

Alexandre Dumas

The Count of Monte Cristo

LEVEL 5



WORDS USED

Story 81

Story 82

Story 83

Story 84

Story 85

KEY WORDS

comrade
emperor
envy
fever
sly
traitor

bride
crime
discuss
innocent
plead
witness

cell
evidence
justice
release
situation
society

education
passage
peculiar
scrape
sickness
wealth

bandit
disguise
suspicious
tremendous
valuable
victim

NECESSARY WORDS

banished
demoted
fiancée
isle
monsieur
treason

engagement
tavern

affairs
dungeon

plaster
revenge

barren
priest

Back to Marseilles



Napoleon asked Edmond if he would deliver a letter for him.

Preview:

1. Read the name of the story.
2. Look at the picture.
3. Read the sentence under the picture.
4. Read the first five paragraphs of the story.
5. Then answer the following question.

You learned from your preview that Napoleon

- a. was captain of the *Pharaon*.
- b. was a traitor to his country.
- c. had been driven from power.
- d. had brain fever.

Turn to the Comprehension Check on page 10 for the right answer.

Now read the story.

Read to find out why Danglars did not like Edmond Dantes.

Back to Marseilles

In the winter of 1815, a ship named the *Pharaon* was returning from a journey to Italy. The *Pharaon* had a small crew. Among the men were Captain LeClere, Monsieur Danglars, and young Edmond Dantes.

Dantes was the First Mate of the ship. He was only nineteen years of age. He was a very kind and honest man. Danglars, on the other hand, was a man thirty-five years of age. He was very sly and full of envy.

Before returning home, the *Pharaon* made an important stop at the Isle of Elba. This was the island on which France had banished Napoleon Bonaparte. Napoleon was once the emperor of France. He had fought and won many battles for his country. But then he had been driven from power. The banished Napoleon was planning on returning to France one day. He would take back his command from King Louis XVIII.

The *Pharaon's* crew had stopped at the Isle of Elba to get help for their ill captain. Captain LeClere had gotten brain fever during the trip. Edmond Dantes took control of things when the Captain became ill. He truly cared for the Captain and wanted to help him.

On the Island, Napoleon pulled Edmond aside to talk with him privately. "Would you deliver a letter to an old comrade of mine in Marseilles?" asked Napoleon. Edmond felt uneasy about his question. Doing anything for Napoleon would be a form of treason. This would make Edmond a traitor to his country. "It's just a harmless letter to an old comrade from long ago," said Napoleon.

Edmond was unsure about taking the letter from the old

emperor. After some thought, he agreed to deliver it. Edmond was no traitor, but he was very young. He was not aware of the problems he could face if the letter fell into the wrong hands. He could be charged with treason.

"Take this letter to Monsieur Noirtier," said Napoleon. "He will find you in Marseilles."

Within hours, Captain LeClere had died from his brain fever. The crew covered the body. They loaded it back onto the *Pharaon*. Then they sailed back out into the Atlantic Ocean. The crew buried Captain LeClere at sea.

The next day, the *Pharaon* sailed into the French harbor town of Marseilles. This was where Edmond Dantes lived. Edmond was very excited about his return. He was very anxious to see his father and his fiancée, Mercedes.

After docking the ship, Monsieur Morrel, the ship's owner, approached Dantes and Danglars. "What happened on your journey?" he asked.

Edmond explained. "Captain LeClere died of brain fever."

Danglars had a sly scowl on his face as he listened to Edmond tell Morrel about the trip. He felt such envy! He didn't like how well Dantes got along with Morrel. "Dantes did not obey my orders when he went to the Isle of Elba," interrupted Danglars rudely. He continued, "Our lives could have been lost sailing to that Island. I was trying to protect the well-being of the *Pharaon*."

Now Monsieur Morrel scowled. "You were trying to protect *yourself*," exclaimed Morrel. "Edmond did the right thing by seeking help for the ill Captain. This is the choice that you should have made, Danglars."

Danglars glared at Edmond with envy and dislike.

"Both of you come with me," commanded Morrel. The men followed Morrel inside the shipping company where they would learn who would become the next captain of the *Pharaon*. The two men sat down in front of Morrel's desk. Morrel paused for a few seconds. He looked at both men sitting in front of him. Finally, he began to fill out a piece of paper. "Edmond Dantes, you are a man of courage," Morrel began. "Because of your concern for your captain, I now make you the new captain of the *Pharaon*."

With great excitement, Edmond jumped up and shook Morrel's hand. "Thank you so much, sir. You have given me my dream. I will not let you down," he said smiling.

"Don't you have a pretty, young lady waiting to hear this good news?" asked Morrel.

Edmond smiled. He asked, "May I have two weeks leave so I may marry Mercedes?"

Morrel answered, "That is fine. But, the crew will need you in a month or so to set sail on the next journey. Now, go. Get to your fiancée and family to share the good news."

As Danglars listened to the exchange between the two men, he became angry. He felt more envy than ever before. He asked Morrel, "Have you demoted me?"

"No, I have not *demoted* you," answered Morrel. "You will be the *Pharaon's* First Mate. If this makes you unhappy, you may seek work somewhere else."

Danglars glared at Morrel. Then he left the office without saying a word. It appeared that Danglars was finished with his job at the shipping company.

Back to Marseilles

COMPREHENSION CHECK

Choose the best answer.

- The *Pharaon* and its crew stopped at the Isle of Elba to
 - find Napoleon Bonaparte.
 - get help for King Louis XVIII.
 - get help for their captain.
 - take pictures.
 - Captain LeClere became sick with
 - the flu.
 - a stomach ache.
 - yellow fever.
 - brain fever.
 - _____ took control of the *Pharaon* when the Captain became ill.
 - Edmond Dantes
 - Monsieur Danglars
 - Monsieur Noirtier
 - Monsieur Morrel
 - When Napoleon was driven from power, who took his place as emperor?
 - King Henry VIII
 - King Louis XVIII
 - King Louis XVI
 - Prince Charles
5. Edmond
- trusted Napoleon.
 - was a traitor to France.
 - didn't think there was any harm in delivering a letter.
 - was tired of sailing.

Preview Answer:

- c. had been driven from power.

- Morrel and Dantes
 - were in love with the same woman.
 - thought highly of Danglars.
 - had it in for Danglars.
 - got along well with each other.
7. First, the *Pharaon* sailed into the town of Marseilles. Then, Morrel approached Dantes and Danglars. Next,
- Dantes was made the new captain of the *Pharaon*.
 - Dantes married Mercedes.
 - Danglars quit his job.
 - Captain LeClere died of brain fever.
8. Danglars
- and Edmond had a great friendship.
 - was jealous of Edmond.
 - felt threatened by Edmond's success.
 - was thrilled that Edmond was made captain.
9. Another name for this story could be
- "Good News for Edmond."
 - "Buried at Sea."
 - "An Act of Treason."
 - "Off to Italy."
10. This story is mainly about
- what life was like back in the 1800's.
 - why Danglars quit his job.
 - how King Louis XVIII came into power.
 - how a young boy came to be captain of a ship.

Check your answers with the Key on page 67.