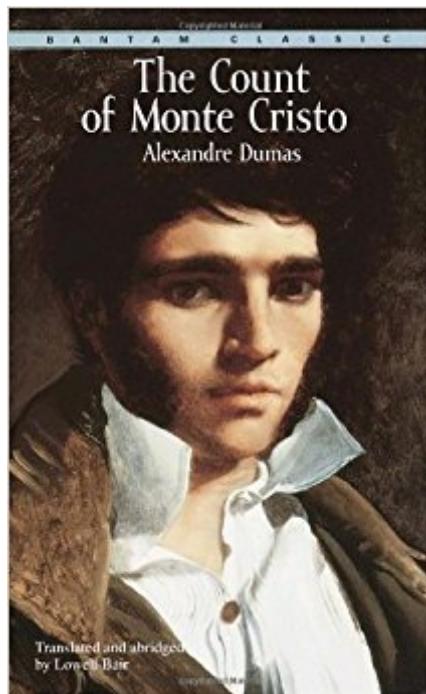


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The Count Of Monte Cristo (Bantam Classics)



Synopsis

Set against the turbulent years of the Napoleonic era, Alexandre Dumas's thrilling adventure story is one of the most widely read romantic novels of all time. In it the dashing young hero, Edmond Dantès, is betrayed by his enemies and thrown into a secret dungeon in the Chateau d'If -- doomed to spend his life in a dank prison cell. The story of his long, intolerable years in captivity, his miraculous escape, and his carefully wrought revenge creates a dramatic tale of mystery and intrigue and paints a vision of France -- a dazzling, dueling, exuberant France -- that has become immortal.

Book Information

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Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

"Dumas was... a summit of art. Nobody ever could, or did, or will improve upon Dumas's romances and plays." -- George Bernard Shaw

Set against the turbulent years of the Napoleonic era, Alexandre Dumas's thrilling adventure story is one of the most widely read romantic novels of all time. In it the dashing young hero, Edmond

Dantès, is betrayed by his enemies and thrown into a secret dungeon in the Chateau d'If -- doomed to spend his life in a dank prison cell. The story of his long, intolerable years in captivity, his miraculous escape, and his carefully wrought revenge creates a dramatic tale of mystery and intrigue and paints a vision of France -- a dazzling, dueling, exuberant France -- that has become immortal. "Dumas was... a summit of art. Nobody ever could, or did, or will improve upon Dumas's romances and plays." -- George Bernard Shaw

I have the Robin Buss translation of THE COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO in paperback, but that copy was old and worn. I wanted a more durable hardcover edition to read and to display on my bookshelf in my new house. The hardcover I bought from Total Books arrived in near-perfect condition, exactly as advertised, and looks gorgeous on the shelf. Why Robin Buss' translation for Penguin Classics? That's a reasonable question since Alexandre Dumas has been dead long enough for his works to enter the public domain. Several translations of his major novels are not only available in cheaper editions (such as Barnes & Noble Classics), but for free on Project Gutenberg. These are inferior and, in the case of THE COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO, censored translations. Most of them date back to the Victorian period, and render Dumas' evergreen French into English prose that feels old-fashioned and stilted today. Furthermore, because these are translations from the Victorian period, the translators filtered Dumas through their own moral sensibilities to give us Bowdlerized versions of a novel that ran on sex, drugs, and rock 'n roll a century before rock 'n roll was something you could do without a machine gun. Robin Buss' unabridged translation comes directly from the original French and renders Dumas into fresh, readable modern English. Material previously omitted by Victorian-era translators such as Franz' hashish-fueled sexual fantasies and the strongly implied lesbian relationship between Eugenie and Louise remain intact and uncensored. As another reviewer pointed out, Buss will provide footnotes to explain subtleties that aren't easily translated from French to English, such as insults delivered by using the formal you (vous) rather than the informal/friendly/intimate you (tu). A detailed appendix provides valuable historical and cultural context that aids the reader in understanding Dumas' masterpiece, and includes a primer on the rise, fall, return, and final downfall of Napoleon Bonaparte that is crucial to making sense of the politics driving the novel's plot. If you cannot read Dumas in his native French, and you want a definitive English version, Robin Buss's unabridged and uncensored modern English translation is essential reading. No other translation will suffice.

So there is a lot to be said about this book and my history with it. It goes back to my childhood and in

total I have read it 3 times. First time I read it in middle school and was clearly too young for it. I was young and inexperienced at life and didn't really understand or even think much about what the main character went through, how deeply he suffered. I liked the adventure part, of it and how there was a treasure and how the "good guy" got revenge on the "bad guys". I didn't really think about how a lot of innocent people got caught in the way of this revenge. The second time I tried to read it a couple of years ago but I couldn't finish it because I was feeling so sorry for all the people who suffered and the Count seemed not to have any humanity left in him at all. And the third time I read the book, was this summer. The book is full of hidden meanings and complex characters and only now when I am in my thirties, I can say that I have started to understand most of the things the author is trying to say. Plus the book is beautifully written and I really enjoyed the descriptions of different places that were visited. Sorry for the long review, I just had a lot to say about the book :)

This is another epic tale from Dumas. It is a long read though. Unless you are a speed reader it will take some time to finish. But it is worth the time investment. The story's premise is not new, a man falsely accused and imprisoned for many years working to set things right. When Dumas wrote the story it was certainly a bit more novel (no pun intended) than today. It is his execution of the story however that makes this great and deserving of its status as a classic. Much like his book 'The Three Musketeers', the Count of Monte Cristo captures the atmosphere and political intrigue of France from almost 2 centuries ago transporting the reader to that world and age gone by. I enjoyed it and believe for those who like classics you will too.

The wonderful novel by Alexandre Dumas of adventure, revenge and redemption is full of surprises. The first is that no matter that I had read this novel twice in my life, I delighted reading it with the same pleasure and enthusiasm. The novel is a typical one delivered in a series of publications made by the author in 18 volumes, not unlike TV soap operas. The development of the novel is full with strange and mysteriously interwoven characters, that play different parts not unlike the human comedy we have been destined to play. The crime is committed in the first few chapters, where we see the villains play their terrible assignments by greed, fright, profit or hate. The victim will rise from the death to confront his punishers, in one of the most interesting and great plots ever written. If you like adventure, mystery, crime and punishment this is a lengthy book in which you can immerse yourself for some time. Enjoy it, as I have done.

This was an engaging and captivating story. The writer has you anxiously waiting to see what will

come next. How will the main character Edmund Dantes exact his ultimate revenge? At times, the author goes into a little too much descriptive detail of physical surroundings and I found myself saying "c'mon, let's get on with the story" But, in the end, it was worth the wait. This was the first A. Dumas novel I've read, although familiar with his stories from the cinema... I will definitely read others.

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