

MONTE CRISTO

Musical comedy in two parts
Based on the novel by Alexandre Dumas

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English translation by David Baker

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Characters

Edmond Dantès, (later, Monte Cristo), *baryton/tenor*

Mercédès, his fiancée
soprano

Haydée, a greek princess
soprano

Fernand, in love with Mercédès, (later her husband Comte)
tenor léger

Danglars, second captain « Pharaon » (later Baron)
baryton

Caderousse, inn keeper
basse-baryton

La Carconte, wife of Caderousse
mezzo-soprano

L'abbé Faria, and old priest/**Luigi Vampa**,
Chief of the roman bandits,
basse profonde

Villefort, Prosecutor of the King
mezzo-soprano or contre-ténor

Mr Morell, owner of the ship « The Pharaon »
baryton

Dantès Senior, *baryton*

The Président of the Chambre des Pairs
ténor ou baryton

4 servants disguised as Mamelouks (*2 tenors, 2 barytons*)

A Chief of Police, as well a guard and a waiter (*spoken*)

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PART ONE

OVERTURE (2'30'')

SCENE 1 : PROLOGUE

THE OLD PORT, MARSEILLES

Chorus:

(Jubilant crowd, passersby on La Canebière [the main avenue] gather to greet the arrival of a great ship)

The tower! The tower!
The watchtower of Notre-Dame De La Garde
signals a ship entering port !
It's a great ship,
A three-master!
It must be the *Pharaoh*...
The *Pharaoh*!

For our city that means prosperity!
The *Pharaoh*!
Bringing back riches
From across the world,
Fabrics, spices,
Treasures bursting its hold,
Tobacco, exotic liqueurs,
It's the glory of Marseilles,

It's the child of our port!
Our glory! Our glory!
The hero of the seas,
Pride of our people!
Come, let's go on board,
What a triumph for our town,
The *Pharaoh!*

Mercedes (*emerging from the crowd*)

Will I see him again,
My fiancé, my captain,
You, ocean without pity,
Stealing our men,
Leaving us orphans?

If he returns to me now,
We soon will be married
And then this Mediterranean
Will turn sweet for us,
Sweet as morning sun.

Fernand (*with his eye on Mercédès*)

I hate her Dantès, the man she adores.
Who but me can truly win her love?
If I could just find a way to destroy him,
If only Fate decided I would win!

Chorus:

The *Pharaoh!*
Let's give a royal welcome
Singing, dancing in its honor,
Time to kiss our sailors.

The watchtower! The watchtower!

(The crowd suddenly freezes)

But why this mournful procession?

What disaster has attacked us all?

Who will have to mourn a loved one lost?

Monsieur Morrel *(running out of the crowd)*

Let me through, just let me through!

I am Morrel, owner of the ship.

Chorus *(very softly, far off, as if in a dirge)*

The Pharaoh!

Monsieur Morrel

Speak up, Dantès, what has happened?

Where is your ship's captain?

Dantès

He is dead, monsieur Morrel,

He died of fever, just after we put in at Elba isle.

Chorus

The Pharaoh!

Danglars

Dantès... Dantès... Listen to me...

Monsieur Morrel will appoint you captain,

I'm quite sure.

But don't accept, you know you're too young yet.

Leave it to me, and I'll make you second mate.

Dantès

Thank you, Danglars, but that's not your decision to make.

Danglars

But wait, Dantès, why be so stubborn?

Dantès

I want to marry Mercédès
For that I'll need a captain's pay.
And you're not even a sailor,
You're the accountant of the *Pharaoh!*

Chorus

The *Pharaoh!*

Danglars

(*aside*) Well, well, Dantès!
You'll pay for your arrogance. I'll finish you for good !.
Somehow or other—
Wait, what about... yes, it's ideal.
It can't miss: the Isle of Elba!
Dantès will be caught writing to Napoleon,
Plotting the emperor's return.
And I'll reveal the plot,
I'll denounce the treason,
And engineer the downfall of our Edmond...

I alone will rule the ship,
I alone, as captain.
Your ambition – hopeless !
Ha ! You'll go down in defeat.
You'll taste my hatred.
I've got him cornered.
Done for, for good.
It's your turn, Danglars, you'll win the fight!

My star will rise, a blinding light.

SCENE 2 : DUET : DANTES - MERCEDES

THE DOCK IN MARSEILLES

Dialogue: (optional)

Dantès :

Mercédès, you're here! More beautiful than ever. And how I've missed you.

Mercédès :

Yes, like any woman in love, I had to see you get here safe, after all the suffering and the fear. I was terrified, Edmond, seeing the ship with its flag at half staff. But you're here... for good, swear it to me!

Mercédès: I'm holding you at last
After months and months alone
Blaming Providence
For life without your smile, your laugh, your eyes, your hands.

Dantès: Seeing you again with me,
After days and nights alone,
Stars and sun of every port,
Recalling your face, echoing your voice.

Together: If ships can take us far away
To happier ports by far,
More united, more in love,
More unique, being two,
After all these long weeks,
The dawns when they return
Find us, it's true, more tender each to each,
More mad, more free and stronger too.

When love returns to shore,
Then I'll be waiting for you

II

Mercédès : Back with me at last
How you've changed, my captain,
Your tan, your beard and maybe
A touch less softness in your sailor's touch.

Dantès: At last, it's you, it's real,
The Mediterranean fades away,
And the ocean in its place
Is the boundless space life promised us.

Together: If ships can take us far away
Where we'll be far happier
More united, more in love,
More as one, being two,
After all these long weeks,
The dawns when they return
Find us, it's true, more tender each to each,
More mad, more free and stronger too

When love returns to shore,
Then I'll be waiting for you

Second refrain: If the ships that sail so far
Can't keep us apart
If it's true that, out of sight,
Often hearts are one again,
If the tears we shed
When the sea steals our love,
Become laughter again
We cling to that surf and its waves.

SCENE 3 : TRIO OF CONSPIRACY

On the terrace of a tavern, in the outskirts of Marseilles

CADEROUSSE

(Based on: "Chanson Morale," by Ségur –note : Dumas quotes Caderousse singing the words)

"When God drowned the human race,
He saved old Noah from the wreck,
And said, pouring him wine:
'Here's what a wise man gets to drink!'
So keep on drinking it to our grave;
We know, from the verdict of such a judge,
All evildoers live on water;
Isn't that the moral of the Flood?"

(to Danglars and Fernand)

So then, Danglars, so then, Fernand,
Why the gloomy graveyard looks?
Are you plotting conspiracy
And setting evil traps for us?

FERNAND

It's Dantès, just let me kill him!
I hate him, I spit on him!
Mercedes has to be mine,
He dies, I swear it on my soul!

DANGLARS

But there are other means, you know,
Shrewder, guaranteed to win success

And without risk to us,
Can't fail to lead him to his death...

CADEROUSSE

You know, I like this fellow here,
Bit of a braggart? Sure, but tough!
So call him arrogant, a beast,
But no one touch him, right? Hands off!

DANGLARS

Let's sit down all of us at ease
And weave the plot for his defeat.

CADEROUSSE

Right, Danglars, after my own heart,
Chatting and drinking with art.

"All evildoers live on water;
Isn't that the moral of the Flood?"

ALL THREE:

All evildoers live on water;
Isn't that the moral of the Flood?"

DANGLARS

All right, my friend, that's that.
Let's hear how much you hate this rat.

CADEROUSSE

I love money
And hate insolent guys.

When he was broke,
Dantès kept a low profile
And now, when he is offered power,
He puts it on, plays the big shot.

DANGLARS

I love power
And want him out of my way!
When he was a simple sailor,
Dantès didn't act so smart,
And now, with a captain's rank,
I'm eaten up by envy and by hate.

FERNAND

I love Mercédès
And spit on Edmond Dantès.
When he was so far off at sea,
I could still hope to win her hand
But now that he's to marry her,
I feel despair choking me.

DANGLARS

There is one way to do it...
A way to get rid of this burden
And keep it secret forever.

FERNAND

Do you mean that my honor demands
I move up the hour of his death?
Do we need to take his soul and his life
For her to then become my wife?
Does blood have to be spent
Before she will relent?

