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Twenty Years After

Alexandre Dumas · *1845 · anonymous 19th-century English translation*

The four companions have been scattered by time, rank, and civil war. D'Artagnan, still a lieutenant, must find Athos, Porthos, and Aramis again—this time across the Fronde in France and the scaffold of a king in England. The hosted English is an uncredited nineteenth-century translation.

THE CENTRAL QUESTION

Can friendship hold, twenty years on, when the same four men no longer serve one cardinal, one queen, or even one side?

"It is I who cherish no resentment."

D'Artagnan · An early reunion with Porthos

Time has made a viscount of Athos's young Raoul, a country great man of Porthos, a churchman and plotter of Aramis, and left D'Artagnan waiting on a new cardinal, Mazarin. The Fronde splits Paris; a secret from the first book walks again in Mordaunt, son of Milady; and in England, Charles I moves toward the block. The four are not always of one mind. The hosted text (PG #1259) is an anonymous 19th-century English, in the same tradition as the site's Three Musketeers. It has a proper ending. Quote this page—including d'Artagnan with the apostrophe as printed.

KEY CHARACTERS

D'Artagnan
Still a lieutenant, still the will that tries to gather the four.

Athos, Porthos, and Aramis
A noble, a giant of vanity and heart, and a churchman-plotter—friends, and no longer one man.

Mazarin and the Frondeurs
The new powers of a France in civil trouble.

Mordaunt, and Charles I
The son of an old enemy, and the English king whose death becomes their affair.

NO RESENTMENT

> *"It is I who cherish no resentment."*
>
> **D'Artagnan** · The reunion with Porthos

Grades 8–12
Read the full text free at classicslaunch.org.

01

A Lieutenant Still

THE OPENING IN PARIS

D'Artagnan is still a lieutenant, now under Mazarin. The court has changed; the old musketeer's work has not. He is sent to gather the friends of his youth.

- The joke of his unchanged rank is also a wound.
- Mazarin is not Richelieu; the book knows the difference.
- The first task is simply to find the other three.

02

The Friends, Scattered

THE REUNIONS

Porthos is found in a country grandeur; Athos in a grave nobility; Aramis in the church, with more than churchly plans. Friendship must be remade, not merely remembered.

- 'It is I who cherish no resentment' is this English's wording at a reunion.
- They are older; vanity and politics have had twenty years to grow.
- A true reunion will still cost something.

> *"It is I who cherish no resentment."*
>
> **D'Artagnan** · The reunion with Porthos

03

The Fronde

THE CIVIL WAR IN FRANCE

Paris rises; princes and the cardinal play a dangerous game; the four are not all on the same side of every street.

- Civil war tests the old motto more than a duel ever did.
- Keep the politics clear enough to follow, without making the book a textbook.
- Loyalty to one another and loyalty to a party are no longer the same thing.

04

Mordaunt, and England

THE ENGLISH THREAD

A letter and a secretary named Mordaunt bring back the shadow of Milady. In England, Charles I's fate becomes the four's affair as well.

- Mordaunt is the past walking; students who know the first book will feel the turn.
- The English chapters are not a detour; they are a second moral stage.
- Charles is a king in the book, and a man going to death.

05

A Proper Close

THE ENDING

The hosted text carries the novel to its own end: the friends parted or kept, the English tragedy complete, the French game not quite finished. A later volume will come; this one concludes.

- Flag that this English is uncredited, as with the site's Three Musketeers.
- The book ends properly in the hosted file; do not treat it as a fragment.
- Older students can take the scaffold and the vendetta without sensationalism.

Friendship and Time | Civil War | Loyalty | A Past Unburied | A King's Death

What to watch for as you read

GRADES 8–12

1. The hosted text is Project Gutenberg #1259, an anonymous 19th-century English translation (the catalogue names no translator). It is in the same tradition as the site's Three Musketeers. Quote this page, including the typography of d'Artagnan / D'Artagnan as printed.
2. The novel has a proper ending in the hosted file. It includes the Fronde and the execution of Charles I, and it brings back the shadow of Milady in Mordaunt. For older students; do not sensationalize the scaffold.
3. This is the sequel to The Three Musketeers, not The Man in the Iron Mask. Keep the plots distinct.

Quotations are verbatim from the anonymous 19th-century English translation, Project Gutenberg #1259, the public-domain text hosted at classicslaunch.org/works/dumas-twenty-years-after/. Citations give book and chapter (or canto and line) so every line can be checked.