond

Anne of Austria had given this diamond to d'Artagnan in appreciation for saving her life and honor when he retrieved her jewels from Buckingham. D'Artagnan had to sell the diamond in order to save her a second time. The queen purchased the diamond back, but has never returned it to d'Artagnan. She instead gives it to Mazarin to give back to d'Artagnan. Mazarin does not return the diamond to d'Artagnan when he wants a favor. D'Artagnan, however, has to sell the diamond again when he tries to save King Charles from execution.

Chapel of the Virgin

The Chapel of the Virgin is the place where d'Artagnan locates Monsieur Bazin, the servant of Aramis.

Noisy

Noisy is the city where the convent of Jesuits is located where Aramis is living.



De Bracieux

De Bracieux is the name of Porthos' estate.

Porthos' sighs

Porthos' sighs are a sign that although he is rich, he is still not happy.

Chateau de la Valliere

Chateau de la Valliere is the name of Athos' estate.

The Donjon of Vincennes

This Donjon of Vincennes is the place where the Duc de Beaufort is being held captive.

A Tennis Ball

This ball is the means by which Rochefort and Beaufort trade letters.

Cesar's Commentaries

It is this book that Beaufort pretends to be engrossed in reading so as to delay La Ramee from eating until the appropriate time.

Place Royale

The Place Royale is the place where the four musketeers agree to meet to discuss how they will handle the situation of being on opposing sides.

A Cross of Diamonds

It is this cross of diamonds, which hangs around Aramis' neck by a string of pearls that the four musketeers use to solidify their pledge to be united to one another despite everything, including their political allegiances.

The Hermitage

The Hermitage is the place where the musketeers have their first meal together following their reunion after twenty years of separation.



A Diamond Cross and an Order of St. Michael

Madame Henrietta gives these two items to Lord de Winter to take to her husband in England. At his execution, Charles gives the order to Aramis to take back to his wife. He wants to wear the cross until he is dead but after he is killed, Aramis takes it to give back to Henrietta also.

The Tower of St. Jacques de la Boucherie

It is at the Tower of St. Jacques de la Boucherie that those planning a revolt against Mazarin meet to make plans.

Two Ribbons of the Order of the Garter

King Charles gives these honorary ribbons to Aramis and Athos as they try to escape from Cromwell.

Jesus Seigneur

The words "Jesus Seigneur" are the signal that will be given to Aramis and Athos that the time has come for them to escape from their prison.

Treason, Abuse of Power and Murder

Treason, abuse of power and murder are the charges against King Charles.

The Lightening

The Lightening is the boat that Athos hires to carry himself, his friends and King Charles out of England. Cromwell has this skiff loaded with five barrels of gunpowder so that when the escapees go out to sea they will be killed.

Newcastle Keep

Newcastle Keep is the place where King Charles tells Athos there is a million in gold buried in the cellars.

Hieroglyphics Carved with a Knife

Athos finds these carvings on a table at Montreuil indicating when d'Artagnan and Pothos were last there.

A Drawing in Black Chalk

This drawing shows two cavaliers with a roll of paper on which is written the words, "They are following us."



Themes

Strength of Love and Strength of Hate

One major theme in this novel is the idea of the strength of love as well as the strength of hate. Both these strong emotions motivate characters in the novel to act a certain way. Athos, Aramis, Porthos, and d'Artagnan are all motivated out of love. This love between the four friends keeps them from turning against one another or harming one another even though they are fighting for different causes. Athos, individually, is a wonderful example of what a man motivated by love can do. When d'Artagnan and Porthos visit Athos after their twenty-year separation, they expect to find the man old and broken down as a result of his drinking problem. Instead, Athos is in excellent shape and is living on a beautiful estate. Athos tells his friends that all that he has done has been for the benefit of his adoptive son, Raoul. The love he feels for Raoul has motivated him to be a better person so that Raoul will have a better life.

