

Murat

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Alexandre
Dumas

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About Author:



Alexandre Dumas, père, born Dumas Davy de la Pailleterie (July 24, 1802 – December 5, 1870) was a French writer, best known for his numerous historical novels of high adventure which have made him one of the most widely read French authors in the world. Many of his novels, including *The Count of Monte Cristo*, *The Three Musketeers*, and *The Man in the Iron Mask* were serialized, and he also wrote plays and magazine articles and was a prolific correspondent.

Other Books of Dumas:

- *The Count of Monte Cristo* (1845)
- *The Three Musketeers* (1844)
- *The Man in the Iron Mask* (1850)
- *Twenty Years After* (1845)
- *The Borgias* (1840)
- *Ten Years Later* (1848)
- *The Vicomte of Bragelonne* (1847)
- *The Black Tulip* (1850)
- *Louise de la Valliere* (1849)
- *Ali Pacha* (1840)

Chapter 1 Toulon

On the 18th June, 1815, at the very moment when the destiny of Europe was being decided at Waterloo, a man dressed like a beggar was silently following the road from Toulon to Marseilles.

Arrived at the entrance of the Gorge of Ollioulles, he halted on a little eminence from which he could see all the surrounding country; then either because he had reached the end of his journey, or because, before attempting that forbidding, sombre pass which is called the Thermopylae of Provence, he wished to enjoy the magnificent view which spread to the southern horizon a little longer, he went and sat down on the edge of the ditch which bordered the road, turning his back on the mountains which rise like an amphitheatre to the north of the town, and having at his feet a rich plain covered with tropical vegetation, exotics of a conservatory, trees and flowers quite unknown in any other part of France.

Beyond this plain, glittering in the last rays of the sun, pale and motionless as a mirror lay the sea, and on the surface of the water glided one brig-of-war, which, taking advantage of a fresh land breeze, had all sails spread, and was bowling along