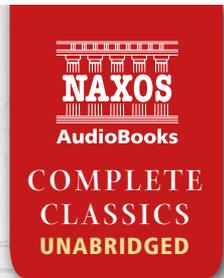


ALEXANDRE DUMAS, FILS

La Dame aux Camélias

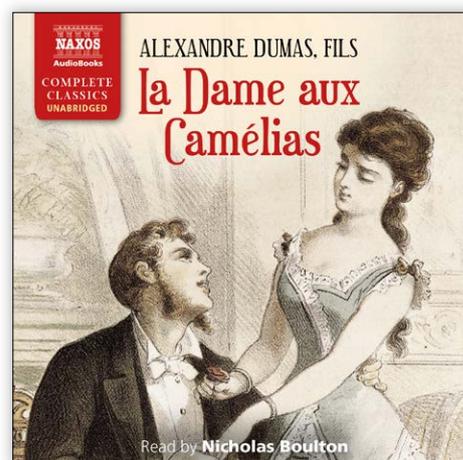


Read by
Nicholas Boulton

Dumas's novel became one of the great love stories from its first publication in 1848. The title role of the consumptive heroine and her ultimate sacrifice inspired actresses from Sarah Bernhardt to Greta Garbo, and led Giuseppe Verdi to write *La traviata*. In the hands of Nicholas Boulton, the story of passion and conflict is as fresh and moving as when it was first written.



Nicholas Boulton graduated from The Guildhall School of Music and Drama, winning the BBC Carleton Hobbs Award for Radio. He has since featured in countless BBC radio dramas, narrated a plethora of award-winning audiobooks, and died a thousand deaths in various video games. Film, TV and theatre appearances include *Shakespeare in Love*, *Game of Thrones* and *Wolf Hall* (RSC).



Total running time: 6:46:53 • View our full range of titles at n-ab.com

1	La Dame aux Camélias, or Camille	10:37	22	These simple reflections of Gaston showed me how...	8:45
2	Chapter 2	11:31	23	Chapter 15	12:50
3	Chapter 3	12:53	24	Chapter 16	9:04
4	Chapter 4	7:31	25	The time of the year when I was accustomed to join...	8:18
5	It was as if he guessed my desire, for he said to me...	8:13	26	Chapter 17	13:16
6	Chapter 5	13:02	27	Chapter 18	14:35
7	Chapter 6	13:37	28	Chapter 19	11:08
8	Chapter 7	9:18	29	Chapter 20	10:49
9	A moment later, my friend returned. She is expecting...	8:48	30	Chapter 21	13:55
10	Chapter 8	11:42	31	Chapter 22	12:52
11	Chapter 9	8:47	32	Chapter 23	9:44
12	'So,' said she all at once, 'it was you who came to...'	7:52	33	'I should be lying if I said I think no more about her...'	7:10
13	Chapter 10	9:22	34	Chapter 24	10:51
14	I had gone too far to turn back; and I was really...	9:25	35	She pressed my hand without a word, for tears still...	11:19
15	Chapter 11	9:10	36	Chapter 25	7:27
16	She took off her hat and her velvet cloak and threw...	9:30	37	'You are young, beautiful, life will console you...'	8:37
17	Chapter 12	7:58	38	Chapter 26	8:12
18	As for me, I no longer remembered how I had lived...	7:19	39	This morning Monsieur H. called. He seemed much...	11:11
19	Chapter 13	9:22	40	February 18th. MONSIEUR ARMAND: Since the day...	8:06
20	At last the count came out, got into his carriage...	9:46	41	Chapter 27	3:37
21	Chapter 14	9:04			

Recorded at The Soundhouse, London. Produced by Neil Rosser

Edited and mastered by Timothy Brown. Executive Producer: Anthony Anderson

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ALEXANDRE DUMAS, FILS

La Dame aux Camélias

Alexandre Dumas was born in 1824, the illegitimate son of Catherine Lebay, a dressmaker, and Alexandre Dumas, the author of *The Three Musketeers* and *The Count of Monte Cristo*. His parents lived together for only a short time after his birth, but his mother gave him a loving and secure home. Later his father sent him to boarding school; Dumas *fils* was very unhappy there and described his experiences in *L'affaire Clémenceau* (1866).

