CLASSICS LIBRARY · STORY MAP

Ten Years Later

Alexandre Dumas · *1847–1850 (this file: second part of the final romance) · English translation (translator unnamed in this Project Gutenberg file, #2681)*

A courier from Bretagne is announced, dusty and stiff-legged: it is D'Artagnan, his spurs blood-stained. This hosted file is not a new story begun at chapter one. It is the second part of the long final D'Artagnan romance, after The Vicomte de Bragelonne, and before Louise de la Vallière. Project Gutenberg #2681. Quote the novel, not the transcriber's note on the split.

THE CENTRAL QUESTION

How should a school read a volume that begins mid-romance, with D'Artagnan already on the road, and that does not contain the end of the iron mask?

"The reader guesses beforehand whom the usher preceded in announcing the courier from Bretagne. This messenger was easily recognized. It was D'Artagnan, his clothes dusty, his face inflamed, his hair dripping with sweat, his legs stiff; he lifted his feet painfully at every step, on which resounded the clink of his blood-stained spurs."

Chapter I

Label this file honestly: Ten Years Later is a continuation, the second of four English parts of The Vicomte de Bragelonne as Project Gutenberg split them. It opens with D'Artagnan arriving from Bretagne, and Fouquet coming out as he goes in. Louise de la Vallière will become more central as the part proceeds; the iron-mask close is not here. Quote Chapter I, not the long transcriber's preface about reading order.

KEY CHARACTERS

D'Artagnan
The courier from Bretagne who opens the volume, dusty, stiff, his spurs blood-stained

Fouquet
The superintendent, met in the doorway as D'Artagnan arrives

Mademoiselle de la Vallière
The young woman whom the book will call, in a chapter title, the true heroine of this history

Louis XIV
The king whose court is already the weather of this continuation

A COURIER RECOGNIZED

> *"The reader guesses beforehand whom the usher preceded in announcing the courier from Bretagne. This messenger was easily recognized. It was D'Artagnan, his clothes dusty, his face inflamed, his hair dripping with sweat, his legs stiff; he lifted his feet painfully at every step, on which resounded the clink of his blood-stained spurs."*
>
> Chapter I

Grades 9–12
Read the full text free at classicslaunch.org.

01

The Courier from Bretagne

CHAPTER I

The usher announces a courier. The reader is expected to know him. D'Artagnan arrives dusty, inflamed, his spurs blood-stained. Fouquet, the superintendent, is coming out as he goes in, and they bow.

- The first sentences of the story are exact, including "the courier from Bretagne" and "blood-stained spurs"
- This chapter's heading in the file is "In which D'Artagnan finishes by at Length placing his Hand upon his Captain's Commission."
- Do not quote the transcriber's note ("As you may be aware, Project Gutenberg has been involved...") as the opening
- The part begins in motion, not with a fresh prelude

> *"The reader guesses beforehand whom the usher preceded in announcing the courier from Bretagne. This messenger was easily recognized. It was D'Artagnan, his clothes dusty, his face inflamed, his hair dripping with sweat, his legs stiff; he lifted his feet painfully at every step, on which resounded the clink of his blood-stained spurs."*
>
> Chapter I

02

A Court Already in Motion

THE EARLY CHAPTERS

Gaston of Orleans, Blois, and the first appearance of Mademoiselle de la Vallière belong to this opening movement. The book assumes you have already lived in this court.

- A chapter is titled "In Which We at Length See the True Heroine of this History Appear." Behind Madame de Saint-Remy stands Mademoiselle de la Vallière
- If a class has not read the first part, say so, and do not pretend this volume is self-contained
- Private loves and public ambitions are already entangled
- For older students (catalogue 9–12)

03

D'Artagnan's Commission, and the King's World

THE MIDDLE OF THIS PART

D'Artagnan's service, the king's favor, and the rising story of Louise and of the court around her occupy the body of the volume.

- Keep the names as printed: D'Artagnan, Fouquet, La Vallière, Louis
- The book is still a romance of honor and of a musketeer's trade, even when the court is the scene
- Teach the adult intrigues with tact
- Do not leap ahead into the iron mask from this file

04

This Part Ends; Two Remain

THE CLOSE OF PG #2681

Louise de la Vallière and The Man in the Iron Mask continue the romance. They are not in this file.

- Label the work honestly as a second part
- A class that stops here should know the story of Raoul and of Louise is not finished
- The transcriber's note names the four-part split; use it as a map of the files, not as a quotation from Dumas
- The next hosted part, if read, is Louise de la Vallière

05

The Hosted English, #2681

THIS SECOND PART

The translator is unnamed in this Project Gutenberg file. Quote the wording as printed.

- Do not invent a translator's name
- This may be read only after The Vicomte de Bragelonne (PG #2609)
- For older students; a continuation, not a first book
- Keep D'Artagnan's name and the French forms as printed

A Continuation | Service and Fatigue | A Court in Motion | Loyalty | Honor | A Story Not Yet Finished

What to watch for as you read

GRADES 9–12

1. The story in this file begins: "The reader guesses beforehand whom the usher preceded in announcing the courier from Bretagne." It is D'Artagnan, dusty, his spurs blood-stained. A long transcriber's note on reading order stands first; do not quote it as Chapter I.
2. This is the second part of the final D'Artagnan romance as PG split it (PG #2681). It is not a self-contained novel. The first part is The Vicomte de Bragelonne; later parts are Louise de la Vallière and The Man in the Iron Mask. Label it honestly.
3. The translator is unnamed in this file; do not invent a name.
4. A chapter heading already points to Mademoiselle de la Vallière as "the true heroine of this history." The iron-mask close is not in this file.
5. For older students (9–12). Read it after the first part if you can.

Quotations are verbatim from the English translation (translator unnamed in this Project Gutenberg file, #2681), Project Gutenberg #2681, the public-domain text hosted at classicslaunch.org/works/dumas-ten-years-later/. Citations give book and chapter (or canto and line) so every line can be checked.