

**NAXOS**  
AudioBooks

COMPLETE  
CLASSICS  
UNABRIDGED

**Alexandre Dumas**

# THE COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO

Read by **Bill Homewood**



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## CD 1

<b>1</b>	<b>Chapter 1</b>	4:05
<b>2</b>	'And how did this misfortune occur?'	5:02
<b>3</b>	'You see,' said Danglars...	4:42
<b>4</b>	At this moment the young man returned...	3:55
<b>5</b>	'Without her captain!' cried Dantès...	4:02
<b>6</b>	<b>Chapter 2</b>	5:31
<b>7</b>	'Yes, here I am,' said the young man...	3:30
<b>8</b>	The young man remarked the greedy glance...	4:14
<b>9</b>	Caderousse lingered for a moment...	3:51
<b>10</b>	<b>Chapter 3</b>	4:29
<b>11</b>	'You mistake, Fernand; it is not a law...	4:26
<b>12</b>	Fernand made no reply...	6:15
<b>13</b>	His hatred, like a powerless though furious wave...	4:32
<b>14</b>	'Oh, if you take it in that sense...'	4:24
<b>15</b>	Fernand, probably excited beyond bearing...	5:58
<b>16</b>	<b>Chapter 4</b>	5:48
<b>17</b>	Danglars saw in the muddled look of the tailor...	4:22

**Total time on CD 1: 78:15**

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## CD 2

1	'Well,' resumed the Catalan...	3:53
2	'Yes,' said Danglars...	3:33
3	<b>Chapter 5</b>	5:21
4	Dantès himself was simply, but becomingly...	5:43
5	'Well, never mind that, neighbour Caderousse...'	5:22
6	'Oh, there was no harm meant,' answered Danglars...	5:12
7	The scene of the previous night now came back...	5:50
8	Mercedes, however, paid no heed...	5:12
9	"'Tis well, Danglars – 'tis well!' replied M. Morrel...	5:58
10	<b>Chapter 6</b>	4:08
11	'Marquise, marquise!' interposed the old nobleman...	5:29
12	'Bravo, Villefort!' cried the marquis...	4:14
13	'Oh, M. de Villefort,' cried a beautiful young creature...	5:04
14	'Dear, good Renée' whispered Villefort...	4:38
15	'You were wishing just now,' said Villefort...	5:11

**Total time on CD 2: 74:59**

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## CD 3

1	<b>Chapter 7</b>	5:26
2	As he had now arrived at the door...	5:19
3	As Dantès spoke, Villefort gazed...	5:27
4	'And what did you do then?'	3:47
5	'Oh,' said Dantès timidly...	4:53
6	<b>Chapter 8</b>	4:29
7	The soldiers looked at Dantès...	3:39
8	In spite of his repugnance to address the guards...	4:58
9	They halted for a minute...	4:23
10	'Well,' said the jailer...	4:08
11	<b>Chapter 9</b>	5:13
12	'The young man you speak of,' said Villefort...	3:01
13	Villefort rose, or rather sprang, from his chair...	4:27
14	<b>Chapter 10</b>	4:40
15	'Come in,' said Louis XVIII...	5:16
16	'Well, sir, go'; said Louis XVIII...	4:29
17	'M. de Villefort,' said Louis XVIII...	5:14

**Total time on CD 3: 78:59**

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## CD 4

1	<b>Chapter 11</b>	4:17
2	Louis XVIII advanced a step...	5:15
3	The minister of police thanked the young man...	4:41
4	How strange,' continued the king...	5:27
5	<b>Chapter 12</b>	4:41
6	'I must refer again to the club...'	4:34
7	'Grenoble and Lyons are faithful cities...'	4:04
8	'Well,' he said, turning towards his wondering son...	5:22
9	<b>Chapter 13</b>	5:35
10	Villefort by a strong effort sought...	4:55
11	'Sit down there,' said Villefort...	3:47
12	Fernand understood nothing...	3:53
13	<b>Chapter 14</b>	5:15
14	The inspector listened attentively...	5:09
15	'No. 27,' said the inspector.	5:09
16	'On my word,' said the inspector...	6:07

**Total time on CD 4: 78:21**

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## CD 5

<b>1</b>	<b>Chapter 15</b>	4:59
<b>2</b>	Rage supplanted religious fervour.	4:58
<b>3</b>	Dantès said, 'I wish to die...'	5:26
<b>4</b>	It was easy to ascertain this...	5:25
<b>5</b>	All night he heard the subterranean workman...	4:51
<b>6</b>	Dantès raised his eyes to heaven...	5:34
<b>7</b>	'You mistrust me, then,' said Dantès.	5:14
<b>8</b>	<b>Chapter 16</b>	4:48
<b>9</b>	The wall of which he spoke...	5:58
<b>10</b>	'But wherefore are you here?'	4:37
<b>11</b>	The abbé sank upon Edmond's bed...	5:11
<b>12</b>	'Tell me,' replied Faria...	4:13
<b>13</b>	'I had nearly five thousand volumes in my library...'	4:10
<b>14</b>	<b>Chapter 17</b>	4:53
<b>15</b>	Dantès examined the various articles shown to him...	5:36

**Total time on CD 5: 76:03**

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## CD 6

1	The abbé smiled...	5:02
2	'I cannot believe such was the case.'	5:18
3	Besides,' said Dantés...	5:08
4	The abbé burst into a fit of laughter...	5:19
5	'You must teach me a small part of what you know...'	5:03
6	'Are you strong?' the abbé asked...	5:27
7	'Gracious heavens!' exclaimed Dantés...	4:34
8	The sick man was not yet able to speak...	3:45
9	'You are convinced now, Edmond, are you not?'	3:40
10	<b>Chapter 18</b>	5:12
11	'Well!' said Faria...	5:17
12	""The great wars of Romagna had ended...""	5:05
13	'Spada knew what these invitations meant...'	5:06
14	'Up to this point,' said Faria...	5:50
15	'But beneath my fingers, as if by magic...'	4:59
16	'Well, do you comprehend now?' inquired Faria.	4:34