On the other side of the emotional spectrum, hate is also a strongly motivating factor. Mordaunt has spent his entire life trying to discover the identities of and track down the men who killed his mother. Even after he learns what a cruel person his mother was, Mordaunt will still not rest until he has gotten vengeance for her death. Mordaunt also hates his uncle, Lord de Winter, and King Charles because he believes they are responsible for stripping him of a fortune that should have come to him through his father. As a result Mordaunt steps in as executioner and kills the king. He also shoots his uncle on the battlefield even though his uncle posed no direct threat to him. Mordaunt is also in the process of trying to kill the four musketeers, but has not had luck in succeeding. After the ship on which they and Mordaunt are riding is blown up, Mordaunt pretends to be repentant for a final chance to kill the musketeers. In his attempt to kill Athos, Mordaunt himself is killed. In this way, the novel illustrates that harboring feelings of hate can eventually consume, and even kill, a person.

Betrayal

Betrayal is another very important theme in this novel. The theme is touched on in the relationship of the musketeers to one another. When they learn that they are divided by political affiliation, the men are at once concerned that their trust in one another has been betrayed. The amazing fact of the musketeers' relationship with one another is that they manage to maintain their differences in opinion and still not betray one another.

One of the more outright betrayals in the novel is the betrayal of King Charles. It is Mordaunt who is one of the main instigators of this betrayal because he hates King Charles so deeply. The Scottish, who have been fighting on the side of King Charles against the English because Charles is of Scottish descent, have decided to sell the king out for only half of the back pay that they are owed. Charles has not only been



betrayed by the people of his country, who plan to find him guilty of treason, abuse of power and murder and have him executed, he has also been betrayed by the people of his native land who have decided to settle only half their expected pay in exchange for the life of a man who they said they would support.

Even Mordaunt has been betrayed although his reaction to his betrayal is such that the reader doesn't feel much pity for him. The main act of betrayal is done by Lord de Winter who allows the child to be left with no mother to care for him and no money for anyone else to take care of him. Although Mordaunt's mother was evil, he might not have grown up to be as evil as she had he been treated more fairly as a child. Mordaunt, however, dedicates his life to tracking down and killing his uncle, an action that keeps the reader from feeling very sorry for him even though he was treated in an unfair manner.

Feelings of betrayal also run freely in the city of Paris. The people feel they have been betrayed when the queen allows Mazarin to inflict such high taxes on them. Although Mazarin is supposed to be working for the people, he is instead interested only in the money that he can elicit from the people whom he rules. Anne of Austria also harbors the feeling that the people of her country have betrayed her. She is of the mindset that royalty should be admired and respected despite the circumstances of the people. When the people revolt after Mazarin raises their taxes, Anne feels that her subjects have betrayed her. Queen Henrietta has also been betrayed when Mazarin refuses her husband refuge in the country of France. Henrietta is allowed refuge there because she is of French descent and is a relative of Anne of Austria. Mazarin, however, will not allow Charles to take refuge in France because Cromwell has requested the man not be given refuge. In this way, Mazarin is basically helping to turn Charles over to the English to execute him.

Political Upheaval

Another important theme in this novel is political upheaval. The novel illustrates what can happen when one corrupt man is chosen or elected to public office. In this time period, the cardinal was very important in the political affairs of a country. The cardinal, however, would generally be second in power to the king. In this story, the cardinal is at an advantage because the king is not of legal age to have a say in anything that is done in the country. Mazarin also has an advantage because the queen is in love with him. Because of this relationship, he is able to convince her to do whatever he wants her to do. Mazarin takes advantage of this relationship with the queen by believing that he cannot be touched because of his relationship with her and by lying to her about the conditions of the country, for instance, the amount of money in the coffers.

Another important governing body of this time is parliament. However, Mazarin has managed to pay off several members of parliament so that this group does not give him much trouble. Those people that Mazarin considers a threat, such as Rochefort, Beaufort and Councilor Broussel, he finds some reason to arrest them and lock them in prison.



These factors make conditions ripe for a political upheaval, which is what is taking place in Paris during the time period in which this novel is written. A few people with power have joined together to encourage the people of Paris to revolt against their conditions, particularly against the high taxes they are being forced to pay. Rochefort and Beaufort are broken out of prison and serve as leaders for the rebellion. Although the conditions in Paris become dangerous with wars being waged and threats being made against the king and queen, these things do not bring peace to Paris. It is not until d'Artagnan accidentally shoots Rochefort, who is the leader of the rebellion, that the last of the rebels stop their attempts to kill Mazarin.

