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**GREAT ILLUSTRATED CLASSICS**

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**THE THREE  
MUSKETEERS**

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D'Artagnan, the Bold Gascon

## Chapter 1

### D'Artagnan

The young man riding into the small French town of Meung that April morning in 1625 made the citizens stop their work and stare in amazement. The man had to be from Gascony in southern France. For only a Gascon would have the boldness to be seen on such an old, ridiculous-looking pony. It had a yellowy-orange coat and a tail with no hair. It seemed so ashamed of its appearance that it walked with its head lower than its knees.

But young D'Artagnan of Gascony sat on its back proudly. He was on his way to Paris to join the King's Musketeers—those bold,

## The Three Musketeers

courageous soldiers who guarded King Louis XIII of France.

D'Artagnan carried with him three gifts from his father: a purse containing fifteen crowns of gold, a sword which had been in his family for generations, and a letter of introduction to Monsieur de Tréville, the Captain of the King's Musketeers.

But D'Artagnan also carried with him his father's parting words. "My son," he had said, "I have taught you how to handle a sword well. You must never draw back from a duel. You must be brave for two reasons—you are a Gascon and you are my son!"

His father's words still rang in his ears as D'Artagnan climbed down from his pony at the Inn of the Jolly Miller in Meung. Three men standing at the front door glanced at him, then looked back a second time. All three burst into laughter.

"I say, sir," said D'Artagnan, approaching



A Father's Gifts