**Total time on CD 6: 79:28**

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## CD 7

<b>1</b>	<b>Chapter 19</b>	5:37
<b>2</b>	For fear the letter might be some day lost...	5:15
<b>3</b>	'There is not a hope,' replied Faria...	5:28
<b>4</b>	When he believed that the right moment...	5:39
<b>5</b>	The doctor analyzed the symptoms of the malady...	5:41
<b>6</b>	<b>Chapter 20</b>	5:24
<b>7</b>	He would have been discovered...	4:42
<b>8</b>	They deposited the supposed corpse on the bier.	4:18
<b>9</b>	<b>Chapter 21</b>	5:19
<b>10</b>	Suddenly the sky seemed to him to become still darker...	4:47
<b>11</b>	Dantès stood mute and motionless...	4:42
<b>12</b>	An instant after, the boat, rowed by two men...	4:31
<b>13</b>	'Take the helm, and let us see what you know.'	4:48
<b>14</b>	<b>Chapter 22</b>	5:39
<b>15</b>	To the elegance of a nervous and slight form...	4:29

**Total time on CD 7: 76:26**



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## CD 8

1	Evening came, and Edmond saw the island...	4:38
2	Then in the long days on board ship...	4:45
3	<b>Chapter 23</b>	5:32
4	Edmond gazed very earnestly at the mass of rocks...	5:56
5	Meanwhile, by a cleft between two walls of rock...	4:30
6	But, instead of growing easier, Dantès' pains...	4:55
7	<b>Chapter 24</b>	4:39
8	Dantès dug away the earth carefully...	4:13
9	'Now that I expect nothing...'	4:33
10	Dantès struck with the sharp end of his pickaxe...	4:56
11	There was no longer any doubt: the treasure was there.	4:26
12	<b>Chapter 25</b>	5:44
13	The term for which Edmond had engaged to serve...	5:12
14	A week passed by.	5:58
15	The nasturtiums and other plants...	5:03

**Total time on CD 8: 75:09**

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## CD 9

<b>1</b>	<b>Chapter 26</b>	5:02
<b>2</b>	The sobriquet of La Carconte had been bestowed...	5:01
<b>3</b>	At this unusual sound, a huge black dog came rushing...	4:58
<b>4</b>	'Such words as those belong to your profession...'	5:09
<b>5</b>	'A rich Englishman,' continued the abbé...	4:47
<b>6</b>	""You will sell this diamond...""	5:20
<b>7</b>	'Gaspard, Gaspard!' murmured the woman...	4:40
<b>8</b>	'And why among us four?' inquired Caderousse.	4:18
<b>9</b>	<b>Chapter 27</b>	5:13
<b>10</b>	'Ah, sir,' replied Caderousse...	5:32
<b>11</b>	The abbé, with a shaking hand...	5:21
<b>12</b>	'And what part did he play in this sad drama?'	5:46
<b>13</b>	'Some days before the return of the emperor...'	5:57
<b>14</b>	'Mercedes seized Fernand's hands...'	5:27
<b>15</b>	'And M. de Villefort?' asked the abbé.	5:59

**Total time on CD 9: 78:38**

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## CD 10

1	<b>Chapter 28</b>	4:47
2	'That's no affair of mine,' replied the Englishman...	5:11
3	'And so,' continued the Englishman...	5:25
4	<b>Chapter 29</b>	4:36
5	Such was the state of affairs when, the day after...	5:17
6	'Yes, sir,' replied the Englishman.	4:53
7	'The <i>Pharaon</i> has gone down, then?'	4:23
8	His firm, sonorous, and unexpected voice...	4:54
9	'No more ships!' returned Penelon...	4:35
10	<b>Chapter 30</b>	5:14
11	August rolled by in unceasing efforts...	4:42
12	Morrel examined the ledgers...	5:26
13	This was the first time Morrel had ever so spoken...	5:12
14	While he was yet at the door of the study...	4:26
15	'My father,' said the young man...	4:55
16	When his son had left him, Morrel remained...	4:56

**Total time on CD 10: 79:01**

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## CD 11

1	'Monsieur Morrel!' exclaimed a voice on the stairs.	4:37
2	<b>Chapter 31</b>	5:11
3	'Your excellency is mistaken; there are pirates...'	5:35
4	An hour had passed since the sun had set...	5:44
5	Everyone obeyed.	5:43
6	'Well,' said Franz, 'anything new?...'	5:19
7	Presently, by a change in the atmosphere...	5:37
8	'Well, then, Signor Aladdin,' replied the singular amphitryon...	5:41
9	'Because,' replied Franz...	4:40
10	'Did you ever hear,' he replied...	4:45
11	They both arose...	3:55
12	His body seemed to acquire an airy lightness...	4:41
13	<b>Chapter 32</b>	5:04
14	'What are your excellency's orders?' inquired Gaetano.	5:04
15	The boat sailed on all day and all night...	4:50

**Total time on CD 11: 76:35**

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## CD 12

<b>1</b>	<b>Chapter 33</b>	5:43
<b>2</b>	They sat down to dinner.	5:38
<b>3</b>	'And pray,' asked Franz...	5:26
<b>4</b>	Every day Luigi led his flock to graze on the road...	4:36
<b>5</b>	'One day the young shepherd told the count's steward...'	5:56
<b>6</b>	'It so happened that night that Cucumetto had sent...'	4:40
<b>7</b>	'Their demand was fair, and the chief inclined his head...'	5:30
<b>8</b>	""Cucumetto had violated thy daughter...""	5:41
<b>9</b>	""Yes,"" replied the brigadier...'	4:39
<b>10</b>	The young man looked, bowed in obedience...	5:17
<b>11</b>	'The young girl, much astonished...'	5:22
<b>12</b>	""Thank you,"" said Luigi...'	4:58
<b>13</b>	'Teresa was clothed from head to foot...'	4:17
<b>14</b>	At the end of ten minutes...	4:34
<b>15</b>	<b>Chapter 34</b>	6:16