Style

Point of View

This story is told from a third-person point of view. The narrator who tells the story is not included in the action of the book. Although there is a strong focus on d'Artagnan in the novel, as he is one of the main characters, the story is not told from his point of view nor does the writer focus solely on d'Artagnan. The narrator shares the actions of the characters of the novel, but does not delve much into the emotions and inner thoughts of the characters. It is as if the narrator is watching all that is happening and recording it from a distance. He describes the actions of the characters, what they do and how they react physically, but does not have the power to read their thoughts or emotions. Hence, the narrator cannot be considered omniscient. There are a couple of exceptions to the non-omniscient powers of the narrator. One example of this occurs in Chapter 50 when d'Artagnan thinks to himself that if Mazarin plans to put him in jail, he will strangle the man and become Frondist. These words are not spoken directly to Mazarin but are important when considering d'Artagnan's loyalty to the cardinal.

The larger portion of the novel is told through dialogue as the narrator has no insight into the emotions or thoughts of the characters. All of the information the narrator has about the characters comes through their words to one another as they interact. In this way, the narrator allows the characters to tell their own story through their conversations. The remaining portions of the book are written in exposition as the narrator records physical details such as descriptions of people, places or things that the characters encounter during their adventures.

Setting

This story is set mostly in the countries of England and France with a large amount of the action occurring in Paris. The novel opens in the private chambers of the Cardinal Mazarin in the Palais Royal. It is in this same setting of Palais Royal that most of the action of the story dealing with the cardinal, the queen and the king takes place. Other important places in Paris include the Louvre, where Queen Henrietta and her daughter are staying as well as the Place Royal, where the musketeers agree to meet for the first time when they realize they have differing political allegiances.

Travel is a major factor in this story with d'Artagnan traveling in the beginning of the novel to search for his friends. His travels take him to Noisy, Blois and Picardy in search of his friends. For several chapters, the setting of the story is focused in the prison at Vincennes where Beaufort is being held captive. Later in the novel, when the musketeers are faced with the challenge of trying to stop the execution of King Charles, they are forced to travel to England where they visit London, Durham and Newcastle.



Timewise the story is set in the 1600s, twenty years after the original escapades of the musketeers. Enough time has elapsed that some of the people whom the musketeers influenced during their original escapades are no longer in office and some people pretend not to recognize the musketeers but there are some who still remember and respect the four friends for their past donations to society.

Language and Meaning

The language of the novel is very distant emotionally. The narrator presents the story in such a way that he does not give much emotional information about the characters. While he may describe what they are doing or how they are acting, Dumas does not delve much about what is going on in the characters' heads. For instance, when the queen is faced with her rebelling citizens, the narrator notes that she becomes very angry but does not go into detail about the emotions causing her anger or her line of thinking as she is getting angry. He only records her physical actions and the words that she says. In this way, the reader is able to focus more strongly on what is happening to the people in the novel rather than what they are thinking about what is happening. The action is more important than the emotional results of these actions.

Structure

This long novel is divided into 90 chapters. Each chapter is designated with a chapter number as well as a short phrase that gives the reader an idea what will go on in the following chapter. The average chapter is eight pages with some as short as just two or three pages while one chapter is 18 pages long.

The plot of the novel is fairly complex with Dumas dealing with several different themes all at the same time. The main plot line of the story is the reunion of the four musketeers and their concerted effort to end the war in Paris. Another important theme in the novel is the appearance of Milady's son, the representation of one part of their past escapades that most of them seem to remember with some regret. A third important area of conflict in the novel deals with the division of the four friends. In their past adventures, the men were united in thought. In this novel, however, they are divided by their political affiliations. Two of the friends are employed by Mazarin. The other two are part of a group that opposes Mazarin. Another thread of the plot deals with Athos' desire to separate Raoul from the young girl to whom Raoul is engaged.