CADEROUSSE

Who speaks of killing?
Dantès is a good guy.
I won't see him come to harm!
I won't !

DANGLARS

There's no need for killing,
We only have to bring him down.
A letter to the Public Prosecutor
And our dear Edmond
will be betrothed in jail.

FERNAND

That's it! I insist we see him dead
And Mercedes is mine instead!

DANGLARS

Innkeeper! Paper and ink at once!

CADEROUSSE

And plenty of wine!

DANGLARS

It's essential that I disguise my hand
In writing this epistle.

CADEROUSSE

And how do you plan to do that?

DANGLARS

Easy – let me just explain.
You simply write with your left hand,
And watch the letters be deformed,
But at least no one can detect
The author of the letter (*aside*). That's my hope at least...

FERNAND

None but me deserves the right
To cast him into darkest, dreadful night.
None but me!

DANGLARS

At your service, as you will.
Here's some paper and the feathered quill.

(*dictating*)
Your Honor, Head Prosecutor, please be informed...

CADEROUSSE (*hiccuping*)

Formed! HIC!

DANGLARS

That said individual Edmond Dantès
Mate on board the *Pharaoh*—

CADEROUSSE (*repeating*)

Raoh ! HIC !

DANGLARS

Was entrusted by Murat...

CADEROUSSE

Rat ! HIC !

DANGLARS

With a letter for the pretender Bonaparte...

CADEROUSSE (*crossing himself*)

Pater ! HIC !

DANGLARS (*pounding the table*)

Enough! (*dictating faster*)

... And the pretender gave him a letter for Bonaparte's Paris friends ...

FERNAND

Hold it! Slow down!

DANGLARS (*more slowly*)

Proof of his crime will be found upon his arrest
For that very letter will be found on his person
Or in his quarters onboard the *Pharaoh*.

FERNAND

(*speaking*)

Should I sign?

DANGLARS

(*speaking*)

You don't sign, imbecile,

The letter is anonymous!

There – that's done!

All that's left is to drop it in the mail.

CADEROUSSE

(speaking)

Your business is settled, let's drink to his health!

(singing)

"All evildoers live on water;

Isn't that the moral of the Flood?"

ALL THREE *repeating.*

SCENE 4: THE ENGAGEMENT

The main hall of an inn, with Dantès's friends crowding around the table

CHORUS

Ah, what a great day for the happy couple,
Winter isn't done with
But we feel a summer warmth!
We'll dine, we'll celebrate
The joy of these two lovebirds,
Captain Edmond Dantès
And the fair Mercédès.
Ah what a great day!

(Dantès and Mercédès appear)

Here they are! Here they are!
Let's make this a royal welcome!

(They enter, accompanied by the father of Dantès, along with Fernand, Caderousse and Danglars)

Here's to the triumph of love in our midst,
Which fills these rooms with its light!
These two, full of grace and youth,
Full of the glow of affection...

Now, pledging their troth each to each,
They will be joined forever,
May every joy be theirs!

DANTES

Well, well, good friends, thank you one and all...
Please take your place, sit where you like!

(Morell enters)

CHORUS

Monsieur Morrel! Ship's owner!
What an honor for the captain of the *Pharaon*!

Mr MORREL

Yes, one and all, be seated if you please,
It's only right I should bless this union
Of a young man in whom I've put my trust.
But wait, Dantès, you look a little off...

CADEROUSSE

Monsieur Morrel is right, could you smile at least? ...

DANTES

Oh ! Happiness is no laughing matter.
When everything's so great, just wait,
Can I be sure to deserve it?
Can I really marry this angel...

MERCEDES

Edmond, that's no way to talk,
You'll only jinx us that way!

DANGLARS

And, Dantès, look, you're not quite wed,
You're just her fiancé so far.

DANTES

Right, you're right, Danglars,

But in just an hour or two
We'll be pledging our vows at the Marseilles town hall
And when I get back from Paris, in a day or two
We'll celebrate right here with you all!

DANTES & MERCEDES

And what happiness that will be,
Yes, what happiness!

CHŒUR

We'll raise a glass all over again,
We'll dine and dance till dawn
And that way we'll ignore
Life and its constant worries!
Here goes—let's dance and bon appétit!

(Dancing begins. After about 1'30 the chorus starts singing as they dance) :

(Female chorus)

Ah, watch him dance, floating on air!
Edmond, what a catch, what flair!

(Male chorus)

What bearing, see the love in her eyes!
Mercédès is really the belle of the ball.

(All together)

We'll dance this day, we'll dance this night!
Here's to the couple!

(The dance gets frenetic. A knock at the door. They all freeze.)

POLICE OFFICER *(speaking)*

Open in the name of the law!

CHORUS

The gendarmes... what could they want with us?

POLICE OFFICER

(Speaking)

Who here is called Edmond Dantès?

DANTES

(Speaking)

I am, gentlemen, what of it?

Le COMMISSAIRE

(Speaking)

I have here an order for your arrest. You will follow me at once.

DANTES

(Speaking)

This has to be a mistake. What am I arrested for?

Le COMMISSAIRE

(Speaking)

The royal prosecutor will inform you soon enough.

Mr MORREL

(Speaking)

But wait, sir, I can vouch for Dantès as I would for myself...

Le COMMISSAIRE

(Speaking)

That may be, Mr Morrel, but I have my orders...

All right, then, follow me!

CADEROUSSE

(Singing)

Danglars ! It's our anonymous letter, from me, from you...

DANGLARS

But wasn't that a joke, just so many words?

CADEROUSSE

Yes, but words can kill, might as the sword...

FERNAND

Caderousse is right, what's going to happen when he's freed?
He'll see right through us, he'll take revenge.

DANGLARS

He's not being freed, this is a serious charge,
A bonapartist plot, no laughing matter!

POLICE OFFICER

(Speaking)

All right, out you go, the wagon is waiting outside.

Mr MORREL

(Speaking)

Listen, friends, I'm off to see the royal prosecutors. I'll do everything I can to settle this matter right away.

DANTES

(Singing)

Adieu, adieu, Mercédès, here's hoping we meet again soon,
Good-bye, father, and my friends...

MERCEDES

Adieu Dantès, adieu Edmond!
You'll be back, come back to me!

DANTES SENIOR

My son, my only child, my only hope,
Don't take from a father his last link to life.

CHORUS

Justice ! Justice ! Justice !

SCENE 5 : SONG OF THE ROYAL PROSECUTOR

(In the Prosecutor's office)

VILLEFORT

Is any man on earth as alone as I am?
Is any force on earth more powerful than Law?
I hold, like a god, his life or death in my hand
And I have the duty to find the truth.
Am I still human?
Is there a place for me still among my people?
I've left the woman to whom I'd just proposed
To come here and interrogate a man
Whose entire life is unknown to me
A man I'll have to punish or to spare.

Ambition devours me, a terrible secret
Weighs on me like a sword.
You, my father, bequeathed to me
This terrible curse
This moral scourge!
The Bonapartist loyalties I must destroy
Or else all my efforts have been vain...

Father! Must I forever go on fighting your past
And will you remain the obstacle to my life in this world?

I'm preparing to make a practical match,
My heart is a stranger to passion.
I've promised my wife to spare this man!
If he is innocent,
I'll get to keep my vow,
But if the slightest doubt allows me to condemn him,
Then without pity, the law will deal with him
And without regret I'll send him to his death!

Ah! I'll be a judge without pity!
Ah! His head will roll in the dirt!

I am the son
Of justice
And from justice my glory will flow!

Would I condemn a guiltless man
To make my triumph more secure?
And if service to king
Is my only law,
Then any trace of clemency is gone.

Ah! I curse the day when I was born
If I am bound to deny my own father
But I'm your son
And Justice
Today will sever our last tie!
Would I sacrifice the innocent
If he compromised my aims?
Would I lose my soul
To serve my hope of gain?
In my mind I feel the madness grow,
Madness!

SCENE 6: THE INTERROGATION

VILLEFORT

(speaking)

Bring in the suspect...

(singing)

State your full name.

DANTÈS

Edmond Dantès

VILLEFORT

And your age?

DANTÈS

Nineteen years.