**Total time on CD 12: 78:42**

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## CD 13

1	Franz had remained for nearly a quarter of an hour...	4:39
2	'Say not a word about being late,' replied the stranger...	4:24
3	'Remember, the execution is fixed for the day...'	4:14
4	Franz let him proceed without interruption...	4:44
5	Sometimes Albert would affect to make a joke...	4:41
6	The truth was, that the anticipated pleasures...	5:08
7	The curtain at length fell on the performances...	4:07
8	Franz and the countess exchanged a smile...	5:35
9	'Perhaps you never before noticed him?'	5:26
10	'Let us only speak of the promise you wished...'	5:42
11	'Well,' said Franz, 'this time, Albert...'	5:45
12	Franz passed the night in confused dreams...	4:45
13	This was precisely what Franz had heard...	4:28
14	<b>Chapter 35</b>	5:23
15	'Yes, I passed the evening at the Cardinal Rospigliosi's...'	4:48
16	'Then you disapprove of duelling?'	5:10

**Total time on CD 13: 79:09**

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## CD 14

1	'Besides, it is no reason, because you have not seen...'	5:33
2	Franz, Albert, and the count continued to descend...	3:56
3	A brotherhood of penitents, clothed from head to foot...	3:51
4	'For Peppino!' cried Andrea...	4:46
5	<b>Chapter 36</b>	4:47
6	The strife had fairly begun...	5:11
7	'On my word,' said Franz...	5:56
8	'Very well; I prefer complete histories...'	4:54
9	The young men wished to decline...	5:28
10	The next morning he saw Albert pass and repass...	4:54
11	Franz had by degrees become accustomed...	4:38
12	All these evolutions are executed...	5:01
13	<b>Chapter 37</b>	5:51
14	'Oh, pray be assured of that.' Franz took his hat...	5:18
15	'Then ring at his door, if you please...'	5:40

**Total time on CD 14: 75:53**

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## CD 15

1	'What!' exclaimed Franz...	5:36
2	'Let us go on; Peppino will have warned...'	5:10
3	'Ground arms,' exclaimed the chief...	5:22
4	'My dear fellow,' replied Albert...	6:09
5	<b>Chapter 38</b>	5:15
6	'Connected by marriage, you mean,' said Franz, laughingly.	5:11
7	'I will confess to you, Albert,' replied Franz...	4:43
8	'My good friend, as in all probability...'	4:17
9	<b>Chapter 39</b>	5:56
10	On the walls, over the doors, on the ceiling...	5:45
11	'Come, do not affect indifference...'	5:45
12	<b>Chapter 40</b>	5:36
13	'Not worth speaking of?' cried Château-Renaud...	5:21
14	'Of whom?'	6:14

**Total time on CD 15: 76:27**



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## CD 16

1	The two young men looked at Morecerf as if to say...	5:30
2	'My dear count,' replied Albert...	4:53
3	'Did you know me better,' returned the count...	6:02
4	'Ah,' said Monte Cristo...	4:45
5	'My dear count,' cried Morcerf...	5:23
6	'I do not know him,' returned Monte Cristo...	5:43
7	'No,' said Monte Cristo; 'I told you...'	4:40
8	<b>Chapter 41</b>	5:47
9	'Excuse my talking of family matters...'	5:55
10	Monte Cristo was engaged in examining this portrait...	5:19
11	'If I did not fear to fatigue you,' said the general...	5:34
12	'If you ask me for a day, count, I know what to anticipate...'	5:18
13	'I say that Monte Cristo is an island...'	5:27
14	<b>Chapter 42</b>	5:00

**Total time on CD 16: 75:26**

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## CD 17

1	'And you are quite right,' said the notary...	4:57
2	<b>Chapter 43</b>	4:57
3	'Monsieur,' replied Bertuccio, 'it leads to the garden.'	5:39
4	'I do not deny it,' returned the count...	5:38
5	<b>Chapter 44</b>	4:56
6	""Monsieur," I said, "my brother was assassinated...""	5:42
7	'One evening, as I was looking over the wall...'	4:55
8	'When he was only a few paces from me...'	4:00
9	'I had not for a moment the idea of keeping it...'	5:13
10	'Philosophy, M. Bertuccio,' interrupted the count...	5:52
11	'We never knew who had revealed this fatal secret...'	5:31
12	'It was not their proximity that alarmed us...'	5:36
13	""Oh," returned she, "it was a gift of heaven...""	5:16
14	'There was evidently a severe struggle in the mind...'	5:43
15	'Caderousse and his wife again interchanged...'	4:57

**Total time on CD 17: 79:01**

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## CD 18

<b>1</b>	<b>Chapter 45</b>	5:09
<b>2</b>	But as if to contradict his statement...	5:11
<b>3</b>	'To the fearful noises that had awakened me...'	5:12
<b>4</b>	'Then I saw that they took me for the assassin.'	4:30
<b>5</b>	'I had speedy proofs that the excellent abbé...'	4:22
<b>6</b>	'It unfortunately happened that our neighbour...'	4:58
<b>7</b>	'So be it,' responded Bertuccio...	4:47
<b>8</b>	Bertuccio bowed respectfully, and turned away...	4:24
<b>9</b>	<b>Chapter 46</b>	5:33
<b>10</b>	'Permit me to assure your excellency,' said Bertuccio...	5:47
<b>11</b>	'You seem incredulous,' said Monte Cristo...	5:47
<b>12</b>	It was to this apartment he had desired his guest...	5:54
<b>13</b>	Once more Danglars bit his lips.	5:22
<b>14</b>	'The money you desire shall be at your house...'	5:15
<b>15</b>	<b>Chapter 47</b>	4:59

**Total time on CD 18: 77:18**

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## CD 19

1	'You have selected a most unfavourable moment...'	4:08
2	'I am much obliged by your kind intentions...'	5:11
3	Monte Cristo also wrote to Danglars...	4:37
4	Monte Cristo carried them both to the salon...	5:50
5	'Touch nothing, my little friend,' cried the count eagerly...	4:13
6	Scarcely had the first congratulations...	4:26
7	<b>Chapter 48</b>	4:33
8	The procureur entered with the same grave and measured step...	5:39
9	Villefort's astonishment redoubled at this second thrust...	4:56
10	'Your pardon, sir,' replied Villefort...	5:18
11	'But can you not say that, sir?'	5:34
12	'Sir,' continued Villefort...	5:26
13	<b>Chapter 49</b>	4:20
14	She wore a blue and white-striped vest...	4:18
15	Monte Cristo took the delicate hand of the young girl in his...	5:02
16	<b>Chapter 50</b>	5:24

