

GREAT ILLUSTRATED CLASSICS

**THE MAN
IN THE IRON
MASK**

Alexander Dumas

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Recognizing an Old Friend

CHAPTER 1

A Visit to the Bastille

D'Artagnan, captain of the king's musketeers, sincerely regretted having to deliver his friend Athos to prison.

As their carriages drew near the Bastille's heavy gates, D'Artagnan pointed to a man just getting out of a carriage up ahead. "Look yonder, Athos!" he cried. "I will wager anything it is he."

"He? Who?" asked Athos, puzzled.

"It's Aramis, of all people!" D'Artagnan replied.

Aramis, Athos, and D'Artagnan had been friends since their days as guards in the king's

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musketeers. D'Artagnan still recalled his adventures with Athos, Porthos, and Aramis — the Three Musketeers, they called themselves. The musketeers were soldiers who guarded the king of France. Only the bravest soldiers got to be musketeers. D'Artagnan had proven his bravery years ago when he helped the Three Musketeers save the queen of France from disgrace by recovering her stolen diamonds. After that, the Three Musketeers became the Four Musketeers, pledging, "One for all and all for one!" But that was twenty years ago, and the four friends had since gone their separate ways. Porthos had married a rich duchess, Athos had returned to his chateau, and Aramis had become a bishop of the Church. Only D'Artagnan had remained with the musketeers, and was now a captain.

"Aramis at the Bastille—arrested?" cried Athos. "Impossible!"

"I did not say he is arrested," said D'Artagnan. "He is alone in his carriage. Perhaps



“One for All and All for One!”