VILLEFORT

Occupation?

DANTÈS

Second mate on the *Pharaoh*.

VILLEFORT

What were you doing at the time of your arrest?

DANTÈS

I was attending the party for my own engagement.

VILLEFORT *(troubled)*

For your engagement? Is that a fact?

DANTÈS

Yes... I'm preparing to marry a woman I've loved for three years...

VILLEFORT *(Aside)*

How odd, and what a coincidence...
Continue, monsieur!

DANTÈS

Continue what?

VILLEFORT

To inform the court of Justice!

DANTÈS

Let Justice tell me what information it needs...

VILLEFORT

Did you serve under the pretender Bonaparte?

DANTÈS

No, I was too young and he had already fallen
When I went to sea.

VILLEFORT

You're being called Bonapartist!

DANTÈS

Alas... I have no political opinions.
I'm nineteen, and my only convictions
Are the love I bear to three person;
My father, Monsieur Morrel, and Mercédès.

VILLEFORT

Read, Monsieur, this anonymous letter that has led to your arrest
(aside)
He's so mild mannered, and seems to be innocent...
(to Dantès)
All right then! What truth is there in this letter?

DANTÈS

Everything and nothing, Monsieur.

VILLEFORT

Speak, Dantès!

DANTÈS

We had just left the port of Naples
When the *Pharaoh's* captain had me called to his bedside
Because he was dying.
And he made me swear to obey his final orders,
Which were to put in at the Isle of Elba and meet the great Marshall
And take a letter from him, which was to be carried to Paris without delay.

VILLEFORT

Did you meet the pretender?

DANTÈS

Yes... yes, briefly...

VILLEFORT

And what did he say to you?

DANTÈS

Scarcely anything... I asked for news of Monsieur Morell.

VILLEFORT

And that's all?

DANTÈS

Yes, that's all.

VILLEFORT

All right... All right...

Are you aware of having any enemies ?

DANTÈS

None I'm aware of.

VILLEFORT

Anyone jealous of you... Anyone envious who would like to see you destroyed?

Aren't you engaged to a very attractive woman?

Aren't you about to become captain of the *Pharaoh*?

That kind of thing could stir some passions.

DANTÈS

I my friends could be capable of feelings like that,
I'd rather not know about it.

VILLEFORT

And you're mistaken! It's essential, as much as possible,
To see what's up all around you.
Well then, Monsieur !
You seem to me merely quite young and quite naïve
And your sole crime is having obeyed your captain.
I will keep you no longer,
You're free to go.

DANTÈS

I'm really free?
Thank you, sir!
I could see at once you're a good man.

(Dantès prepares to leave)

VILLEFORT

(speaking)
Just a moment!
You have to give me that letter with which you were entrusted.

DANTÈS

(speaking)
It must be among the papers that were seized...

VILLEFORT

(speaking)
Correct... The name of the addressee?

DANTÈS

(speaking)

Monsieur Noirtier, rue du Coq Héron, Paris.

VILLEFORT

(Very agitated)

Noirtier ! Rue du Coq Héron !

(Sinks back in his chair)

Father, why do you keep pursuing me,
And why come tormenting me here?

DANTÈS *(half standing)*

What's the matter, Monsieur ?
You seem to be ill...

VILLEFORT

No! No! I'm perfectly fine,
Be seated, you're the suspect!

Have you read the content of this letter?

DANTÈS

No, I swear on my life!
All I know is the addresse's name.

VILLEFORT

And that alone is too much, yes, that's too much.
Monsieur! The most grave charges
Are levied against you now
And I may not allow you to leave
As I had hoped.

MR MORREL *(In the rear, like an apparition)*

Monsieur the Prosecutor!

Edmond is innocent
Dantès is loyal
You're committing an injustice!

VILLEFORT *(listening to the voice)*

And you the Bonapartist
Want to give me lessons about justice?

MERCEDES *(In the rear, like an apparition)*

Mercy! Mercy! Free this man to the woman who loves him,
Just as a woman loves you, as well.

VILLEFORT

I hear the voice of those innocents
Sewing torment in my mind.

VILLEFORT, MR MORREL, MERCEDES *(together)*

Mr Morrel :

Hear me speak, Villefort, and hear what your heart says
Why punish him for the crime of other men?
No! This can't be true!
Edmond is not a criminal
And you know it full well!
Hear what your heart says,
Don't destroy their happiness,
And return Edmond to his father and his fiancée.
Don't be a judge knowing no pity
You know full well that he is innocent!
You can't sacrifice this man,
It's only ambition that moves you!
Power has seized and blinded you
And you are committing a crime,
You who represent the law!
Mercy for Edmond!

Mercédès

Hear my plea! Hear the voice of one who loves!
It's the voice of love!
See me here in despair
Before you who have power.
Ah, I pray on my knees!
Monsieur Prosecutor
Don't let madness
Commit an injustice
That you'll regret the rest of your life.
Don't be a judge knowing no pity,
You know full well he is not guilty!
Ah, pity!
My love alone is guiding me.
I beg you,
Return him to me! Give Mercédès her husband again!
Pity for Edmond!

Villefort

This man must pay for my own father...
If he were to be heard,
That would be the end of me!
And I will reduce him to silence forever!
No! No! I won't obey those pleas.
Ah! I'll be the judge, the judge without pity!
And even if Dantès is not guilty,
I'll have to sacrifice him.
Ambition alone will dictate the decision,
Ambition and power alone are my guide
And can make me commit the greatest crime: linjustice!

(the figures of Mr Morrel and Mercédès disappear)

Begone, you voices of my conscience!
(speaking)
Guards ! take away the prisoner!

DANTÈS

You're arrest me? No! No! I'm innocent!
(the guards lead him out)

A GUARDE :
(speaking)
Where are we to lock up the prisoner?

VILLFORT :
(speaking)
In the Château d'If, locked up for all eternity.

(singing)
I've condemned an innocent man.
My soul is damned, I feel it!
Repentance for all my life
Will drive me to madness.

SCENE 7 : THE CHATEAU D'IF

TIME ACCELERATION CHORUS 1, *(Interior of the Château d'If, with prisoners visible behind the bars, as in a modern prison, their arms extending through the bars, with the chorus keeping a fast rhythm)*

CHORUS:

Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday
January, February, March, April, September, October, November, December
Eighteen hundred one... Etc. ... Eighteen hundred eight
PERPETUITY! ETERNITY!

SCENE 8: ARIA OF EDMOND DANTES

In the prison of the Château d'If

1.

I hear the waves striking the rock
Beating against the Château d'If
Drowned here in its isle of stone,
Swallowed up, far from the light
And separated forever from my own ...

In this inferno, inside its four walls
Where my eyes are lost in the shadow all around,
The solitude that is my lot
And madness that descends on me,
These four walls will be my tomb.

Arrested first, and then condemned,
No defense and no support
I cry "God" a thousand times,
Each time without response!
What then is my crime and who have I hurt?
Hatred rules now in my heart, and I will be avenged.

2.

For whom am I paying the price
Why then am I dying in here
What crimes do they throw in my face,
What lies are supporting their case?

So Justice, they say, has decreed
I'm to rot in this cell and bleed.
My torture's the work of a man
Who serves as judge and beheader
He has my fate in his hand
In this hole where I am banned
He serves as judge and beheader.

Where are you, Mercédès,

My life and light, my youth?
The words from your lips
Still ringing in my ear,
Soft whispering, sweet vows
Now erased by this storm...

Beloved and intended,
Our future now ended.
In sleep, in dreams, I see your face,
Your lips, your words, lost to this place.

(speaking)

Mercédès, where are you?
Have you forgotten your Edmond,
Will you be true?

(singing)

Just nineteen when I landed here
Innocent of any crime,
I feel the days turn into years
And centuries of darkened time.

If days and nights still come and go,
Outside the walls of stone and pain
I swear the world will come to know
What I have plotted in distress,
The harsh revenge of Edmond Dantès.