**Total time on CD 19: 79:05**

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## CD 20

1	'I am sorry to see,' observed Monte Cristo...	6:06
2	'And God has poured balm into your wounds...'	5:28
3	'Then is it not probable that this Englishman...'	5:42
4	<b>Chapter 51</b>	5:26
5	On the evening of one of the warmest days...	6:01
6	'How can you for an instant entertain...'	5:20
7	'You see me devoted to you, body and soul...'	5:24
8	'Don't speak of Marseilles, I beg of you, Maximilian...'	4:12
9	'Brutal politics, I must confess.' said Maximilian...	4:10
10	<b>Chapter 52</b>	5:17
11	'I do not think it likely, sir...'	5:13
12	'Oh, madame,' said the count, when Valentine had left...	5:21
13	'Oh, I am aware of that,' said Madame de Villefort...	5:02
14	'Amongst us a simpleton, possessed by the demon...'	5:28
15	'Do you suppose that the real savant addresses himself...'	4:40

**Total time on CD 20: 78:59**

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## CD 21

1	'Now, the cabbage had not the slightest appearance...'	5:31
2	Madame de Villefort listened with avidity...	5:41
3	<b>Chapter 53</b>	4:51
4	'True as day. The fact was...'	5:47
5	But this counsel effectually decided Mademoiselle...	5:43
6	'I trust and hope you never repeated to the count...'	5:16
7	'My dear fellow,' said Debray...	5:33
8	'I quite agree with you,' said Morcerf...	5:03
9	'No, thank you. Your orchestra is too noisy.'	4:40
10	'No, mademoiselle,' said Monte Cristo...	4:04
11	<b>Chapter 54</b>	4:47
12	'I confess,' observed Monte Cristo...	4:59
13	'But you who are a reasonable being...'	5:28
14	'I will do better than that,' said Albert...	4:50
15	'By no means. He is a perfect nobleman...'	5:38

**Total time on CD 21: 78:01**

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## CD 22

<b>1</b>	<b>Chapter 55</b>	5:19
<b>2</b>	'Yes, indeed but one!' said the major with a sigh.	4:59
<b>3</b>	'So, sir, you lived at Lucca, did you?'	5:10
<b>4</b>	'Ah, indeed?' said the major...	5:13
<b>5</b>	'I should quite imagine that to be the case,' said Cavalcanti.	4:00
<b>6</b>	<b>Chapter 56</b>	5:09
<b>7</b>	'Yes,' replied Andrea...	5:12
<b>8</b>	'This is the kind of difficulty which I wished...'	5:04
<b>9</b>	'Go, then, into the drawing-room, my young friend...'	4:59
<b>10</b>	'You think, then, that I may rely on the count's promises?'	5:09
<b>11</b>	'Ah, your excellency, I am overwhelmed with delight.'	4:16
<b>12</b>	<b>Chapter 57</b>	5:13
<b>13</b>	'Yes, but girls tell each other secrets...'	5:13
<b>14</b>	'Dear Valentine, you are a perfect angel...'	5:50
<b>15</b>	'Me?' said the young girl...	5:26

**Total time on CD 22: 76:22**

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## CD 23

1	'I see that you are right, logically speaking...'	5:20
2	<b>Chapter 58</b>	5:37
3	Noirtier's face remained perfectly passive...	5:13
4	Noirtier had succeeded in mastering his emotion...	5:28
5	'Alas, you, who would have been such a powerful...'	5:22
6	<b>Chapter 59</b>	5:43
7	'Well, sir, what do you require of me...'	4:50
8	'Your fortune exceeds 300,000 francs, does it not?'	5:14
9	'What have we all done, then, dear grandpapa?'	4:56
10	<b>Chapter 60</b>	4:48
11	'Do you think,' said Madame de Villefort...	5:22
12	'It was a sublime and charitable thought,' said Monte Cristo...	4:59
13	'Sir,' said the count, 'the world, unjust as it is...'	3:49
14	'Yes, a telegraph. I had often seen one placed...'	4:26
15	<b>Chapter 61</b>	5:18

**Total time on CD 23: 76:34**



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## CD 24

1	'Certainly, it is wrong,' said Monte Cristo...	5:26
2	'I was saying it was very interesting.'	4:44
3	The shot told; red with fever...	3:55
4	<b>Chapter 62</b>	5:00
5	'Will your excellency deign to open it?'	4:53
6	'I do not know; I have only heard that an emperor...'	4:34
7	'The son has been educated in a college in the south...'	4:49
8	<b>Chapter 63</b>	4:48
9	'This one is, I think, a sterlet,' said Château-Renaud.	4:17
10	'Indeed,' said Château-Renaud...	5:38
11	'What is there more?' said Debray...	5:04
12	'There has been a crime,' said Monte Cristo.	3:30
13	<b>Chapter 64</b>	4:33
14	As for Andrea, he began, by way of showing off...	4:46
15	'Let me ask you why you deceived me?'	5:41
16	'Since you interest yourself in my affairs...'	4:12

**Total time on CD 24: 76:00**

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## CD 25

1	<b>Chapter 65</b>	5:30
2	'Good-evening, madame,' said the banker...	4:46
3	'Oh, make yourself easy!...'	4:15
4	'Well, since I gave you a fourth of my gains...'	4:17
5	'Do I know M. Debray?...'	4:14
6	<b>Chapter 66</b>	4:56
7	'Then you do not speculate?'	5:29
8	'I think I may aspire to that honour,' said Danglars...	6:07
9	'Ah, that boy will find out some Bavarian...'	5:36
10	<b>Chapter 67</b>	5:28
11	'I am accustomed to brave difficulties...'	4:45
12	'You recollect that sad night...'	5:16
13	'Night arrived; I allowed it to become quite dark...'	5:54
14	'Then I renewed the search.'	3:56
15	'I ran to the hospital...'	4:35

