

island of Monte Cristo, and it was not long before an opportunity came up. They had been expecting an illegal ship to arrive from Turkey carrying carpets, silk and spices. Dantes managed to convince the captain that it would be better if he did his secret business on the deserted island of Monte Cristo.

When they reached the island, the men were hungry and tired.

'Look! There are wild goats on the island,' Dantes said. 'I will go and hunt them so we can have something to eat.'

'Let me come with you,' offered Jacopo, a young sailor.

'Do as you wish,' Dantes replied, and they set off.

But as Dantes leapt from rock to rock, he slipped and fell.

'Aaah!' he exclaimed in great pain.

Jacopo tried to help him stand up, but Dantes cried even louder.

'Go tell the others that there has been an accident,' he told Jacopo.

'Tell them to leave without me.'

The captain didn't want to leave his best sailor behind.

'We must leave to attend to our business,' the captain finally said to Dantes. 'But we will return in a few days for you.'

When the ship left, Dantes stood up and unrolled the map the Abbe had given him; his accident was nothing but a trick. Immediately, he started searching for an underground cave which had its entrance covered by an enormous rock near a hidden stream. It was not long before he found the stream, and only a few feet away he saw the rock.

Dantes tried to move it, but it was impossible. Fortunately, he had some gunpowder for his hunting gun and used it to blow up the rock.

With his legs trembling, he entered the cave, and made his way deep under the ground. A soft blue light lit the cave. Following the instructions on the map, Dantes moved to the deepest corner. He dug the ground and found a large wooden box. When he opened it, he almost lost his mind.

The treasure box was divided into three compartments. In the first one, there was a pile of gold coins; in the second, there were heavy bars of unpolished gold; and in the third, there were handfuls of diamonds, pearls and rubies!

Dantes started laughing, and then he cried. He fell down on his knees and thanked the Abbe Faria with his arms up in the air. Then he