SCENE 9 : The meeting with Abbé Faria

In the prison of the Château d'If

DANTES

That sound!
Who's there... A knock!
Someone comes near...
It's another prisoner
Trying no doubt to get away...
Over here! Come this way!
If I could only lift this stone.
I have to help, I need a tool!
All I have here is a spoon.
But still I have to try!
Keep on, keep on!
You can't give up,
Don't quit on me!
He's near, right here, I hear him start to speak...
Saying what? Courage, friend!

(Dantès manages to loosen a stone; Faria pushes another out of the way. He makes his way into the cell by this gap they've opened. He looks around him, in shock.)

FARIA

No...no... it can't be true, it can't be true!
How could I fail so miserably, so close to my goal?

DANTES

What do you mean?
You've managed, haven't you, to break through this wall?

FARIA

Get out of my cell to land in another one!
Years of work, wasted for a stupid botched calculation,
And now it's too late to start again from scratch.
I'm just too old, and sick, I'm really sick.

DANTES

What is your name?

FARIA

I'm the Abbé Faria

DANTES

And how long have you been a prisoner at the Château d'If?

FARIA

I no longer count the time in hours or in years,
But only how many yards dug on my way to freedom.

DANTES

And why are you in here? And why do they call you "the madman"?

FARIA

Madman.... madman....
They never believed me, they never understood.

I was secretary to a cardinal
Whose wealth was beyond reckoning, and all a mystery.
When death was near, he shared the secret of a treasure
Buried on an island inaccessible and impenetrable.
But of all those treasures, the most precious in my sight
Was the books he left that kept me company.

Those books I read and reread in the cardinal's lair
Until they stayed lodged in my mind and grew in weight,
And I pursued that knowledge and kept on learning
Things unknown to man and guessed at by the gods.
All that remains is one task yet to perform:
To teach all my learning to you
And that's my only hope.
And this cell will be my cell for evermore.
But you're still young, you can carry on
The work that I've begun and make your escape.
I'll teach you the usual languages,
Of mathematics and geometry,
History and literature, geography, philosophy,
Chemistry, astrology and plenty more like them as well!
You will learn all that I know
And then, if you manage to escape, the treasure will be yours!
Wealth and power without limit, rivaling a god!
(*Faria suffers a spasm of pain*)

Good Lord! I'm in crisis again!
Quick! A few drops of this elixir, or I'm dead!
This crisis will be the last, the next one will finish me.
Listen, listen ...
Upon my death, they'll put my body in a sack
And toss it from the top of the Château d'If, into the waves.
But you'll take my place—and you'll be the one thrown to the sea.
And if God is with you, you'll regain your freedom.
I'll give you the treasure map
And thanks to what you're going to learn from me,
If heaven smiles on you, you will find it!

SCENE 10 : SONG OF MERCEDES

Mercédès, alone on a rock on the coast near the village of the Catalans, looks toward the horizon, praying.

Couplet 1

I'm waiting day and night
I feel he's still alive
I see him, he is here
And I can hear his voice
Calling me
Telling me I'm beautiful
And on his return we will be wed

Couplet 2

Hear my urgent prayer,
My life is only yours,
I see you, you are there,
You will not leave
Mercédès
Alone and a prey to distress,
And this night or the next, you will come back

Refrain 1

I vow to be faithful for life,
And when he returns, to remain the one
Who gave him her heart and her love
Day and night I still wait
No longer watching the time
Or my life go by, but praying...
God, who gives strength to our souls,
Keep my love alive and strong.

Refrain 2

If fate should decide, despite my prayer,
That my lover is lost for good, I swear
I'll never give my heart and my love to another.
I won't give up faith and trust:
He will return, he must!
And I'll forever wait for him...
God, you hear me from on high,
and won't allow Edmond to die

(speaking)

All-mighty God, give me the strength to wait
And courage to confront his enemy.

SCENE 11 : THE CHATEAU D'IF

TIME ACCELERATION CHORUS 2

CHORUS:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday
January, February, March, April, September, October, November, December
Eighteen hundred six... Etc. ... Eighteen hundred thirteen

*(Pantomime: in Dantès's cell... Faria shows Dantès all that he can teach him ...
Suddenly Faria suffers another attack, and dies...The jailer enters, confirms his
death. Returning with a sack, he encloses Faria in it, and leaves)*

SCENE 12: ARIA OF EDMOND DANTES “Ô toi qui m’a donné la lumière”

(near the body of Faria, now dead)

You, who brought truth and light to this dark place
A father to me, teacher, man of grace,
I promise you, Faria
To dig my way to freedom and to fight
And avenging your honor, prove us right

A holy man, derided here, not breaking free
But offering new life, a clear escape for me,
I promise you, Faria,
As your warrior
I will succeed, and I will never rest
Till you are honored and your name blessed!

Oh, my father who I couldn’t save
If I am spared to break out of this grave,
If light at last greets my hungry eyes
I swear by everything I prize
To be God’s arm, restore your name
And punish evil men.

My father, who gave me name and life,
To you: my sorrow, and my love,
If I escape, may God bring us face to face
Before night comes
to close your eyes and separate
two souls forever, wait for me.

My fathers to whom I owe everything
I continue the fight if only for you

God of revenge!
Let Dantès defend your law,
May Dantès go confound them all!

SCENE 12 Bis: TIME ACCELERATION CHORUS 3

(two guards enter who carry the sack bearing the body of Dantès, climb up the stairs to the roof of the castle and throw him in the waters from the top of the Château D'If)

END OF PART ONE

PART TWO

Overture: *Pantomime showing Dantès sailing, the Mameluks serving Monte Cristo and the Italian bandits of the Roman Catacombs, then back to the stormy ocean and Dantès approaching the Island of Monte-Cristo*

SCENE 1 : THE TREASURE

A dark grotto. Dantès enters, bearing a torch. He searches thoroughly through each corner of the grotto.

DANTÈS

(rereading the map with the notes by Abbé Faria)

“In the corner farthest away from the second opening”?

There’s nothing in this cave, not a trace or clue...

Faria! Then were you really mad?

And believing you, was I just as bad?

And when I dared to hope?

Mad myself?

Mad! Mad!

What did I gain from hoping all those years?

Staring into the dark

And stubbornly dreaming

Of a fortune, and of glory,

Revenge and even love!

Mercédès ! Mercédès !

If this grotto’s just another cell

Then let it be my tomb as well!

End to dreams, end to breath

And I’ll awaken in my death!

(Dantès begins to dig)

(The shovel strikes a chest, with a metallic sound)

(Dantès pulls the chest out of the hole he has dug)

(He opens the chest and discovers the treasure)

At last, at last I see the light!

At last I discover power!

God empowers my avenging arm,

The angel of fire takes hold of me
To punish tyrants
God! God!
Vengeance is on the way, God!

(Dantès fills his pockets with diamonds and flees)

SCENE 2 : INN AT THE PONT DU GARD

(Caderousse and his wife, La Carconte, are seated in front of a poor inn of Provence, along a dry an hot road)

LA CARCONTE

Oh! Oh! I feel so bad!
Everything's gone wrong!
The sun shines
And warms up Provence
But for me, just night,
Cold, and suffering.

CADEROUSSE

Be quiet, Carconte!
This has to be God's will,
It's our destiny, decided
In the great book in heaven.
Since the new road opened up,
No one comes this way.
So quiet down, Carconte!
This clearly is God's will.

LA CARCONTE

Oh! oh! I feel bad!
It's all gone wrong!

Why must it always be
That the evil get the rewards?
Why must it always be that the innocent
Are sacrificed?

CADEROUSSE

(speaking)

All right, Carconte, let's go inside
There's no point in waiting when no one is coming.

LA CARCONTE

(speaking)

Caderousse, we're paying for wrongs done in the past.
Why didn't you just go confess, as I told you to do...

(They enter the inn. A horseman appears in the distance)
(He ties up his horse, and enters the inn)

DANTES *(disguised as the Abbé Busoni)*

(singing)

Hello, my friend, you must be Caderousse?

CADEROUSSE

(speaking)

Yes, Father. Do you know me?

DANTES

No. Edmond Dantès has sent me to you.

CADEROUSSE

(speaking)

Dantès! You've seen him then? How is he then?

DANTES

He has died. Died at Château D'If.

CADEROUSSE

(speaking)

Dead? Poor man, poor man...