**Total time on CD 25: 75:12**

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CD 26

1	<b>Chapter 68</b>	4:35
2	'You know my opinion of my mother, count...'	5:00
3	'M. Cavalcanti's father will be gone.'	4:42
4	<b>Chapter 69</b>	5:12
5	'The mission with which I am charged, sir...'	5:12
6	'What is his name?'	5:03
7	Then began the questions...	4:25
8	<b>Chapter 70</b>	4:48
9	Albert bowed to Madame Danglars...	4:49
10	Meanwhile he advanced through the assemblage...	4:59
11	'Indeed?' said Danglars, becoming pale.	5:14
12	<b>Chapter 71</b>	4:48
13	'You live alone, then?'	4:28
14	<b>Chapter 72</b>	5:28
15	'Why, what can have happened?' he exclaimed...	5:13

**Total time on CD 26: 74:05**

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## CD 27

1	Valentine found her grandmother in bed...	5:41
2	'You, madame?'	5:06
3	More than once she thought of revealing all to her...	5:36
4	<b>Chapter 73</b>	5:36
5	'What would you have proposed, Maximilian...'	4:31
6	'Has your resolution changed, Valentine?'	5:42
7	'Truly,' murmured Valentine...	5:46
8	Morrel went also to the notary...	5:52
9	At last the half-hour struck.	5:35
10	'I did. Madame de Saint-Méran had three successive attacks...'	5:30
11	'What do you propose to me, d'Avrigny?'	4:21
12	Meanwhile, Morrel had traversed the anteroom...	4:43
13	'I imagined it must be,' said Morrel.	4:37
14	Valentine arose, placed a chair for Morrel...	4:10
15	'But delay may ruin our plan, sir,' replied the young man.	4:41

**Total time on CD 27: 77:34**

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CD 28

1	<b>Chapter 74</b>	5:15
2	Among the groups which flocked towards the family...	5:16
3	Thus, the future father and son-in-law...	5:16
4	'Are you M. Franz de Quesnel, baron d'Épinay?'	5:25
5	<b>Chapter 75</b>	5:12
6	'But it was on leaving this club,' said he...	5:20
7	""Excuse me, gentlemen," said the general...'	5:25
8	""Now am I at liberty to retire?" said the general.'	5:12
9	Franz read these last words in a voice so choked...	4:32
10	<b>Chapter 76</b>	5:36
11	'Have not the ladies invited you...'	5:57
12	'But should he come and find that young man...'	5:23
13	'Well, I acknowledge it annoys me...'	5:37
14	<b>Chapter 77</b>	5:13

**Total time on CD 28: 74:48**

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## CD 29

1	Monte Cristo took the gong, and struck it once.	6:06
2	'Agreed.' Ali reappeared for the third time...	5:15
3	At this moment two women entered...	5:15
4	'It is very strange,' said Albert...	5:19
5	Albert, without knowing why...	5:21
6	'Near the barrels stood Selim...'	6:00
7	'As for me, I had been forgotten...'	5:34
8	'My mother experienced the same sensations...'	5:39
9	'Oh, how our hearts palpitated...'	5:48
10	At this crisis the whole flooring suddenly gave way...	5:17
11	<b>Chapter 78</b>	5:36
12	'We are saved!' said Valentine.	4:46
13	Danglars was balancing his monthly accounts...	5:03
14	'These are all so many empty words...'	5:08

**Total time on CD 29: 76:16**

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CD 30

1	'Then, sir, I am patiently to submit to your refusal?'	5:09
2	'No, thank you, I am thinking of other things...'	5:31
3	'Because, my dear fellow, you must understand...'	4:47
4	'We will say no more about it, then. Good-by, count.'	5:17
5	'But what is there to investigate, sir?' said Albert...	5:55
6	<b>Chapter 79</b>	5:48
7	'Until that time,' continued the young girl...	5:38
8	Noirtier, burning with impatience and terror...	5:05
9	Valentine looked at M. d'Avrigny with astonishment...	5:39
10	'Who brought it into this room, then?'	5:50
11	<b>Chapter 80</b>	4:45
12	'I would swear to it; what I heard of his symptoms...'	4:45
13	Villefort, suffocating, pressed the doctor's arm.	4:39
14	<b>Chapter 81</b>	4:22
15	'But,' said Danglars thoughtfully...	5:21

**Total time on CD 30: 78:39**

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## CD 31

1	'Confound you and your punctuality!' said Andrea...	5:18
2	'Come, your jealousy represents everything...'	5:20
3	'Come, Caderousse, no nonsense!' said he.	4:53
4	'It must be worth one's while to stoop, Andrea...'	5:37
5	'Well, leave them with your porter...'	4:39
6	<b>Chapter 82</b>	5:20
7	The count signified his intention of dining alone...	5:30
8	The glass-cutter had entered...	5:37
9	'The abbé, the abbé!' murmured he...	4:57
10	'Benedetto the count's son?'	4:30
11	'I ask you what can I do?'	4:04
12	<b>Chapter 83</b>	5:43
13	'Listen,' continued the abbé.	4:26
14	'Silence,' said the abbé...	5:05
15	<b>Chapter 84</b>	5:44

**Total time on CD 31: 76:52**



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## CD 32

1	Albert cast his eyes on the passport...	4:29
2	Albert seized them with a convulsive hand...	3:57
3	<b>Chapter 85</b>	4:45
4	'Some provincial, it appears.'	5:07
5	'Do not fear, I have little to prepare.'	5:48
6	Albert found in his anteroom two guns...	5:30
7	<b>Chapter 86</b>	5:43
8	The article having been read...	4:53
9	Albert felt his heart bursting at these particulars...	5:37
10	""Yes, sir.""	5:17
11	""I, El-Kobbir, a slave-merchant...""	5:47
12	'These words had been pronounced...	4:42
13	<b>Chapter 87</b>	5:40
14	'When such resolutions are made...'	4:35
15	' <i>Pardieu</i> , it was the most simple thing in the world.'	4:23

**Total time on CD 32: 76:21**

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## CD 33

1	<b>Chapter 88</b>	5:49
2	An ironical smile passed over Albert's lips.	5:28
3	'I am not difficult of access, sir...'	5:37
4	'Sir,' said M. Beauchamp...	4:58
5	<b>Chapter 89</b>	4:31
6	'Madame, you are mistaken...'	4:59
7	'I am satisfied, madame...'	4:27
8	'Edmond,' continued Mercedes...	4:15
9	'But the duel will not take place, Edmond...'	5:09
10	<b>Chapter 90</b>	5:19
11	Seizing a pen, he drew a paper from a secret drawer...	5:50
12	'The wise man, my child, has said...'	5:34
13	'I will tell you, Morrel,' said the count...	4:45
14	'Oh, M. Beauchamp, if you assure me...'	4:17
15	'Sir,' said Albert, at first with a tremulous voice...	4:40

