

used a knife he had managed to make and always carried with him to cut open the sack and remove the rope with the rock from his feet; not long after, he was up on the surface. The sea was rough and the waves hit him one after the other, but he didn't give up. He swam hard and managed to reach the shores of a small island.



CHAPTER 4

DANTES PULLED HIMSELF ONTO SOME ROCKS, RIGHT BEFORE a wild storm broke out. From the shore, he could see a small fishing boat pushed by the huge waves towards the rocks, and it was not long before it crashed on them. Dantes heard the cries of men, then all the voices suddenly stopped and only the wind was heard howling.

The young man spent the rest of the night wondering how he would be able to leave. Just then, as he looked out to sea, he saw a small ship coming his way. He quickly jumped into the sea, pretending he was shipwrecked. The ship picked him up.

'Who are you?' asked the captain.

'I am a sailor. My boat was destroyed in the storm last night. I am the only survivor,' Dantes said.

'A prisoner escaped Chateau d'If this morning. How do I know you're not him?' the captain asked again.

'Let me sail your ship, so I can prove to you that I am not lying,' Dantes said.

The captain was so impressed by Dantes' skills that he offered him a place among his crew. Dantes accepted with relief, but, on the very same day, he realised that they were smugglers.

He then started thinking of a way to make the ship land at the



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.'

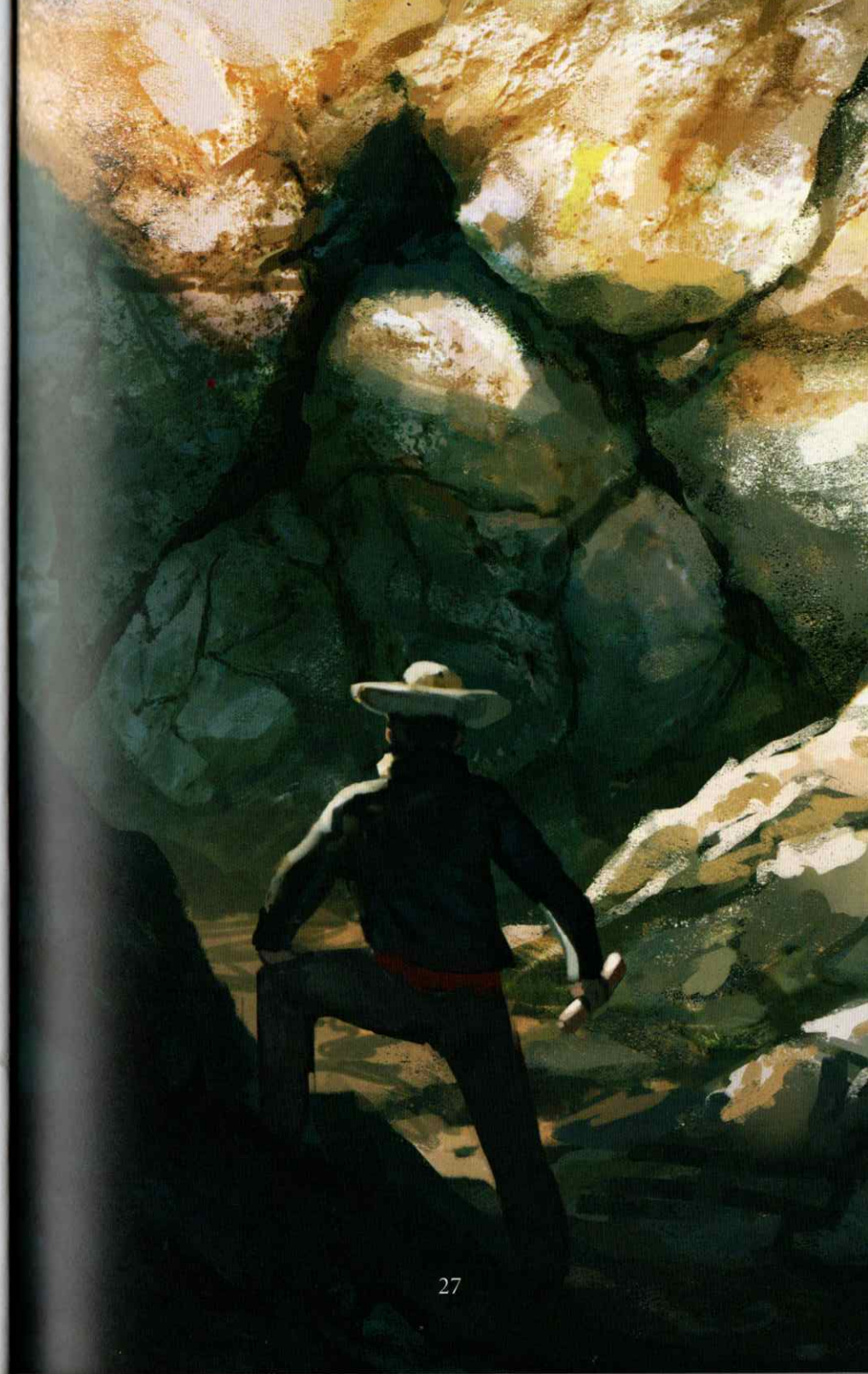
When the ship left, Dantes stood up and unrolled the map the Abbe had given him; his accident was nothing but a trick. Immediately, he started searching for an underground cave which had its entrance covered by an enormous rock near a hidden stream. It was not long before he found the stream, and only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