DANTES

Before he died, I gave him the final sacraments,
His last confession, and he announced his final wishes.

He named you as his only heir.
You mustn't ask me where he found what you will see.
Dantès gave it to me with his request
To divide it equally
To the men who were his closest friends;
And here is his estate:
This diamond,
Pure precious stone
Worth no less than fifty thousand francs.

CADEROUSSE

(speaking)

Fifty... thousand... francs...
And you, father, your name again?

DANTES

(speaking)

I am Abbé Busoni.

CADEROUSSE

(speaking)

And who are the two other friends who share this diamond?

DANTES

(speaking)

Fernand Mondego and Eugène Danglars.

CADEROUSSE

(speaking)

Fernand !.... Danglars !....

(singing)

Why must it always be
That evil men
Are reaping the rewards?
Why must it always be
That the innocent
Watch any treasure slip away

What's the point of virtue, what's the point of honesty
If the lowest of men,
Scorning God at every turn,
Finds all doors open to the greatest of glory?

Monsieur l'Abbé Busoni,
Listen, I beg you, to me.
Those men do not deserve the treasure you describe.
They have betrayed Dantès!
Those men have killed Dantès!
When they denounced him to the king's prosecutor.

There's got to come a day
When the evil have to pay;
There's got to be a time when innocence
Will see a flash of light
In their shadows and their blight.

Monsieur l'Abbé, who sent you here
I neither know nor care,
But don't let fortune smile on evil men
Who pride themselves on laughing at
The teachings of our Lord and God.

DANTES

And what has become of them,
Those friends you describe in terms so harsh?

CADEROUSSE

Fernand is Count de Morcerf,
And Danglars, he's "Monsieur le Baron Danglars"
To all and sundry now.

DANTES

I see. But tell me, Caderousse,

He had a lady love...
Is she still waiting now?

CADEROUSSE

(Laughing, speaking)

Mercédès? Oh no, are you kidding?
She's married now to Fernand, gone to live in Paris.
They have a son.

DANTES

(speaking)

and the father of Dantès...
he must be dead by now, I'd guess...

CADEROUSSE

(singing)

Yes, Monsieur l'Abbé.
He died of desperation
And also starved to death.

DANTES

(singing)

He starved! But how could that be?
Even roaming dogs
Don't die of hunger in the streets...

Oh Father whom I couldn't save,
Oh Father giving me so much,
Oh Father!
I will have revenge for what they have done.
I will have revenge, I swear as your son!

CADEROUSSE

Why take the news so hard?
Was the man a friend of yours?

DANTES

Any child of God has got to be my friend.
Here then, Caderousse, the diamond is for you.
See you use it well.
Be worthy of grace that heaven sends you...

CADEROUSSE

Merci Monsieur l'Abbé,
Fare you well, go with God!

(Dantès exits, Caderousse is left speechless gazing at the diamond)

LA CARCONTE

Caderousse! Caderousse!

CADEROUSSE

What now, Carconte?

LA CARCONTE

Has he gone?

CADEROUSSE

Yes, you can come down.

LA CARCONTE

Must you always talk too much!

CADEROUSSE

What do you mean?

LA CARCONTE

What I mean is, these men that you've been trashing here
Are powerful and sure to do us lots of harm.

CADEROUSSE

Shut up now, Carconte, have a look!
He gave me a diamond!

(la Carconte laughs)

Why do you laugh?
Look here! Look here! Have a look, Carconte...

LA CARCONTE

(speaking)
How do you know this is a genuine diamond
As a way of getting you to talk?

CADEROUSSE

(speaking)
He seemed on the level...

LA CARCONTE

(speaking)
Ah ah! That's exactly how you seemed to me too, when I married you.
And was I wrong! Alas.
But wait a minute... I know exactly who could tell us for sure
If that stone is for real.

CADEROUSSE

(speaking)
Who do you mean?

LA CARCONTE

(singing)
Why, the merchant upstairs who sells all those jewels!

From Paris, you know, he's come here for the fair.

So just listen to him, eh?

CADEROUSSE

He can buy the diamond from us for fifty thousand francs!

LA CARCONTE

But why not keep both the money and the jewel?

CADEROUSSE

What do you mean with that look of desperate greed?

LA CARCONTE

I just mean that we'd be stupid not to take advantage
Of a chance to get rich, our chance at long last!
I just mean that poverty has been our life for far too long,
And I just mean the time has come to change all that!
We have no time to squander, I say it's now or never.
One chance now remains, so grab it I say!
I want no more of this life, and rather than go on in this rut,
I'd a thousand times rather die!
Caderousse! Caderousse!
A dagger while he sleeps and we're done,
That's all it takes, Caderousse!

CADEROUSSE

You are mad, la Carconte, raving mad!
All this talk about my sins, all this talk of a confession,
And now you dare demand that I should kill!
This Abbé, he's innocent, he's in this inn tonight, our guest,
And I should slay him in his sleep!

I am not a criminal, and I am not an animal,
No, nor mad, and never can I, would I kill!
And now, for money, you're asking me to join the Devil
And let myself be damned for eternity!
La Carconte! Go kill him yourself!
Go! Go!

LA CARCONTE

Ah ! ah ! ah !
I really should have known! I really should have known!
Caderousse, you are really not a man,
Caderousse, you're not even a little girl.
And you truly do deserve to perish in this misery.
No, it's true! You are really not a man,
Caderousse, Caderousse!
And now I as your wife
Will have to show you the way a true man behaves...

CADEROUSSE

Then fine, go ahead,
I won't be partner in a crime so dark!

LA CARCONTE

(speaking)

And all the money goes to me, and you get nothing, coward that you are!

(She ascends the stairs toward the bedroom of the diamond merchant, a knife in her hand. The man's cry is heard. Caderousse, increasingly agitated, runs upstairs. The yelling of his wife is heard. Caderousse leaves, shaken and covered with blood.)

Why must it always be...
Always....

SCENE 3 : THE TELEGRAPH

A private dwelling on the Champs-Élysées.

Four servants dressed as Mamelukes are busily preparing the great salon.

Through a large window, a hill is visible with a Chappe aerial telegraph at its summit.

The four servants

Quick, quick, quick, our master doesn't like to wait!

Quick, quick, quick, our master must be served at once!

Quick, quick, quick, or you know what we will have to hear!

Quick, quick, quick, or you know what we will have to bear!

First servant

Our prince is generous.

Second servant

A noble lord, a spendthrift.

Third servant

But capricious, tyrannical.

Fourth servant

Moody too and full of gloom

All four

Moody too and full of gloom

Quick, quick, quick, our master doesn't like to wait!

First servant

They say he's from Mesopotamia.

Second servant

And struck it rich in Alexandria

Third servant

He's said to be king of Kyrgyzstan

Fourth servant

Or some country deep in Asia

All four

Quick, quick, quick, or you know what we will have to hear!

First servant

And then just a week ago
He bought this fancy spread.

Second servant

On the Champs-Élysées, what a deal,
The finest avenue in town

Third servant

And by tomorrow we are due
For him to host a great ball

Fourth servant

There's no limit to his spending
Or his demands in all detail.

All four

Quick, quick, quick, our master doesn't like to wait!
Quick, quick, quick, our master must be served at once!
Quick, quick, quick, or you know what we will have to hear!
Quick, quick, quick, or you know what we will have to bear!

*(In what follows, a dark silhouette can be seen entering the aerial telegraph
It must be made clear to the audience that this is Monte Cristo)*

First servant

Where'd he get a name like Monte-Cristo?

Second servant

No one can say...

Third servant

A phony title, bought somewhere...

Fourth servant

It's an island somewhere in the Mediterranean!

All four

And that's all that people know of this mystery man...

First servant

And this Greek princess that he brought with him-

Second servant

Mysterious, never speaking.

Third servant

She alone is allowed to know

The secret of Count of Monte Cristo

(The arms of the Chappe telegraph begin to move)

First servant

Look! Look at the telegraph! It's the signal! A message arrived...

Servants 1,2,3

What a shame that we're unable to understand what it's saying.

Fourth servant

I can read it!

Since the Count paid for my release from telegraph work.

Servants 1,2,3

Well, then? What's it say?

The message! The message!