Although this novel is part of a series, it can easily be read as a stand-alone story. The writer is careful to include in this story many of the details of events written about in a former novel that affect the current novel. Because this story takes place twenty years after the musketeer's original escapades, there is not much information that needs to be included. The main areas in which Dumas must include background information are the relationship of the musketeers, particularly d'Artagnan, with Anne of Austria and the execution of Milady.



Quotes

"In truth, that the red simar which occupied the wonted place was his no longer, was still more strikingly obvious from the isolation which seemed, as we have observed, more appropriate to a phantom than a living creature - from the corridors deserted by courtiers, and courts crowded with guards - from that spirit of bitter ridicule, which, arising from the streets below, penetrated through the very casements of the room, which resounded with the murmurs of a whole city leagued against the minister; as well as from the distant and incessant sounds of guns firing - let off, happily, without either end or aim, except to show to the guards, the Swiss troops and the military who surrounded the Palais Royal, that the people were possessed of arms" (Chapter 1, p. 7).

"As soon as ever the king comes of age he will issue his commands himself, and 'tis far pleasanter to obey the grandson of Henry IV than the son of Peter Mazarin" (Chapter 2, p. 22).

"They were four honest soldiers, each with a good heart, a good arm and a sword at the service of those who wanted it" (Chapter 3, p. 41).

"If there is anything to be said, it is that I have always been ungrateful to the brave men who saved me - that I have given nothing to that gallant officer, d'Artagnan, you were speaking of just now, but my hand to kiss and this diamond" (Chapter 4, p. 55).

"He was one of those fine, ingenious natures which assimilate themselves easily to the dispositions of others. Athos imparted to him his greatness of soul, Porthos his enthusiasm, Aramis his elegance. Had d'Artagnan continued his intimacy with these three men he would have become a superior character" (Chapter 6, p. 63).

"Raoul, learn how to distinguish the king from royalty; the king is but a man; royalty is the gift of God" (Chapter 22, p. 235).

"Yes, we are severed; there is the great, the distressing truth! But we have not as yet declared war; perhaps we shall have to make certain conditions, therefore a solemn conference is indispensable" (Chapter 26, p. 276).

"Ah! My friend! 'tis not civil war that disunites us. It is that we are each of us twenty years older; it is that the honest emotions of youth have given place to suggestions of interest, whispers of ambition, counsels of selfishness" (Chapter 27, p. 284).

"When I saw you at your chateau at Bragelonne, I made certain proposals to you that you perfectly understood; instead of answering me as a friend, you played with me as a child; the friendship, therefore, that you boast of was not broken yesterday by the shock of swords, but by your dissimulation at the castle" (Chapter 28, p. 290).



"Very well; if ever you meet him again, wherever it may be, whether on the high road or in the street or in a church, anywhere that he or you may be, put your foot on his neck and crush him without pity, without mercy, as you would crush a viper or a scorpion! destroy him utterly and quit him not until he is dead; the lives of five men are not safe, in my opinion, as long as he is on the earth" (Chapter 33, p. 336).

"'Consider,' said Aramis, 'if you admit divine justice and its participation in the things of this world, that woman was punished by the will of heaven. We were but the instruments, that is all'" (Chapter 35, p. 353).

"'Your honors,' said he, 'that woman had a child; that child has become a man; the tigress had a little one, the tiger has roused himself; he is ready to spring upon you - beware'" (Chapter 35, p. 355).

"Four devoted, resolute men can do much, assure yourself, madame; and those of whom I speak performed great things at one time" (Chapter 39, p. 379).

"When I presented myself before you for the first time in London, it was to ask you what had become of my fortune; the second time it was to demand who had sullied my name; and this time I come before you to ask a question far more terrible than any other, to say to you as God said to the first murderer: 'Cain, what hast thou done to thy brother Abel?' My lord, what have you done with your sister - your sister, who was my mother" (Chapter 40, p. 387).

"That woman had, in all probability, poisoned my brother, and in order to inherit from me she was about to assassinate me in my turn. I have proof of it. What say you to that" (Chapter 40, p. 388).

