



The Three Musketeers

Alexander Dumas (1802 - 1870)

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| Read by: | Multiple readers | Format: | MP3 CD in DVD case |
| Length: | 24 hours and 48 minutes | Catalog: | DB-1180 |
| Language: | English | UPC: | 0683422135019 |
| Style: | Solo | MSLP: | \$12.99 |
| Genre: | Action & Adventure Fiction | | |

The Three Musketeers, one of the most popular historical romances ever written, recounts the adventures of d'Artagnan, a young nobleman from Gascony who leaves home to join the Royal Musketeers of the Guard in Paris. Initially rebuffed in his application, he turns an adversarial encounter with the three musketeers of the title – Athos, Porthos, and Aramis – into an enduring alliance when the guards of Cardinal Richelieu attempt to apprehend them for illegal dueling and he helps fend them off. He is appointed to the company and proceeds to become entangled in the affairs of the court and state. Set between 1625–1628, the relationship between King Louis XIII and the conniving Cardinal Richelieu provides much of the action and features the characters of Richelieu agent Le Comte de Rochefort and spy

Milady de Winter, one of the best female villains ever created. The conflict between the Catholics and Protestants figures heavily as well, reaching a peak in the Siege of La Rochelle.

The story is based on *Memoires de Monsieur d'Artagnan* (1700), an historical novel by Gatien de Courtiz de Sandras that captured Dumas' fancy, and was written in collaboration with Auguste Maquet, who did historical research and suggested plot outlines. *The Three Musketeers* was published as a serial between March and July 1844 before publication in book form. It was followed by two sequels, *Twenty Years After* and *The Vicomte of Bragelonne: Ten Years Later*. It has been adapted many times for stage, film, television, comic books and games.

Alexandre Dumas (July 24, 1802 – December 5, 1870) was a writer who was bigger than life, large hearted, expansive, egotistical (though in an endearing way) and verbal. He could talk forever, especially when the subject happened to be himself. He was also the kind of writer who would have made a fortune in Hollywood had he born a century later than his actual birth in 1802 to a French nobleman and a freed black slave in the French colony, Saint Domingue, now Haiti. He began his a career as a successful playwright, but soon took to the novel form and the 19th Century practice of extending story lines for serial publication. Like many novelists of that era, Dumas was comfortable with volume and the organic growth of plot lines intersecting and crossing one another from their common origin at the story's beginning, known today as the inciting incident. Many of his works have been made into movies, and more than one of his works (*The Three Musketeers* and *The Count of Monte Cristo*) have been adapted to the silver screen several times over several generations. Although Dumas was married, like many members of the French nobility, he was well known for his numerous affairs, mistresses and children born out of wedlock. A man of great appetites Dumas died at the age of 68 in 1870 and was buried in the Pantheon.