**Total time on CD 33: 75:46**

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## CD 34

1	<b>Chapter 91</b>	5:12
2	At the beginning of this work...	5:27
3	'I will fulfil all your wishes, my dear mother...'	5:15
4	<b>Chapter 92</b>	5:40
5	'Here I am,' said the young girl...	5:56
6	'To the Champs-Élysées,' said the general...	5:00
7	'Oh,' cried the general...	5:47
8	<b>Chapter 93</b>	5:25
9	'The sun is not shining,' said Morrel...	6:18
10	'Excuse me,' said the implacable young girl...	5:36
11	<b>Chapter 94</b>	5:58
12	'Count, will you allow me to send Baptistin...'	4:35
13	'Perfectly well, my good friend...'	5:55
14	Monte Cristo raised his head once more...	5:15

**Total time on CD 34: 77:27**

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## CD 35

1	'We have no time to lose...'	5:31
2	<b>Chapter 95</b>	5:01
3	Danglars leaped from his chair...	5:10
4	'My daughter,' continued Danglars...	5:15
5	'Then,' said Danglars...	5:44
6	<b>Chapter 96</b>	5:37
7	'You are completely mistaken, sir...'	6:05
8	'Well,' said Andrea, 'let it be as you wish.'	5:04
9	He first advanced towards the baroness...	4:38
10	'But it is not my fault, as I shall endeavour to prove.'	5:20
11	<b>Chapter 97</b>	4:27
12	'Well,' said Eugenie cheerfully...	4:47
13	'Oh, I think you swore, Eugenie.'	4:36
14	<b>Chapter 98</b>	6:30
15	He sat down by the side of the moat...	5:20

**Total time on CD 35: 79:13**

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## CD 36

1	Once past the frontier...	4:57
2	Andrea was indebted for this visit...	6:00
3	The brigadier, followed by the commissary...	5:26
4	<b>Chapter 99</b>	5:08
5	'Mademoiselle Eugenie,' said the maid...	5:06
6	Madame Danglars involuntarily shuddered...	4:54
7	Villefort bowed. 'When I hear misfortunes named...'	5:13
8	'Woman, siren that you are...'	3:50
9	<b>Chapter 100</b>	5:48
10	'It is not he,' she murmured...	5:49
11	'Hush, my child,' said Monte Cristo...	5:23
12	<b>Chapter 101</b>	4:21
13	On recognising her step-mother...	4:47
14	'But why is my grandfather allowed to live?'	5:31
15	<b>Chapter 102</b>	5:40

**Total time on CD 36: 78:04**

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## CD 37

1	The clock striking eight awoke her...	4:11
2	Madame de Villefort was overpowered...	4:30
3	<b>Chapter 103</b>	5:51
4	'You are mistaken, sir,' exclaimed Morrel...	5:47
5	'Do you wish me to leave?' said Morrel, sadly.	5:30
6	'Alas,' said d'Avrigny, 'she is indeed dead, poor child!'	4:15
7	<b>Chapter 104</b>	4:35
8	'Poor girl,' said Debray...	5:07
9	'So rich, dear sir, that your fortune...'	5:37
10	'I never joke with bankers,' said Monte Cristo...	4:06
11	'It is magnificent! I will set before him...'	3:58
12	<b>Chapter 105</b>	6:05
13	Monte Cristo concealed himself...	5:22
14	'My friend,' exclaimed Monte Cristo...	5:48
15	Monte Cristo endeavoured also to leave...	4:47

**Total time on CD 37: 75:36**

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CD 38

1	He then saw that he must make another struggle...	4:16
2	'Then have a care, I repeat...'	5:25
3	<b>Chapter 106</b>	4:59
4	Debray continued...	5:14
5	'Certainly; as M. Danglars says, you are rich...'	5:56
6	Debray was, for a moment, surprised...	5:08
7	Mercedes had never known misery...	4:52
8	'What is this?' asked Mercedes.	5:05
9	'But let us not yield to gloomy apprehensions...'	5:05
10	<b>Chapter 107</b>	5:36
11	The thieves looked at one another...	5:38
12	'What is that?' asked Andrea.	6:07
13	<b>Chapter 108</b>	5:49
14	Villefort, drawn by an irresistible attraction...	5:02
15	'Madame de Villefort wishes to remind you...'	4:39

**Total time on CD 38: 79:02**

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## CD 39

1	'Ah, sir,' exclaimed Madame de Villefort...	4:10
2	Madame de Villefort uttered a wild cry...	4:03
3	<b>Chapter 109</b>	4:41
4	'Bah,' said Beauchamp...	4:31
5	'Young Edward!'	4:14
6	<b>Chapter 110</b>	4:52
7	'At Auteuil, near Paris.'	4:49
8	Several persons hurried up to M. de Villefort...	5:23
9	'But your mother?' asked the president.	5:14
10	<b>Chapter 111</b>	6:26
11	The carriage stopped at the door of the house.	5:31
12	Villefort was no longer the civilized man...	6:16
13	'Ah, I recognise you...'	4:55
14	<b>Chapter 112</b>	5:08
15	'His carelessness and indifference...'	5:18

**Total time on CD 39: 75:41**



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## CD 40

1	The count stood alone...	5:23
2	As the distance increased between the travellers...	5:13
3	The woman whom the count had seen leave the ship...	5:11
4	'Years of grief have created an abyss...'	4:58
5	'The most dreadful misfortunes...'	4:12
6	'Your son shall be happy, Mercedes,' repeated the count.	3:58
7	<b>Chapter 113</b>	5:33
8	Clear sky, swift-flitting boats...	5:06
9	'The result was that the two men communicated...'	5:15
10	'Yes,' he said, 'there is the stone...'	4:59
11	'Go and fetch it, my good fellow...'	5:41
12	'Alas,' said Monte Cristo...	5:39
13	<b>Chapter 114</b>	5:20
14	'Yes,' was the laconic reply.	5:18
15	He had scarcely advanced three leagues...	6:04