"Go to England, join the king, be his friends, protectors, march to battle at his side, and be near him in his house, where conspiracies, more dangerous than the perils of war, are hatching every day. And in exchange for the sacrifice that you make, gentlemen, I promise - not to reward you, I believe that would offend you - but to love you as a sister, to prefer you, next to my husband and my children, to every one" (Chapter 42, p. 405).

"'Thus, then, it is your opinion,' said Anne of Austria, with a sneer and biting her lips with rage, 'that yesterday's riot, which to-day is already a rebellion, to-morrow may become a revolution'" (Chapter 48, p. 475).

"Mazarin, clever politician as he was, was for once mistaken; Broussel was a thing, not a name" (Chapter 49, p. 484).

"Then the thing is easy. Oh! do think of it, Giulio! Paris, this odious Paris, waking up one morning without queen or king, surrounded, besieged, famished - having for its sole resource its stupid parliament and their coadjutor with crooked limbs" (Chapter 49, p. 488).



"'Monsieur de Comminges,' he said 'pardon me; we both are servants of the queen, are we not? It is my turn to be of use to her; do not envy me this happiness'" (Chapter 52, p. 523).

"And now our readers must leave the Standard to sail peaceably, not toward London, where d'Artagnan and Porthos believed they were going, but to Durham, whither Mordaunt had been ordered to repair by the letter he had received during his sojourn at Boulogne, and accompany us to the royalist camp, on this side of the Tyne, near Newcastle" (Chapter 55, p. ADD PAGE NUMBER).

"Well, sir, though honor is a fine thing, they are tired of fighting for it, and to-night they have sold you for two hundred thousand pounds - that is to say, for half what is owing them" (Chapter 55, p. 561).

"Now, I tell you, you must pass with me through this army across to Scotland, and if you refuse you may choose betwixt two names, which the contempt of all honest men will brand you with - you are either cowards or traitors" (Chapter 55, p. 566).

"We have a king ten years old, who doesn't yet know what he wants; we have a queen blinded by a belated passion; we have a minister who governs France as he would govern a great farm - that is to say, intent only on turning out all the gold he can by the exercise of Italian cunning and invention; we have princes who set up a personal and egotistic opposition, who will draw from Mazarin's hands only a few ingots of gold or some shreds of power granted as bribes" (Chapter 59, p. 603).

"To-day I am engaged in a different affair. I have encountered misfortune in a high place, a royal fortune, a European misfortune; I attach myself to it. If we can succeed in saving the king it will be good; if we die for him it will be grand" (Chapter 59, p. 605).

"You see, then, d'Artagnan, though princes often are ungrateful, God never is" (Chapter 59, p. 605).

"And the four friends, guided by Mousqueton, took up the way toward the house, already almost restored to their former gayety; for they were now, as Athos said, all four once more united and of single mind" (Chapter 59, p. 609).

"Yes, but you are much in want of a revolution like our own - not against your king, who is mere child but against that lazar of an Italian, the queen's favorite" (Chapter 61, p. 621).

"Then, too, I confess I should not be sorry to come across Mordaunt again. It appears to me that we have an account to settle with him, and that it is not our custom to leave a place without paying our debts, of this kind, at least" (Chapter 62, p. 638).

"The parliament condemned Charles to death, as might have been foreseen. Political judgments are generally vain formalities, for the same passions which give rise to the accusation ordain to the condemnation" (Chapter 64, p. 653).



"Charles clasped his hands, amazed and stupefied to find that these foreigners, without other motive than that which their conscience imposed on them, thus combated the will of a people and the destiny of a king" (Chapter 64, p. 656).

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"Perhaps it was some man of rank who had grave reasons for hating the fallen king, and who, learning that the king was about to flee and escape him, threw himself in the way, with a mask on his face and an axe in his hand, not as substitute for the executioner, but as an ambassador of Fate" (Chapter 68, p. 687).

"Men would have said that the king had escaped human justice and been overtaken by God's. You see now why I did not care to know your gentleman in the mask; for really, in spite of his excellent intentions, I could not thank him for what he has done" (Chapter 68, p. 688).

"'You are ungrateful, d'Artagnan,' said Athos; 'yes, ungrateful to Providence, to whom we owe our safety in the most miraculous manner'" (Chapter 74, p. 735).

