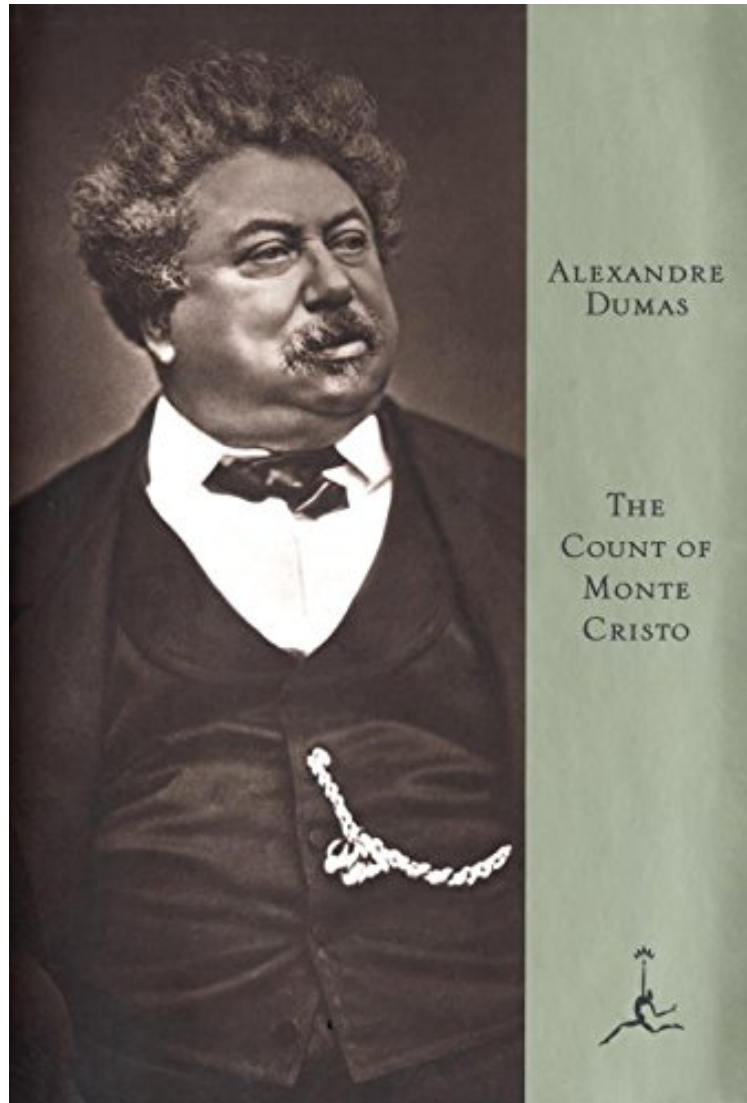


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The Count of Monte Cristo (Modern Library)

Alexandre Dumas pre
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Alexandre Dumas pre : The Count of Monte Cristo (Modern Library) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Count of Monte Cristo (Modern Library):

79 of 85 people found the following review helpful. If you can't read the original French, only Robin Buss' unabridged and uncensored translation will suffice. By Claire Ashcroft I have the Robin Buss translation of THE COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO in paperback, but that copy was old and worn. I wanted a more durable hardcover edition to read and to display on my bookshelf in my new house. The hardcover I bought from Total Books arrived in near-perfect condition, exactly as advertised, and looks gorgeous on the shelf. Why Robin Buss' translation for Penguin Classics?

That's a reasonable question since Alexandre Dumas has been dead long enough for his works to enter the public domain. Several translations of his major novels are not only available in cheaper editions (such as Barnes Noble Classics), but for free on Project Gutenberg. These are inferior and, in the case of THE COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO, censored translations. Most of them date back to the Victorian period, and render Dumas' evergreen French into English prose that feels old-fashioned and stilted today. Furthermore, because these are translations from the Victorian period, the translators filtered Dumas through their own moral sensibilities to give us Bowdlerized versions of a novel that ran on sex, drugs, and rock 'n roll a century before rock 'n roll was something you could do without a machine gun. Robin Buss' unabridged translation comes directly from the original French and renders Dumas into fresh, readable modern English. Material previously omitted by Victorian-era translators such as Franz' hashish-fueled sexual fantasies and the strongly implied lesbian relationship between Eugenie and Louise remain intact and uncensored. As another reviewer pointed out, Buss will provide footnotes to explain subtleties that aren't easily translated from French to English, such as insults delivered by using the formal you (vous) rather than the informal/friendly/intimate you (tu). A detailed appendix provides valuable historical and cultural context that aids the reader in understanding Dumas' masterpiece, and includes a primer on the rise, fall, return, and final downfall of Napoleon Bonaparte that is crucial to making sense of the politics driving the novel's plot. If you cannot read Dumas in his native French, and you want a definitive English version, Robin Buss's unabridged and uncensored modern English translation is essential reading. No other translation will suffice.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This is classic literature that stands on its own and isn't just classic because it's old and a few people like it. By M! As you read you'll dive deep into living history, during early 1800s France. The characters aren't caricatures but real people since they're in fact based on real people. So the writing sparse where it needs to be and detailed when appropriate drives the momentum so that you really understand what's happening and why even though you couldn't imagine yourself doing similar. As a child, I loved this story, but only knew the abridged versions or media takes. Now I understand why this is an adored, beloved, continually retold narrative. My favorite part is how you can tell this story from different characters point of view and still have a detailed and unique epic. The ending is well deserved and hopeful, not necessarily for the characters it affects, but for you the reader who can relate to what's happened in your own life and see ways that you can choose a different path for yourself. I rarely do this, but 5 STARS. No brainer. Wish more writers would read this to gain a sense of how to tell dynamic, linear stories with human characters.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great Book By Joseph Warren I didn't have the opportunity to read this book when I was younger, but now that I'm older I'm in the middle of it and it is great. I love the ability to take the time to read and enjoy every chapter and the various stories within the main story. There are a lot of twists and turns in this book that make it very enjoyable to read. At first I didn't think that I would like this book as much as I did but it's great. This book is really good at showing character development and the inner struggles of the characters. I 100% recommend this book to anybody who is willing to read it.

Set against the tumultuous years of the post-Napoleonic era, *The Count of Monte Cristo* recounts the swashbuckling adventures of Edmond Dantes, a dashing young sailor falsely accused of treason. The story of his long imprisonment, dramatic escape, and carefully wrought revenge offers up a vision of France that has become immortal.

"Dumas was... a summit of art. Nobody ever could, or did, or will improve upon Dumas's romances and plays." -- George Bernard Shaw
From the Paperback edition.
Language Notes
Text: English (translation) Original Language: French
From the Publisher
12 1.5-hour cassettes