**Total time on CD 40: 77:59**

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## CD 41

1	' <i>Mon dieu!</i> ' cried Danglars...	4:26
2	'A friend, a friend!' said Peppino...	4:41
3	<b>Chapter 115</b>	4:12
4	But the mysteries of nature are incomprehensible ...	5:23
5	'I said they would skin me,' thought Danglars...	4:51
6	<b>Chapter 116</b>	4:35
7	'As your excellency pleases,' said Vampa...	4:11
8	'Take my last gold,' muttered Danglars...	4:15
9	<b>Chapter 117</b>	5:18
10	'Oh, yes,' said the count...	4:56
11	'Be it so,' said the count, 'come.'	5:07
12	'Oh, I entreat you,' exclaimed Morrel...	5:31
13	'Friend,' he cried, 'I feel that I am dying; thanks!'	5:31
14	Haidée became pale, and lifting her transparent hands...	4:49
15	The next morning at daybreak...	6:17

**Total time on CD 41: 74:12**

**Total time on CDs 1–41: 52:43:38**

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## Alexandre Dumas

(1802–1870)

# THE COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO

*And now farewell kindness, humanity  
and gratitude! Farewell to all those  
feelings which nourish the heart!  
... Now may the God of Vengeance  
yield to me his power to punish the  
wicked!*

With these words the sailor Edmond Dantès, soon to become 'The Count of Monte Cristo', embarks on a journey of revenge.

As a young man, the world had been at his feet. Noticed for his great skill and authority at sea, he had just been promoted to Captain by his grateful patron; he was about to marry his love, the beautiful Mercedes from a nearby Catalan village, and was at last to have the means to take care of his beloved, ageing father. Taken summarily from the pre-nuptial celebration and arrested that

night on a trumped-up charge of treason, he has spent many years languishing in a dungeon of the dreaded Chateau d'If, built on a rock near the port of Marseille. During that time, always grieving at the loss of Mercedes, always anxious about his old, weak father, he has not only planned an ingenious escape and plotted a terrible vengeance against the cabal of jealous conspirators he had believed to be his friends, but, with the help of a learned Abbé imprisoned in an adjoining cell, he has also become expert in many things: history, philosophy, chemistry, medicine, languages and literature. In addition, he has become the master of disguise and has learnt to appreciate artistic beauty in all disciplines with an expert's eye. Now free, and, thanks to the Abbé, with secret access to unlimited wealth, he rejects ordinary compassion, and, like Shakespeare's Lady

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Macbeth, dehumanizes himself, becoming invulnerable to pity or remorse, before gathering around him a loyal crew of men and setting out on his odyssey of revenge.

It is rare in dramatic literature for the novelist simply to chart the battering-about by Fate of the hapless central figure. It can be done – Dickens's *Nicholas Nickleby* and Swift's *Gulliver's Travels*, for example, are nonetheless compelling reads, in which the breathless reader usually knows more than the hero at any given point. However, most romantic heroes are in pursuit of a goal. Countless examples spring to mind: Homer's heroic *Odyssey*, charting Odysseus' long journey home, Cervantes' ludicrous *Don Quixote* on a quest for romantic love, Voltaire's naive *Candide* in search of 'the best of all possible worlds', Bunyan's *The Pilgrim's Progress*, among others. These are heroes with an agenda, who push the plot along on their own terms. The Count of Monte Cristo is one such. His agenda is clear, and linear: revenge.

The 'God of Vengeance' has an almost pagan ring to it. With his talent for observational psychology, Dumas manages

somehow to reconcile the Count's tender, compassionate nature with his darker side. Attending a public execution in the Piazza del Popolo in Rome, Monte Cristo is at his most bizarre:

*The count alone seemed unmoved – nay, more, a slight colour seemed striving to rise in his pale cheeks... His nostrils dilated like those of a wild beast that scents its prey, and his lips, half opened, disclosed his white teeth, small and sharp like those of a jackal. And yet his features wore an expression of smiling tenderness... his black eyes especially were full of kindness and pity.*

The detail is horrific, as Dumas takes us close to the scaffold:

*The criminal strove to rise, but, ere he had time, the mace fell on his left temple. A dull and heavy sound was heard, and the man dropped like an ox on his face, and then turned over on his back. The executioner let fall his mace, drew his knife, and with*

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*one stroke opened his throat, and mounting on his stomach, stamped violently on it with his feet. At every stroke a jet of blood sprang from the wound...*

*...The count was erect and triumphant, like the Avenging Angel!*

Yet Monte Cristo describes himself as an 'emissary of God'. Indeed, his cold revenges are leavened with great acts of kindness and generosity. Towards the end of his novel, his invulnerability to the pain of others, and his belief in himself as a Godly agent of justice, are both challenged when the unexpected death of a child shows us, for the first time since the early chapters, the 'human' and almost Christian face of the man:

*Monte Cristo became pale at this horrible sight; he felt that he had passed beyond the bounds of vengeance, and that he could no longer say, 'God is for and with me.' With an expression of indescribable anguish he threw himself upon the body of the child...*

Perhaps the Old Testament 'God of Vengeance' had become the New Testament 'God of Forgiveness'? The Count is forensically fascinated by compassion and revenge, increasingly examining these instincts in himself as in others. Well into the book, in a discourse on 'conscience' he says:

*After every action requiring exertion, it is conscience that saves us... Richard III, for instance, was marvellously served by his conscience after the putting away of the two children of Edward IV... Thus was Lady Macbeth served by her conscience... Ah, maternal love is a great virtue, a powerful motive – so powerful that it excuses a multitude of things, even if, after Duncan's death, Lady Macbeth had been at all pricked by her conscience.*

As Monte Cristo is addressing a murderess here, there may be dramatic irony in the speech, but it is forged through with sincerity. As he ages, and – piece by piece, ever changing his disguise, his dialect, even

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his language – calculatedly achieves his aims, we are moved by his reflections on justice, by his developing conscience and exponential philosophical growth and by his increasing humility. In *Les Misérables*, Victor Hugo gives us the exemplary, heroic, ever-humble, almost Christ-like Jean Valjean, and his sworn pursuer and tormentor Javert. In Dumas' *The Count of Monte Cristo*, we have the Avenger and the Conciliator in one man, though the journey from the one to the other is hard-won. Late in the book, Monte Cristo describes himself as:

*... a man who like Satan thought himself for an instant equal to God, but who now acknowledges with Christian humility that God alone possesses supreme power and infinite wisdom.*

However, despite these surprising flashes of vulnerability which Dumas is at pains to include, despite the Count's stupendous acts of kindness to deserving friends, and despite our sympathy for the betrayals and subsequent dreadful agonies he has

endured, in the end it is Monte Cristo's final, decisive act of true love and loyalty to one woman which redeems him for us, which brings goose-pimples to our skin and makes this thrilling book difficult to close even after we have read the last words. This may well be because we know that, for the first time in his life since the terrible betrayal which led to his odyssey of revenge, the Count is happy.