"'Because,' answered the Gascon, 'we were sent, Porthos and I, by Cardinal Marazin to fight for Cromwell; instead of fighting for Cromwell we have served Charles I - not the same thing by any means" (Chapter 74, p. 738).

"Because they have but fulfilled the mission confided to them by Queen Henrietta and we have betrayed that confided to us by Mazarin; because, going hence as emissaries to Cromwell, we became partisans of King Charles; because, instead of helping cut off the royal head condemned by those fellows called Mazarin, Cromwell, Joyce, Bridge, Fairfax, etc., we very nearly succeeded in saving it" (Chapter 74, p. 740).

"During the six weeks that Athos and Aramis had been absent from France, the Parisians, finding themselves one morning without either queen or king, were greatly annoyed at being thus deserted, and the absence of Mazarin, a thing so long desired, did not compensate for that of the two august fugitives" (Chapter 75, p. 741).

"In fact, aside from a poor widow and a royal orphan who wept in the corner of the Louvre, no one appeared to be aware that Charles I had ever lived and that he had perished on the scaffold" (Chapter 77, p. 766).

"They quitted Paris beholding it abandoned to extreme want, bordering on famine; agitated by fear, torn by faction" (Chapter 79, p. 779).

"I don't like Mazarin any better than you do. I serve the queen and that draws me naturally into the service of the cardinal; but I serve the one with joy and the other against my will" (Chapter 82, p. 799).



"Monsieur de Mazarin held us in prison, Monsieur de Vallon and myself, because we could not believe that he sent us to England to quietly look on while they cut off the head of Charles I, brother-in-law of the late king, your husband, the consort of Madame Henrietta, your sister and guest, and because we did all that we could to save the life of the royal martyr" (Chapter 88, p. 853).

"Have you, then, madame, no compassion for your servants who for twenty years have vegetated in obscurity, without betraying in a single sigh the solemn and sacred secrets they have had the honor to share with you" (Chapter 88, p. 855).

"Consider, in short, your people who love you and who are famished, who have no other wish than to bless you, and who, nevertheless - no, I am wrong, your subjects, madame, will never curse you; save one word to them and all will be ended - peace succeed war, joy tears, and happiness to misfortune" (Chapter 88, p. 855).

"One or two shouts of 'Long live the cardinal' saluted his shadow; but instantly hisses and yells stifled them remorselessly. Mazarin turned pale and shrank back in the coach" (Chapter 89, p. 857).

"'And if the king permits me,' returned the Gascon, 'I shall be near him always when there is danger to be encountered'" (Chapter 89, p. 869).

"This new eruption was more dangerous than the others, being composed of armed men. It was plain that it was not the chance combination of those who had collected a number of the malcontents at the same spot, but a concerted organized attack" (Chapter 89, p. 870).



Topics for Discussion

Compare and contrast the moral natures of d'Artagnan and Rochefort.

Discuss the idea that although Porthos is rich, he is still not happy. What is it that he wants? Why do riches not make him happy?

When King Charles sees his children for the last time, he tells his son not to allow the people who have condemned him to crown the son as king. Why does he make the son promise this?

Why does Cromwell order that King Charles' body be given royal honors? Why is this ironic?

Discuss the role of the diamond in the story. Where did it come from? How many times does d'Artagnan sell it? What does his willingness to sell it signify?

What do the musketeers have in common with Mordaunt? How are they different?

Why is Athos so upset with the way he believes that d'Artagnan has viewed King Charles' execution?

Why does d'Artagnan continue to serve Mazarin? Why does he not change allegiances when he realizes his friends are on the opposite side?

What does the novel teach about love? What does it teach about hate? How are these two lessons related?

Why does Anne of Austria pretend like she does not know the musketeers?

Why does Anne of Austria allow Mazarin to make decisions about the way the country is run even though these decisions are ruining France and causing the people to rebel?

How is the story of Milady important to this novel? What techniques does Dumas use to incorporate her story in with this story from 20 years later?

Why does Athos feel sympathy and pity for Milady's son?

How does the division in their political affiliations work against the four musketeers? In what ways do these divisions work in their favor?