Fourth servant

Don't be impatient... it takes some time for the words to take shape...

"Financier Morell has been rescued by an anonymous donor."

Servants 1,2,3

Ah! The house of Morell!

That's where our own Count hired us and brought us from Marseille.

Fourth servant

Then you're not any more a Mameluke than me?

First servant

Uh, well...

Second servant

Well, you see...

Third servant

In fact....

Servants 1,2,3

No!

Fourth servant

(Disgusted)

Bah!

"in a new dispatch just in from Spain, the king has fled and it's bankruptcy now for everyone who bought royal bonds!"

Servants 1,2,3

Won't that mean that Baron Danglars stands to lose several millions of francs?

Fourth servant

Oh yes!

"Now Baron Danglars is wiped out and has fled to Italy where he's hidden..."

Servants 1,2,3

Where he has hidden the major share of his fortune!

Fourth servant

How do you know that?

Servants 1,2,3

Eh!

Fourth servant

(Disgusted)

Bah !

“a dispatch just in from Janina”

Servants 1,2,3

Janina? Who or what is that?

Fourth servant

It's in Turkey, you mean you didn't know? That was the home of great Ali Pasha!

Servants 1,2,3

Ali Baba! Ali Baba!

Fourth servant

(angry)

Ali PASHA! Ali PASHA!

“Reportedly he's been betrayed by a French officer who's coming back to France armed with money and fame, to seize the reins of power here.”

Servants 1,2,3

Who is this villain then?

Fourth servant

The message doesn't explain...

Wait... Yes!

“He goes by the name of Fernand...”

Servants 1,2,3

That can only be Count Fernand de Morcerf!

The four servants

Well now! The party tomorrow should be fun!

With all of this gossip, it really can't miss,

And the Count de Monte Cristo will be hailed by one and all,

A hero untouched by fire or flood!

Monte Cristo

(entering suddenly)

(speaking)

Now then! A lot of talk and not much working here!

And the party tomorrow?

Fourth servant

(speaking)

Yes, Monsieur le Comte! The Maison d'Auteuil is ready to receive its guests!

Monte Cristo

(speaking)

Go and fetch Haydée, and move on to Auteuil this instant!

Fourth servant

Yes, Monsieur le Comte, this instant!

(Haydée enters)

Haydée

(speaking)

Did you summon me here, my lord?

Monte Cristo *(singing)*

Sweet Haydée, you my slave and my fiancée,

I am feeling remorse having you kept here, captive and so alone.
Are you happy at all? Can you find any comfort
Since the way I first found you, Haydée ?
Are you happy with me, Haydée?

Aria: Haydée

You found me in misery,
You took me from lowly dust.
I'd been Princess Haydée,
A woman born to rule one day
When my father was gone...
Now with you I am saved
With you I'm full of joy,
You, my friend, my lover too,
You a father and right arm.
This is where I want to stay...
Far from you, I don't think I could live
And with you, I would not have freedom.
Leave me in your shadow
To find some peace from the world...

Monte Cristo

Haydée, soon you will have your revenge
And together we will find the way to peace.

Haydée

He's a man like one of you
Who one day came into view
And without one sign of pity
Tore from the arms of Haydée
Everything she once had loved.
First the death of my father
Then disgrace to my mother
And now I am a slave
Till you fought to set me free
And brought me to your home.
True, I have not yet won your love
But you have my faith till death,

And I'll wait till your heart
Can feel love and a new start.

Ensemble :

And we sail away by sea
Bathed in light now and endlessly!

SCENE 4 : IN THE HOUSE AT AUTEUIL

The garden of Monte Cristo's house at Auteuil, in Paris.

A garden-party is under way.

Many guests have already gathered when the curtain rises.

CHORUS:

This is our chance to meet at last

This host so mysterious

He's bound to show up soon.

And we will finally learn what's behind the mask...

A SERVANT *(speaking)*

"Count Fernand de Morcerf, Countess Mercédès de Morcerf"

"The Count of Monte Cristo"

MERCEDES

(speaking)

My dear Count, haven't we meet somewhere before?

MONTE CRISTO

(speaking)

I doubt it, Madame *(he moves away, as Mercédès observes him with some agitation)*

CHORUS:

Such kingly bearing, but also how cold!

There's nothing dull in his home,

In fact it's all quite magnificent!

A SERVANT: *(speaking)*

"His lord the Royal Prosecutor, and Madame!"

MERCEDES

(approaching Monte Cristo)

You're not dining yourself, my dear Count?

MONTE CRISTO

No, I've no appetite today...

MERCEDES

Not even a glass of orangeade?

MONTE CRISTO

No, not allowed by my doctors, I'm afraid.

MERCEDES

We might end up thinking that you want to poison us...

MONTE CRISTO

Far be it from me, fair Madame!

Yet how many have already tried to poison me in fact.

And venomous men are plentiful here.

MERCEDES

What are you saying, Monsieur?

MONTE CRISTO *(bowing)*

Madame...

(He walks away and greets Villefort, who watches him intently)

CHORUS:

How upset the lady seems,

And how pale she has become...

ARIA: MERCEDES

I

Why should I tremble for no cause

Before this man,
Why on this night in festive halls
I feel again
That life returns to stir a heart
That lost its way,
That it can move and then restart,
Reborn today.

First refrain : In this world there's nothing so sad
As to live with a stranger without love.
A far better fate, I'd almost be glad
As a widow alone beside a grave
To dream, to mourn on my path.

II

But why should this stranger
Like a sudden storm
Invade the desert of my life
With unknown warmth?
Why do I feel a sudden start
And wake anew
To fountains playing in my heart,
Fresh as the dew?

Second refrain : In this world there's nothing so sad
As to live with a stranger without love.
Eager to speak but choking off your voice
Denying who you are, no will, no choice
But now for once alive, I soar above.

(end of aria. The waltz resumes.)

FERNAND (*approaching Mercédès*)
Tut, tut, my dear, you look a bit upset

As if you had just seen a ghost...

MERCEDES

What? But it's true, a ghost that was my life...

FERNAND

Come with me, you ought to dance a bit...

(Mercédès walks away without answering)

FERNAND

Hello, Villefort, so you too

Came to gawk at this new celebrity?

VILLEFORT

Oh yes, I too. He's the talk of the town without doubt.

I came as a guest, but stayed as the eyes and ears of the law.

All this sudden wealth, where could it be from?

MERCEDES

Your father, Monsieur Noitier, is he here too?

VILLEFORT

He begged us to bring him along. I can't imagine why.

Paralyzed there, never leaving his chair, not saying a word to a soul...

(Villefort, who has remained visibly upset, walks away from Mercédès)

I just can't understand, what drew him to this house?

Am I being pursued by Destiny again?

The man who chose this place must have reason enough

And here the garden seems to threaten me with death!

Who is this unknown man,

This sense of déjà vu ?

I must have seen that face before

Or sentenced him to death.

Is this the innocent

From twenty years ago

When fears about my father
Made me charge him with crime?

My father haunting me
At every time and place!
Are you a witness here,
Or threatening my life
To strike the final blow
Against his hated son,
Your son that never could
Find any love in you?

What, Father, do you want?
Bear silent witness here
And thus condemn your son?

To raise here from the dark
A lost creature of God's
That I buried alive?

Yes, I committed the most awful crime of all,
A murder odious and vile, sentencing to death
Without a chance for any grace or pardon
An innocent, condemned by justice at my hand.

FERNAND

(speaking)

But, my friend, you don't look so well.
Did you have, like Danglars, a stock market loss?
He has fled, did you hear? Left his family behind,
Bag and baggage!

VILLEFORT

(singing)

But he isn't really wiped out. He fled to Rome.
His agent there has put several millions away.
He's sure to return here soon, don't you know.
He's as shrewd and as quick as a rat!

(speaking)

But you, Fernand, aren't they saying
That you're rumored to be guilty of treason?
That letter from Janina seems incriminating...

FERNAND

(singing)

Idle talk, Monsieur, which they will answer for!

A SERVANT

"Monsieur Noirtier!"

