

'Be quiet, you fool!' said Danglars.

'He is an innocent man. I cannot let this happen to him,' insisted Caderousse.

'But the ship did go to the island of Elba, and it did pass the whole day there. If you try to defend him, they will believe you are a Bonapartist too. Do you want to go to prison with him?' threatened Danglars, and Caderousse fell silent.

Just then, a worried Morrel approached them.

'Who will take care of the ship's matters now?' he asked.

'I will, sir,' Danglars quickly said. 'I am as capable as anyone else of taking care of the ship's matters and I am at your service, sir.'

'Thank you, Danglars. That makes things so much better,' said Morrel and left.

Dantes was taken to the house of the deputy prosecutor, Gerard Villefort, a man who held life and death in his hands. At the same time, Villefort was in the Rue du Grand Cours, while his engagement to Renee de Saint-Meran was taking place. All the important people of Marseilles were at the celebration.

Villefort's engagement to the daughter of the Marquis de Saint-Meran would help him with his very high ambitions. Most of all, it would make people forget that his father, Noirtier, a very powerful Bonapartist in Paris, had been one of those who had thrown King Louis from his throne; it was a dark past and Villefort needed everyone to forget so that his life could move on.

As Villefort entered his house, he met the head of police at the door. The man's face looked serious.

'I know, I know,' Villefort said to him. 'I have read the letter. What do you know about his connection with the Bonapartists?'

'Not much yet, other than this letter, sir, but we are still searching,' the officer replied.

'Bring him to me,' said Villefort as he walked into his office.

Standing in front of Villefort, Dantes heard the prosecutor asking him: 'Who and what are you?'

'I am Edmond Dantes and I am a sailor,' Dantes said, pale but calm.

'Have you ever served under Napoleon Bonaparte? What are your political beliefs?'

