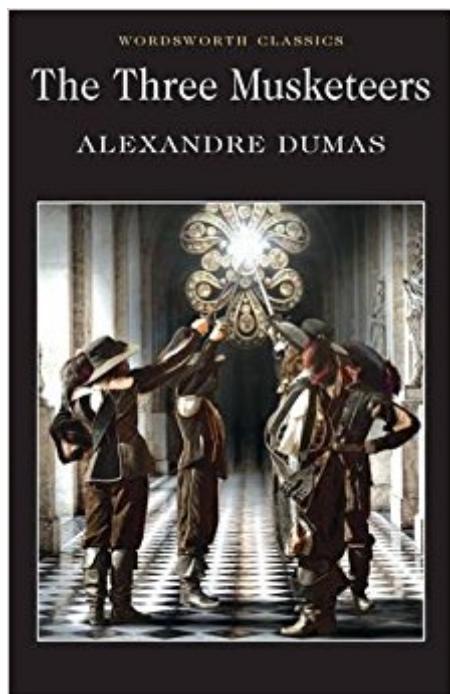


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The Three Musketeers (Wordsworth Classics)



Synopsis

Introduction and Notes by Keith Wren, University of Kent at Canterbury A historical romance, The Three Musketeers tells the story of the early adventures of the young Gascon gentleman, D'Artagnan and his three friends from the regiment of the King's Musketeers - Athos, Porthos and Aramis. Under the watchful eye of their patron M. de Treville, the four defend the honour of the regiment against the guards of Cardinal Richelieu, and the honour of the queen against the machinations of the Cardinal himself as the power struggles of seventeenth century France are vividly played out in the background. But their most dangerous encounter is with the Cardinal's spy, Milady, one of literature's most memorable female villains, and Dumas employs all his fast-paced narrative skills to bring this enthralling novel to a breathtakingly gripping and dramatic conclusion

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Grade 7 Up
Dumas's swashbuckling adventure introduces readers to the Musketeers' feats of derring-do with this six-volume series. In volume one, d'Artagnan first encounters the trio of elite French fighters. The scene quickly advances 30 years into the future when only d'Artagnan remains a Musketeer. All four heroes find that their paths cross in one final adventure involving a plotted coup to replace Louis XIV with his twin brother. In volume three, the plot is discovered and Louis banishes his brother, ordering his face be covered with an iron mask forever. The king then commands d'Artagnan to arrest and execute Aramis and Porthos, who were the instigators of the scheme. Beginning in volume five, first Porthos, then Athos, and finally d'Artagnan meet their deaths. The story concludes with his poignant words, "Athos, Porthos, farewell till we meet again!"

Aramis, adieu for ever." Readers will be caught up in this romantic tale of action and adventure based on language from the original classic and containing a story synopsis at the beginning of each volume. As each man ages, his distinctive features and visually well-defined persona remain consistent throughout the saga. Use of a limited color palette gives this adaptation a classic feel.  •Barbara M. Moon, Suffolk Cooperative Library System, Bellport, NY Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

A perennial favorite, this work continues to hold appeal for adventure lovers. Full of intrigue, swordplay, and revenge, it is the story of d'Artagnan, a young nobleman who travels to Paris in hopes of joining the Musketeers, a group of swashbuckling adventurers who serve King Louis XIII. His wit and fighting ability make d'Artagnan a welcome addition to their ranks, and together the four young men work to foil the King's evil rival, Cardinal Richelieu. Despite the period setting and constant violence, the story captures and sustains the listener's interest as the Musketeers vanquish the villains. Michael York reads superbly, his rich baritone voice giving each role convincing clarity. The audio format is particularly suited to the tale. The production quality is excellent. Recommended for general collections. - Nancy R. Ives, SUNY at GeneseoCopyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

Alexandre Dumas' 1844 novel *The Three Musketeers* is the most well-known swashbuckling novel in the genre, and with good reason. This well-deserved classic is a lot of fun, and the adventures of d'Artagnan, Athos, Porthos, and Aramis are very enjoyable. There are a couple of small issues I have with the story, but it's well worth reading. Dumas takes an interesting approach in that our main protagonist, d'Artagnan, is not in fact one of the titular Three Musketeers. Travelling from Gascony to Paris in 1620's France to make his fortune, the young, arrogant, brave, and - fortunately for himself - very capable d'Artagnan ends up friends with Athos, Porthos, and Aramis, and caught in the web of plots surrounding Cardinal Richelieu, King Louis XIII, and the Queen, Anne of Austria. D'Artagnan and each of the Musketeers are an interesting character in their own right, with Athos serious and brooding, Porthos an amusing but deadly fop, and Aramis constantly flirting with taking up the priesthood. The friendship between the four is also very well written, and it's with good reason that "the three musketeers" is still a byword for an extremely close group of comrades. The Cardinal is the main nemesis and architect of the troubles the four friends find themselves in, but their immediate trouble largely comes from Milady de Winter. Milady perhaps the trickiest, most