(Noitier enters, pushed in a wheelchair, wearing a mask. In fact, it's Monte-Cristo in disguise)

CHORUS

Do you feel the strange atmosphere?
Nobody is having much fun.
It feels more like a funeral here,
As if they had buried someone!

MERCEDES *(to Villefort)*

It's your father, isn't it?
He loved Bonaparte, so they say, and still does today,
That can't do much good to you or your work?

VILLEFORT

Bonaparte is gone, Madame,
Bonaparte is just a memory now,
And Monsieur Noitier finds his politics stifled
In the muffled sepulcher that we call illness.

NOITIER (Monte Cristo)

No tomb is deep enough or dark
To silence the soul in its cry.
If the mind still contains a spark
The flame it feeds will never die!

.

CHORUS

He spoke! Does that mean he is cured?

VILLEFORT

Father, speak! What kind of joke can this be?

NOITIER (Monte Cristo)

They think that I am bound
In a frame of fading health
And nowhere to be found
Among markets and wealth.

In this frame of fading health
Nature has hidden me.
I move about by stealth
Obeying her, not free.

This body is my jail?
Locked up in four thick walls,
Both prisons surely fail
And I'll pursue my cause.

Prison of flesh and tears,
Broken in spirit and bone
Locked in those walls for years
Left bleeding and alone

You think that a man no one hears,
Enemy left unseen for years,
You think such a man is through
And can't take his revenge on you.

I've watched it all, I understand,
Bound here observant in this chair,
What you've concealed and have planned
In the garden guarded with care!

Villefort! So kind to all in power,
A scourge to the weakest on earth
Sacrificing them every hour
To serve those of noble birth!

What's buried there under that tree
That's striking such fear in your heart?
It costs you a lot, I can see,
The control you'd made such an art!

Should I rise up now and lead them all in parade,
Those poor men you condemned and reviled?
Should I dig in that earth and remove from his grave
Beneath that tree the adulterer's child?

That was the place, Villefort, where the wife of Danglars
In a secret, most unblessed event did give birth
To a child that you, lowly insect that you are,
Found the way to conceal in the earth!

VILLEFORT

Calumny! Slander, lies! And madness!
Yes, I am going mad, as I knew I would!

NOITIER (Monte Cristo)

(rises from the chair, to everyone's surprise)

Come along, Villefort, and dig with me!
Be a man of law at last, or try to be!
What's hidden here
The king's prosecutor
Will bring to light
Because the truth at last is our right!

VILLEFORT

No, I can see no point
In digging for the truth.
There is no need for proof
To prosecute your son.

I now admit the crime,
Yes I duly confess,
I buried him alive,
That scarlet woman's child.

CHORUS

HORROR! HORROR!
Death stands around us here!
HORROR! HORROR!
It's God's revenge we fear!

VILLEFORT

But you, Monsieur, who then are you,
Claiming to be my father?
I'm entitled to know!
I'm entitled to know the man
Who's driving me out of my mind!

(Monte Cristo quickly shows him his true face)

It's you! It's you!

(Villefort goes insane, seizes a shovel and begins to dig at random, while threatening the crowd)

CHORUS

Ah, he is going mad,
Yes he is going mad,
Good-bye, good-bye,
We must flee,
Flee from this house,
This sheer insanity!

End of Scene 4

Before Scene 5: possibly an aria by Danglars in front of the curtain, fleeing to Rome, to allow the change of scenery.

SCENE 5 : THE ROMAN CATACOMBS

*The set depicts the interior of a large cave in the catacombs of Rome.
The bandits residing in these underground spaces gather here.*

BANDITS

We're here, the princes of the dark
Masters of the catacombs,
So fond of hiding for a lark
Far from earth, hiding in tombs
Far from cities!
Far from justice!
Far from guards!
Far from police!

(Luigi Vampa enters with Danglars, shoved by other bandits)

It's our chief! It's Luigi Vampa !

VAMPA

I've brought you a giant fish,
He's a banker, and super-rich.
Just give this fatcat a good shake,
You'll get quite a royal take.

LES BRIGANDS

Shake him down! Shake him down good!

DANGLARS

Where am I? Where have you taken me?
I'm not a banker, that's false.
And any money that you find
Is charity, I'm being kind.
Helping orphans, helping all the poor!
You won't rob orphans, will you, or the poor?

BANDITS

But that's just what we are, poor and orphans too,
And hungry enough to need every cent that we find on you!

VAMPA

Let's give our guest a chance to rest
Our master has vouched for him—the best!

DANGLARS

Your master? But I thought you were the big chief!

VAMPA

Out here I am the boss,
But my master answers only to God.

DANGLARS

And who is that?

VAMPA

You may get to find out...

Put him in the best suite, reserved for guests of honor!

BANDITS

Care to follow us, your Excellency?
To your quarters, to suit your fancy!

(Danglars is put into a tiny room, where a pile of straw seems to serve as a bed)

DANGLARS *(left alone)*

(
Speaking)

How long are they going to keep me here?
What are they going to do to me?

(Singing)

I'm seized by some unknown force
That I cannot understand,
My fate seems against me everywhere.
For a month, on sea or land
I always feel something or someone
Follow me with his look or with his hand.
I'm torn by regret but unable to say why:
A misdeed I forgot, a sin I committed long ago?
Could it be some debt left unpaid?
Have I some creditor in heaven?
Who are you, mystery man, what do you want?
Are you hiding? O let me hear your voice...
Just name the crime and tell me what I have to pay!
But don't leave me this way, in darkest ignorance.
Speak to me! Speak to me!

I'm staved! I thirst!

They've left me all alone to rot, they gave me nothing!
Jailor! Are you going to let me starve to death?
Is this the way that you finish off your victims?

VAMPA *(speaking)*

Okay, okay! I'm here!
His Excellency would like to order now?

DANGLARS *(speaking)*

Something to drink! Some food!

VAMPA *(speaking)*

And what would you care to eat?

(singing)

You may order all what you wish!

DANGLARS *(singing)*

Well, what could you possibly offer me in this humid hell-hole?

VAMPA *(singing)*

Whatever your taste

We serve you in haste

DANGLARS *(speaking)*

Well, in that case let me see... a chicken?

VAMPA *(speaking)*

A chicken for his Excellency!

(A bandit immediately brings in a chicken on a platter)

DANGLARS *(speaking)*

Is this the Café de Paris, for me?

VAMPA *(speaking)*

Bon appétit, Excellency

(singing)

But you must pay us in advance

(speaking)

There have been clients here who balked

(singing)

and left before we could collect!

DANGLARS *(speaking)*

All right, then, here's a gold coin, easily the price of a chicken at the Café de Paris

Including tip!

VAMPA *(speaking)*

Well that leaves a mere 4,999 Louis left to pay, and then you get to eat your chicken.

DANGLARS *(speaking)*

A hundred thousand francs for one chicken! This is robbery! You can't be serious!

VAMPA *(speaking)*

Very well, away with the chicken!

(Exit Vampa and the bandit)

DANGLARS *(shouting)*

You don't realize you're dealing with Baron Danglars!
You will give in before I do!

(Danglars stretches out and falls asleep)

(Vampa appears with a music box, richly decorated. The box plays the soft tune of Dantès and Mercédès's engagement)

DANGLARS *(speaking)*

What's that music I hear?

VAMPA *(speaking)*

You mean you don't remember?

Come now, think... think hard.

(Music box playing again the tune)

DANGLARS *(singing)*

All I hear is the rumbling of my empty stomach
That is asking for food and a drink!

VAMPA

Just state your wish and it's yours, Votre Excellence.
We'll serve you all that you can eat,

We have steak, game or roast, and then pâté!
And our wines of qualité!

DANGLARS

One hundred thou', I'll pay the price now!

VAMPA

Sorry, sir, but now you owe a bit more, a million!

DANGLARS

A million? No—but why?

VAMPA

That is the going interest rate!

DANGLARS

The interest rate? That's usury!

VAMPA

Ah! Ah! Ah! You sound just like a banker!

DANGLARS

A million, no way!

I'd rather die of starvation then!

VAMPA

While you talk and argue here, mon cher Danglars,
Your interest, I fear, is falling in arrears.
Two million, that's what you owe!

DANGLARS

What do you want? Do you want me to die?

