

'You look like you want to throw yourself into the sea,' Caderousse called out to Fernand. 'You had not expected Dantes to return so suddenly; is that not right? Come and sit with us.'

'He has come to marry her, to take her from me forever! How can I stop him?' said the young man in despair.

Danglars pulled a piece of paper out of his coat.

'What is that?' Caderousse asked.

'It is a letter to Monsieur Villefort, the prosecutor of Marseilles, informing him that Dantes is a Bonapartist. I have written to him about Dantes' trip to the island of Elba and about the letter he had to deliver to the Bonapartists of Paris. This information is enough to send Dantes to prison forever,' said Danglars, who wanted to become captain of the *Pharoah* instead of Edmond Dantes.

'Why?' Caderousse asked, 'Dantes is a good man. He has harmed no one. Get rid of this letter!'

Fernand eagerly stared at the letter.

'All right then. If that is what you wish,' Danglars crumpled the letter and threw it on the ground.

'Let us go then,' he said, and took Caderousse by the arm, leading him away from the table.

As they walked away, Danglars turned around and saw Fernand picking up the crumpled letter. He smiled with satisfaction, knowing that nothing would stop the evil that would soon fall upon Edmond Dantes.



## CHAPTER 2

**T**HE NEXT DAY, MANY PEOPLE HAD GATHERED AT THE LA RESERVE for Edmond and Mercedes' marriage celebration. The guests were Dantes' favourite members of the *Pharoah* crew and old friends of the bride and the groom.

Danglars and Caderousse watched the young couple moving happily among the crowd with Dantes' father at their side. A few steps behind them followed Fernand, with an evil smile on his face.

Minutes later Monsieur Morrel walked into the room. The crew began to applaud enthusiastically, knowing that Morrel's arrival was a sign that Dantes would become captain.

But that joy did not last long. Loud and angry voices were heard, and the door was pushed open. It was the police.

'Who is Edmond Dantes?' they asked.

'I am,' Dantes said, 'What's this? What have I done?'

'I arrest you in the name of the law; you will soon find out why,' said the officer.

Monsieur Morrel was shocked, while Dantes' father begged them not to take his son away.

'Adieu, adieu, my dearest Edmond!' Mercedes cried.

'Goodbye, dear Mercedes – we will soon meet again!' said the young man as he entered the carriage to Marseilles.

\*\*\*

Caderousse turned to Danglars. 'You deceived me!' he exclaimed.