Dumas *fils* left school in 1840 and went to live with his father, who was then at the height of his fame. He treated his son as a contemporary and together they threw themselves into the delights of bohemian society.

It was during this time that Dumas *fils* became the lover of Marie Dupleissis, a well-known courtesan who always wore white camellias. She had come to Paris as an uneducated, penniless country girl and had become the mistress of a string of men ascending from restaurateur to duke. She was swept off her feet by the refreshing youthfulness of Dumas's passion but their liaison finished in 1846 just six months before Marie died of tuberculosis at the age of 23.

Dumas had written *Les Aventures de Quatre Femmes et d'un Perroquet* in 1847, but it might as well have concerned a dead parrot for all the interest it aroused. The success of his second novel, *La Dame aux Camélias*, however, was immediate and sensational. In the book – written in three weeks – Dumas romanticized his love for Marie, and Paris society, which had followed her career with interest, was keen to read what was clearly a fictionalised account by her young lover.

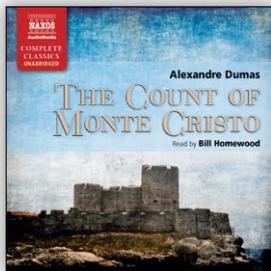
Dumas adapted the novel for the stage the following year, but he had to wait three years before the censors allowed its performance. During the wait, Dumas wrote a clutch of novels with little success, but the production of *La Dame aux Camélias* at the Vaudeville in 1852 made his reputation. The play was a smash hit, and the next year Verdi was inspired to capture the passion of Armand and Marguerite, renamed Violetta, in his opera, *La traviata*.

In 1855 Dumas's *Le Demi-Monde* was the first play to tackle a social problem – in this case, the effects of prostitution on marriage. Dumas married Princess Narishkine, a Russian, and had two daughters, but later lived apart from his wife. In 1857 Dumas was made a member of the Académie Française. He published pamphlets on divorce and prostitution, which were influential in the revision of the French marriage laws.

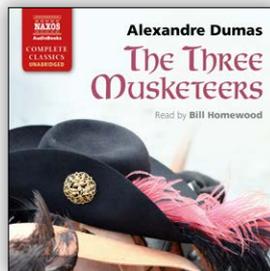
In 1895 Dumas's wife died and he married Mme Regnier de la Brise, whom he had loved for many years. But in November of the same year Dumas died of meningitis. Although his output of plays and essays was prolific, it is for *La Dame aux Camélias* that Dumas is remembered. He was so moved by Sarah Bernhardt's performance in the title role in 1884 that he gave her an early edition of the book and a letter he had written to Marie Dupleissis expressing regret that their love affair was doomed. He had ended the letter, 'Mille souvenirs. A.D.'

Notes by Lesley Young

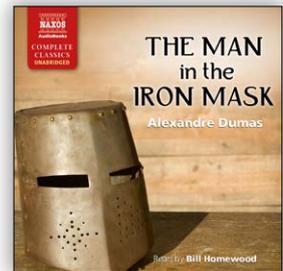
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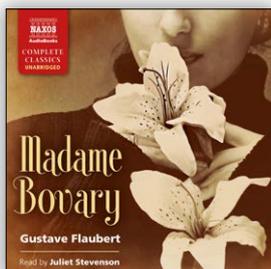
Alexandre Dumas
The Count of Monte Cristo
Read by Bill Homewood



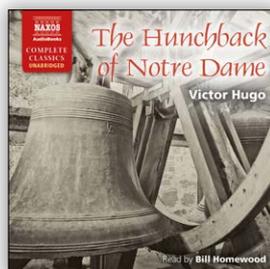
Alexandre Dumas
The Three Musketeers
Read by Bill Homewood



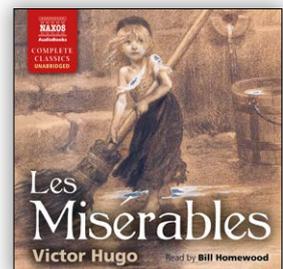
Alexandre Dumas
The Man in the Iron Mask
Read by Bill Homewood



Gustave Flaubert
Madame Bovary
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The Hunchback of Notre Dame
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Victor Hugo
Les Misérables
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