put some gold coins in his pockets and a handful of precious stones. And right after that, he went to work covering the cave entrance.

Two days later, the smugglers returned for him. And it was not long before their dealings took the ship to Marseilles, where Dantes bade his companions farewell.

In the fourteen years he had been away, Dantes had understood, with the help of the Abbe Faria, that Fernand, Danglars and Villefort were behind all his suffering. He now wondered what had become of his poor father and his beloved Mercedes, and he set off to find out.

Disguised as a priest, Dantes visited Caderousse, who owned a small inn in the south.

'Hello, stranger. What brings you to my inn?' Caderousse said.

'A man called Dantes left something for you. It was his last wish,' said the priest.

'Dantes was my friend. Is he dead?' exclaimed Caderousse.

'Yes... He asked me to give you this... but I need something in exchange,' said the priest as he took a large diamond out of his pocket. Caderousse could not believe his eyes.

'Do you know what became of his father after Dantes was arrested?' the priest asked.

'The poor old man died of starvation,' Caderousse said in a sorrowful voice.

Dantes was in shock, but he tried very hard to hide it.

'Monsieur Morrel and the young Mercedes visited him every day, taking food to him, but he refused to eat anything. He did not want to live without his son,' continued the man.

'And Mercedes?' the priest asked in a low voice.

'She waited for Dantes to return, but that never happened,' came the answer.

'Where is she now?' asked the priest again.

'She married Fernand. They have a son,' said Caderousse.

'Fernand?' the priest asked, trying to hide his anger.

'Yes, they live a wealthy life in Paris,' Caderousse said.

'But how could a poor Catalan man become so rich?' the priest asked.

'No one really knows, but they say he has a strange secret.'



Fernand had joined the French army; when the Greeks rose up for their independence, he went to Greece and entered the service of Ali Pasha. Ali was killed, but before he died he left Fernand a considerable amount of money. Fernand returned to France very rich. He now lives in Paris and has become a count. Count de Morcerf is his name now.'

The priest fell silent for a while. Then he continued with his questions.

'What about Danglars? What do you know about him?'

'He left Marseilles and was taken as a cashier into a Spanish bank on the recommendation of Monsieur Morrel. During the war between France and Spain he made a lot of money, which he invested. He then married his banker's daughter, who died, and then married another rich woman. He is a millionaire, and they have made him a baron. He is now the Baron Danglars,' said Caderousse.

'Ah!' said the priest. 'So he is happy. What do you know about Villefort?' he asked.

'I do not know much about him. He too lives in Paris. He too married a rich woman, the daughter of Saint-Meran. Only I am poor.'

'Not anymore,' the priest said and put the diamond in his hand. Then he turned to go, leaving him speechless.

A few days later, Dantes visited the Mayor of Marseilles. This time he was disguised as an English banker.

'I have come from the bank of Thompson & French in Rome to do business with the house of Morrel & Son of Marseilles,' he said. 'We have heard they are on the brink of bankruptcy. Are these rumours true?'

'I am afraid so,' the mayor replied. 'Morrel has lost four or five of his ships in the last five years and has suffered economic disaster. Monsieur de Boville, the inspector of prisons, knows more about this.'