conniving, slippery, and vindictive character I've come across. Despite all the precautions d'Artagnan, the Musketeers, and the other allied characters take, Milady continues to find a way to cause trouble, leaving the fortunes of men, women, and nations torn asunder in her wake. She's quite the piece of work. I have two small problems with the book. First, for a swashbuckling novel, there are long stretches where there's no action. Instead the characters do a lot of boozing and schmoozing during these parts of the novel. Now, I'm all for character building and these parts are fun, but I was expecting a little more action in the most famous swashbuckling book of all time. There are even several chapters very near the end that focus entirely on Milady's dastardly schemes, and the Musketeers aren't even around. My second issue is that, since the four friends' main rival is a woman and the story is written in 1844 and takes place in the 1620's, the climactic showdown with Milady has no action, and - to keep our heroes from getting their hands dirty - a previously completely unknown character shows up right at that point with his own grudge against Milady and takes a very active roll. That seemed, frankly, like a bit of a cop out. I listened to Blackstone Audio's 2007 production of *The Three Musketeers* as read by Simon Vance. I'm a huge fan of Vance, and have listened to him narrate other swashbuckling works such as Rafael Sabatini's *Scaramouche* and *Captain Blood*. Vance does another excellent job here. He delivers the drama very well, and does a fantastic job of keeping it easy to track who's speaking, which is quite a feat for the large cast in this book. There are the four heroes, their four servants, the Cardinal, Milady, lots of other courtly allies and enemies, and love interests, but as soon as Vance speaks, you know who's involved. He also depicts the action in a very stirring and heart-pumping manner. The man knows how to narrate a duel, without a doubt. This unabridged recording runs approximately 23 hours. My only quibble with the production is that I was unable, either from the packaging, Blackstone's website, or anywhere else, to determine which translation was used in the recording. I recommend *The Three Musketeers* for anyone looking for a classic adventure tale. It's not perfect, but there is a good reason it's such a well-regarded novel. The characters are a lot of fun, the action is exciting, and the intrigue was excellent. I just wish there was a bit more action. If you're an audio book fan, definitely check out Vance's performance.

Set in 17th century France, "The Three Musketeers" is one of the greatest adventure stories ever written and a true classic, enduring in its appeal. The universal themes of loyalty, friendship, and brotherhood are explored throughout this novel of court intrigue, assignations, and more. Alexandre Dumas had indeed created a masterpiece for the ages. This 1978 Easton Press collector's edition is bound in genuine leather with gilt features on the covers and spine, and contains the complete

unabridged text, with illustrations by Edy Legrand. The color of the leather binding is an attractive light gray, and the book also features moire endpapers and a satin ribbon page marker. I've been collecting these books for some time now, and I can say each book is unique and of heirloom quality, and will enhance anyone's collection.

I LOVED this book! I adored Dumas' writing style and humor, which combined created a sense of joyful anticipation at the next situation that he would describe. There were certainly more twists and turns than I expected (having never seen the movie), and though the characters by the end of the book were somewhat predictable, the situations they were in weren't. With all different scenarios they are in and the pace it keeps, it makes sense to keep the characters somewhat simple, so you could keep track of it all. There is a great amount of "historical fiction" in the book as well- great for adventure seekers, light-hearted readers, and historians alike!

This was purchased as a gift for my daughter, who is still currently tackling this classic. I have not been brave enough to try it, but she loves it. She specifically wanted this version, as the additional notes by Barbera Cooper were helpful to her. She is constantly retelling me the antics of the Musketeers, and just had to have her own copy.

Whether it was the Bantom Books translation, the genius of the author, the availability of supporting historical documentation or the combination of all three, this was an excellent read. It is little wonder this book has never been out of print, and it probably never will. I truly enjoyed reading this remarkable and superbly written book. As excellent reading and writing go, there will not be a movie produced to be able to come close to the depth of this book. Many movies have tried, but have failed in their attempts. The ending could not have been predicted and leaves the reader wrestling with the moral and ethical implications of capital punishment. It is hard to determine which part of the book was my favorite. If hard pressed of course, I'd have to say where Athos and Grimond (his servant), after being falsely accused of being counter fitters, sword- fought their way out of it, locked themselves in the Inn Keeper's Basement and refused to leave. Hence, availing themselves of the Inn Keepers, best wines, hams, sausages, vegetables; etc. You would have to be made of iron not to laugh yourself into hysterics a few times while reading this book. I give this book five well deserved stars.

I had never read this classic by Dumas and I am glad that I am. I have seen multiple versions in film

but none do justice to the fabulous and witty dialog, scene description, and wonderful character development that Dumas brings to life. The drawings interspersed throughout the book are good. I am glad to be reading this on my Kindle so I can highlight and view the dictionary definitions of a lot of the words that Dumas uses. A great read so far!

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