CLASSICS LIBRARY · STORY MAP

Louise de la Vallière

Alexandre Dumas · *1847–1850 (this file: third part of the final romance) · English translation (translator unnamed in this Project Gutenberg file, #2710)*

During long debates of politics and love, D'Artagnan is neglected, forgotten, and exceedingly unhappy. This hosted file is the third part of the final D'Artagnan romance, after The Vicomte de Bragelonne and Ten Years Later, and before The Man in the Iron Mask. Project Gutenberg #2710. Quote the novel, not the transcriber's note on the split.

THE CENTRAL QUESTION

What becomes of Louise, of Raoul, and of a musketeer who has "absolutely nothing whatever to do" amidst the court's brilliant butterflies, and how should a school label a file that is still not the end?

"During all these long and noisy debates between the opposite ambitions of politics and love, one of our characters, perhaps the one least deserving of neglect, was, however, very much neglected, very much forgotten, and exceedingly unhappy."

Chapter I, Malaga

The volume opens by recalling D'Artagnan to the reader, almost as if he had been forgotten in the glitter of Fontainebleau. Louise de la Vallière is now at the center of the court's love and injury. Raoul's honor is at stake. The iron-mask ending is still not in this file. Teach the adult court with tact, for older students (10–12). Label the part honestly, and do not quote the transcriber's preface as Chapter I.

KEY CHARACTERS

D'Artagnan
The musketeer whom the opening finds neglected among the court's butterflies, and whom the narrator must name again so that we remember he exists

Louise de la Vallière
The young woman at the center of this part's court and of its title

Raoul, Vicomte de Bragelonne
Whose honor is bound to the same history

Porthos and Baisemeaux
Figures of the later action: the old friend's strength, and the keeper of keys at the Bastile

A MUSKETEER NEGLECTED

> *"During all these long and noisy debates between the opposite ambitions of politics and love, one of our characters, perhaps the one least deserving of neglect, was, however, very much neglected, very much forgotten, and exceedingly unhappy."*
>
> Chapter I, Malaga

Grades 10–12
Read the full text free at classicslaunch.org.

01

D'Artagnan Forgotten

CHAPTER I, MALAGA

Politics and love have been loudly debated. The musketeer has had nothing to do among the brilliant butterflies of fashion. After two days of following the king at Fontainebleau, he wants something more than pastoral fancies.

- The opening is exact, including "very much neglected, very much forgotten, and exceedingly unhappy"
- The file then names him three times: "In fact, D'Artagnan--D'Artagnan, we say, for we must call him by his name, to remind our readers of his existence"
- Chapter I is titled "Malaga."
- Do not quote the transcriber's note as the opening

> *"During all these long and noisy debates between the opposite ambitions of politics and love, one of our characters, perhaps the one least deserving of neglect, was, however, very much neglected, very much forgotten, and exceedingly unhappy. In fact, D'Artagnan--D'Artagnan, we say, for we must call him by his name, to remind our readers of his existence--D'Artagnan, we repeat, had absolutely nothing whatever to do, amidst these brilliant butterflies of fashion."*
>
> Chapter I, Malaga

02

Louise, and a Court of Love and Injury

THE EARLY AND MIDDLE CHAPTERS

Louise de la Vallière's place in the king's regard, and the cost of that place to her and to others, is the human center of this part.

- Teach the courtship and the injury with tact, for older students (10–12)
- Raoul, the Vicomte de Bragelonne, is not to be forgotten; his honor is part of the cost
- The book remains a musketeer romance even when the subject is a court love
- Keep the names as printed, including the accent in Vallière when the file uses it

03

Bastille Keys, and Old Friends

THE LATER ACTION OF THIS PART

D'Artagnan visits Baisemeaux; Porthos has not lost his muscularity. The old companions still have work in a world of keys, visits, and exact minutes.

- Chapter II begins with a visit to M. de Baisemeaux on a tidying day at the Bastile, the spelling used in this file
- A later chapter promises that the reader will be delighted to find that Porthos has lost nothing of his muscularity
- The musketeers' friendship is still a measure of the book
- Do not drag the iron-mask plot into this part if this file has not yet given it

04

The Iron Mask Is Not Here

THE CLOSE OF PG #2710

The Man in the Iron Mask is the fourth part in this English split. It is not this file. A class that stops here has not reached that ending.

- Label this honestly as the third part of the final romance
- The transcriber's note names the four parts; use it as a map of the files, not as Dumas's prose
- Do not invent the iron-mask close from memory and attribute it to this volume
- Read the first two parts first if you can

05

The Hosted English, #2710

THIS THIRD PART

The translator is unnamed in this Project Gutenberg file. Quote the wording as printed, including the file's "Bastile."

- Do not invent a translator's name
- Catalogue grade band: 10–12
- The title names Louise; the opening still recalls D'Artagnan to the stage
- This is a continuation, not a first book

A Court of Love and Policy · A Musketeer Set Aside · Honor and Injury · Friendship · A Costly Regard · A Third Part Only

What to watch for as you read

GRADES 10–12

1. The story in this file begins: "During all these long and noisy debates between the opposite ambitions of politics and love, one of our characters... was, however, very much neglected, very much forgotten, and exceedingly unhappy." It is D'Artagnan. A transcriber's note on the split stands first; do not quote it as Chapter I.
2. This is the third part of the final D'Artagnan romance as PG split it (PG #2710). The Man in the Iron Mask is not in this file. Label it honestly, and do not invent that ending here.
3. The translator is unnamed in this file; do not invent a name. This file spells "Bastile."
4. Teach the court of Louise and the king with tact, for older students (10–12). Raoul's honor is part of the cost.
5. Read The Vicomte de Bragelonne and Ten Years Later first if you can. This is a continuation, not a first book.

Quotations are verbatim from the English translation (translator unnamed in this Project Gutenberg file, #2710), Project Gutenberg #2710, the public-domain text hosted at classicslaunch.org/works/dumas-louise-de-la-valliere/. Citations give book and chapter (or canto and line) so every line can be checked.