Dantes immediately visited de Boville and found him in great despair.

'I invested two hundred thousand francs in Morrel & Son, which I was to get back today. But only half an hour ago, they informed me



that their ship *Pharaoh* has for some reason not arrived at the port and that therefore they cannot give me back my money. This money was my daughter's dowry!' the man cried out. 'And now there will be no wedding. This is a disgrace for my daughter and my family.'

'I will give it to you,' the banker said, 'I will buy Morrel's debt in exchange for any papers you have in the registry concerning a prisoner called Edmond Dantes.'

Monsieur de Boville could not believe what he was hearing. In return, he let Dantes look at the prison records; now Dantes had proof of the great injustice Villefort had committed against him and of the endless efforts Morrel had made to help him.

Still disguised as an English banker, Dantes appeared at the offices of Morrel & Son. There were only two employees still working there: a young man called Emmanuel and Morrel's faithful accountant, Cocles. Dantes asked to see Morrel.

'He's in the back,' Emmanuel said, fearing it was one more creditor coming to ask for his money.

As Dantes entered, Morrel stood up, showing respect to the stranger. Morrel looked so much older than his age. 'If you have come for money, I have nothing,' he said. 'I have nothing left but my wonderful daughter and son.'

'Your debt has been taken care of,' said the stranger. 'As for the *Pharaoh*, the ship will return, trust me.'

After that was settled, Dantes left Marseilles and put his plan of revenge into full action.



CHAPTER 4

Comprehension

1 Read the following statements. In each box write T if the sentence is True and F if it is False.

1. Dantes reached the shore just as a wild storm started. ☐
2. Dantes told the captain that he had been on a ship that sank. ☐
3. Dantes went onto the island of Monte Cristo with another sailor. ☐
4. Dantes' new sailor friends went with him to Marseilles. ☐
5. Dantes got angry with Caderousse when he heard news of Mercedes. ☐
6. Morrel's business had almost completely run out of money when Dantes returned. ☐

2 Find words/phrases spoken by characters in Chapter 4 which:

1. show what the captain of the ship thought of Dantes' abilities (page 25)

2. show how Dantes felt when he was invited to join the crew of the ship (page 25)

3. show the captain's reasons for leaving Dantes behind on the island (page 26)

4. show Dantes' reaction to news about his father (page 28)

5. show Caderousse's reaction to the priest's action (page 30)

6. show how de Boville felt about not having his money returned to him. (page 30)

Vocabulary

3 Choose a, b or c to complete the following sentences.

1. They caught the _____ when they were loading goods onto their ship.
a. survivors b. smugglers c. spices
2. The floor was a little wet and I _____ and broke my foot.
a. crashed b. deserted c. slipped
3. It is _____ to park here; you will have to move somewhere else.
a. impossible b. illegal c. unpolished

4. Helen grabbed a _____ of small stones and threw them up at the window.
a. compartment b. dynamite c. handful
5. The people _____ to let the man into the building because they did not know him.
a. refused b. disguised c. arrested
6. The tourists were _____ when they saw the enormous waterfall.
a. sorrowful b. speechless c. wealthy

4 Complete the following sentences with the correct form of the words in capitals.

1. It was quite a sound, hearing the wolves _____ at the moon. **HOWL**
2. This war has caused a lot of _____ to our people. **SUFFER**
3. She was shocked to learn how many people died of _____ every day. **STARVE**
4. Thankfully the _____ situation is slowly improving. **ECONOMY**
5. The judge was not too hard on Sean, because he was very young and the crime he had _____ was not very serious. **COMMIT**

Follow-up activities

5 Discuss.

1. When Dantes got picked up by the ship he was able to think quickly to save himself. Are you able to think clearly under pressure? Give examples.
2. Dantes soon realised that the captain and crew were smugglers. How do you think he felt about this? Why? How would you feel if you were him?
3. Dantes disguised himself to find out information. Would you do the same in his position? Why?
4. Dantes did not reveal himself to Morrel. Why do you think that is?
5. After leaving Marseilles, Dantes put his plan of revenge into action. What do you think he plans to do?

6 Imagine that you are Dantes. Write a page in your diary describing the day you found the treasure. (120-140 words)