*The Count of Monte Cristo*, in spite of its high literary quality, has the same power to thrill as any classic adventure in which the villain gets his come-uppance, the hero is rescued in the nick of time and good fortune comes to those who deserve it. The 20<sup>th</sup> century has produced its own mysterious masked saviours both in literature and on-screen – the best-known among them The Lone Ranger, Zorro, Batman and Superman. Monte Cristo was perhaps the pre-cursor of them all: the first 'Caped Crusader' or 'Masked Avenger'.

Alexandre Dumas wrote or collaborated on nearly 100 plays and many novels, including the celebrated *The Three Musketeers* and the follow-up

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*The Man in the Iron Mask*. He was born in 1802, the son of a general in Napoleon's army and the grandson of a French Marquis and a black woman from Saint Domingo. As a child he lived through the upheavals of the Napoleonic Revolution and the subsequent restoration of the French monarchy, which form the political background to the novel. Interestingly, like Monte Cristo, Dumas received his private education from a priest. He was politically active and, though he is thought to have embellished the actions in his *Mémoires*, was involved heroically in skirmishes during the revolution of 1830. He was the father of author Alexandre Dumas (fils), most famous for his *La Dame aux Camélias*.

Alexandre Dumas (père) ran his career as an industry. Following the model of many of the great master-painters, it is believed that he would sketch the outline of a story to an assistant who would write it up; then Dumas himself would take the story by the throat and wrestle it into a masterpiece. His compulsive storytelling, fascinating background research, brilliant characterization and unflinching, lyrical

powers of description are unrivalled.

He was an idiosyncratic man who cooked brilliantly, gave a lot of money to cadgers and hangers-on and spent prodigiously on his private life, most notoriously on various highly-publicised *affaires* and the construction of a monstrous folly of a house at Saint-Germain-en-Laye. He died, barely solvent, in 1870.

### **Notes by Bill Homewood**



**Bill Homewood's** West End credits include leads in *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Grand Hotel*, *Phantom of the Opera*, *The Boys From Syracuse*; *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Twelfth Night* and *The Hollow Crown* (Royal Shakespeare Company). His innumerable television series include *The Professionals*, *Berkeley Square*, *A Wing and a Prayer*, *The Renford Rejects*, *London's Burning*, *Casualty*, *Coronation Street*, *Crocodile Shoes*, *The Bill* and *Spy Trap*. Bill also directs theatre in the USA, the UK and France, where he runs a ranch with his wife Estelle Kohler.

## Credits

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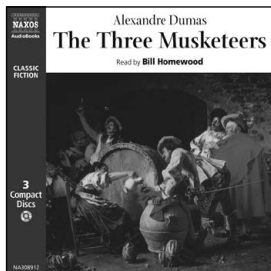
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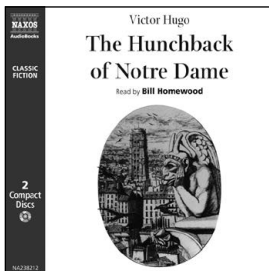
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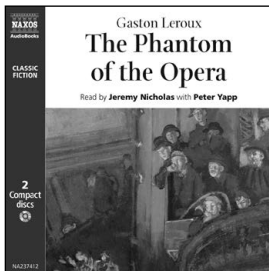
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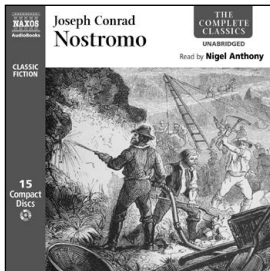
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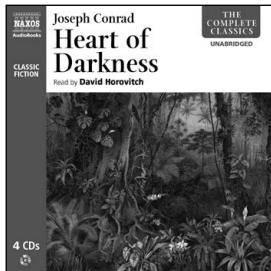
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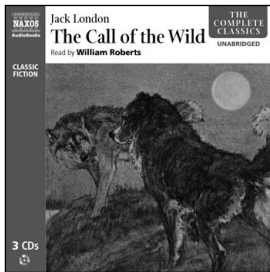
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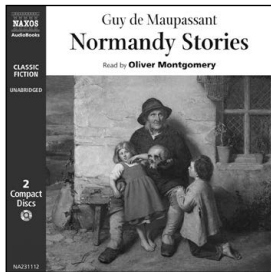
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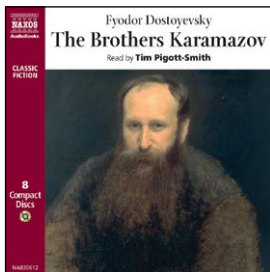
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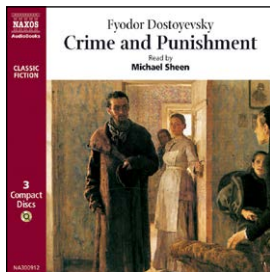
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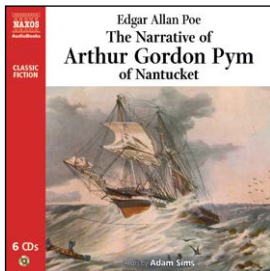
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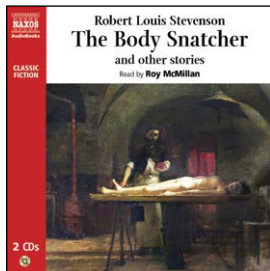
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