VAMPA

You're still wasting time, my dear sir...
Three million! From inflation!

CHORUS

If this goes on the poor Monsieur will be left without a sou

And we will have him bled dry without a howdy-doo!

DANGLARS

I'm not paying you a penny more.

VAMPA

But now we're at quatre millions, cher monsieur !

DANGLARS

No, no more! Not a sou!

VAMPA

Cinq millions!

DANGLARS *(in a shock)*

Five million....

(A shadowy silhouette enters and insinuates himself behind Vampa)

DANGLARS

What can I live on now?
Do you want me to die?
At least, let me go out
And perish under the sky...

MONTE CRISTO

Why would we let you chose you death
When you always held the other's fate?

DANGLARS

The Count of Monte Cristo!

MONTE CRISTO

No, I'm no such thing. Take a good look!
(The music box starts to play again)

Listen now... a closer look...
You see this couple here?
You prostituted her,
And him? You wrote accusing him of dire crimes...

DANGLARS

And who are you? The Devil?

MONTE CRISTO

Listen now! A closer look!
This old man, skin and bones, starving to death,
You left him without a son,
You are the cause of all his torment.

DANGLARS

No! No! I know it can't be!
Who are you, who are you? Tell me now!

MONTE CRISTO

Edmond Dantès!

DANGLARS

No! No!

MONTE CRISTO

Do you at least repent, Danglars ?

DANGLARS *(falling on his knees and bending to Dantès's feet)*

Yes, I do repent, I beg you, forgive!

MONTE CRISTO

All right, go! You are free now, I forgive.
I feel a need to forgive one of you for once...

(Danglars stands up and leaves the grotto)

CHORUS

So good-bye, good friend, and never forget:
In such a place you always need someone who's worse than you!

BEFORE SCENE 6: Possible pantomime or musical interlude during the change of scenery.

SCENE 6: THE CHAMBER OF PEERS

The stage depicts a session at the Chamber of Peers, France's upper house in the mid-nineteenth century.

Chorus of men (the Peers) and women (the public, in the balconies)

THE PRESIDENT

In the name of our good King Louis Philippe
I've summoned this assembly
So we may judge without delay
The case that brings us here .

PEERS, WOMEN IN THE ROTUNDA

Hail to the King and hail to justice!
Now let's hear this case and then let's dismiss!

PRESIDENT

It is all only about that:
A letter from Janina
Accuses the Count de Morcerf
that he betrayed and killed the man
He swore to protect and to serve
Sullyng the honor of the French!

FULL CHORUS

Shame, injustice, decadence,
We must restore honor to France!

FERNAND

The charges we're bringing are grave,
I have proof, and witnesses too.
And the Sultan has said it's true.
I'm honest, I fought, I am brave!

He trusted his family to me,
His daughter as well as his wife.
I defended them with my life
And fought to keep us all free!

My accuser should step up if he can,
And look me in the face like a man!

FULL CHORUS

He seems honest and true, I really must say.
This man is innocent, let him have his say.

(Seated in a box, Mercédès witnesses her husband's accusation. Enter Monte-Cristo)

MERCEDES

Edmond, it's you, I know full well,
I recognized you from the start
And I also see your vengeance
In the scandal developing here
I lost the one man that I loved,
So now shall I lose all again,
All that is left of my life?

MONTE CRISTO

Madame, this isn't about me
Nor you, in this government hall,
It's only justice that counts here,

Whether it's human justice or divine
That leads men or crushes them.
My only care is just to know
That the laws of God are followed here below.
(exit)

PRESIDENT

I hear a witness is intent

To make a speech in parliament.
Have them brought in now.

(Haydée enters, covered from head to toe with a light, nearly transparent veil that hides her face)

CHORUS *(women)*

It's a woman!
How elegant!
Oriental?
A princess!

(men)

A noble soul
And how at ease.
The fatal look
Of a goddess...

PRESIDENT

Madame, the Peers will hear you out.
Just who are you and what is your concern?

HAYDEE

I'm known as Haydée
Born of Sultan Ali
Pasha of Janina,
Daughter of Vasiliki, my mother.
She was both the most tender of wives
And tenderest of mothers.
I was just four when they were put to death
By the man I'm accusing today,
Fernand Mondego.

Yes, just four years old
But memory
Never forgets
What our own heart
Etches in us.
The orphan child

Cannot forget
Day and night
The horrid past.

FERNAND

All lies! She lies, it's a conspiracy!

PRESIDENT

What proof can you give
Of all that you are claiming?

HAYDEE

You will find here the documents
Stamped with the country's royal seal.

FERNAND

A usurper, that is what she is!
She has no drop of royal blood!
Any documents she tries to list
Only prove that she's a fraud!
I have known the true Haydée,
She had a tattoo on her arm,
Her ear was cut that fateful day
In the attack and the alarm.

PRESIDENT

May we ask you to show those private details?

(Haydée pulls up the sleeve of her gown and lowers the veil from her face. The tattoo and the pierced ear are obvious)

CHORUS

It's her! She's the princess!
Shame on you, Morcerf!
You are a killer and you have lied!
We will disgrace and banish you!

(Haydée approaches Morcerf, who grows pale and trembling while she sings the following, never taking her gaze off him)

HAYDEE

Look at me, you the soldier,
Assassin with no sense of shame
Who killed the parents of Haydée
Of this I accuse you today.

Look at me, you the officier,
Calling honor the greatest good,
You sold it for a price in gold
And drowned it in our precious blood.

Look at me, you nobleman,
You wrapped your evil in the flag,
A flag that you have vilified
By snatching gold and then our pride.

Look at me now, you the judge
Strong enough to have cast aside
The principles in which you trust
The belief in what's true and just.

LOOK AT ME, LOOK AT ME!

(Morcerf drops dead of emotional shock by the end of her aria)

(The stage darkens, the lights go down, and Mercédès slowly moves down her box toward the corpse of her husband)

MERCEDES

Today my life has ended its course
And I can't see a reason to live.
So Mercédès is done
Lost from view with the sun
Having nothing to hope or to give.

I've lost it all, love that I once confessed,
Vain hope of forgetting Dantès,
while the man that I wed,
Loving Dantès instead,
Has brought us all to disgrace.

O my God to whom I once prayed
Did you punish me as one who strayed?
Should I have expected
The man I rejected
to return to a young love now betrayed?

Vanished for good, beloved of his youth,
belief and illusion, now cruel hard truth.

If my life is now outlived,
If my God cannot forgive,
If I must hide my face
From the whole human race,

I'll say good-bye, valley of tears
And waste away my last years.
Good-bye, Dantès.
Good-bye, Edmond.
Farewell, Count of Monte-Cristo.

SCENE 7: EPILOGUE

Monte Cristo, 20-30 years later, alone with Haydée

HAYDEE

Edmond, it has been twenty years
Since we said good-bye to Paris.
You've had vengeance at last,
But did that bring you peace?
Is your anger consigned to the past
Or have you imbibed venom without cease?
Won't forgiveness be lighter to carry with you to the grave?
While revenge is bound to slow you on your way?

MONTE CRISTO

Haydée, my sole consolation,
Not a day has passed that I haven't thought of it.

What's the good of vengeance?
Or bitterness or strife?
None of that can erase
The torments of a life.

To inflict human pain,
Settle scores with a gun?
Can they hope to redeem
Evil deeds that were done?

I thought I'd be God's right arm,
Heaven's flaming righteous sword.
Like Satan I did only harm
Never inspired with truth of the Lord.

Yes, Haydée, I know you're right
The poison that I brewed in me
Consumed me through and through with hate
A slave accursed and never free.

My freedom they could take
But from a jail you can escape
I found revenge by taking lives
Inspiring madness far and wide.

In my prison of night I learned only to wait,
Bitter feeling that turned into hope.
If God's listening now, let mercy be my fate
Let forgiveness replace all trace of hate.

CHORUS, MERCEDES, HAYDEE

WE ALL MUST LOVE
LOVE AND FORGIVE
WAIT AND HOPE... *(note: exact last words of Dumas's novel)*

(Chorus repeats:
What's the good of vengeance?
Or bitterness or strife? ...)

END OF THE OPERA