

A Wayne Scott • LifeHouse Production



The Count Of
MONTE
CRISTO

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Inspired by "The Count of Monte Cristo" by Alexandre Dumas

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

(In Order of Appearance)

Edmond Dantes	(Age ranges from 19-35) Naïve sailor who becomes disillusioned and hardened after spending 14 years in prison for a crime he did not commit; he assumes a new identity as “The Count of Monte Cristo” in order to seek revenge on his enemies.
Mercedes Herrera	(Age ranges slightly younger than Edmond 18-34) Edmond’s fiancé. A Godly woman who reluctantly marries Fernand out of loneliness.
Morrel	(40s) Ship owner and Edmond’s employer.
Fernand Mondego	(Age ranges similar to Edmond 19-35) Treacherous friend of Edmond who will stop at nothing to steal his fiancé.
Danglars	(Age ranges slightly older than Edmond 25-41) Greedy purser aboard Edmond’s ship; eventually becomes a banker.
Gerard de Villefort	(Age ranges slightly older than Edmond 22-38) Ambitious Chief Prosecutor of Marseilles who will do anything to further his career and status; eventually becomes the King’s Attorney.
Noirtier	(40-50) Villefort’s father. He is an unashamed Bonapartist despite his son’s deferring political views and threats.
Abbe Faria	(50s) Wise genius held in the same prison as Edmond. A pious priest and father-figure to Edmond, he teaches him from his vast knowledge.
Haydee Quesnel (Adult)	(21-23) Orphaned daughter of General Quesnel haunted by her father’s death.
Haydee Quesnel (Youth)	(7) Daughter of General Quesnel.
General Quesnel	(35-40) Haydee’s father who is killed by Fernand.
Sister Julie	(30-40) Cruel headmistress of the Paris Orphanage.
Jacopo	(18-30) Bumbling thief and smuggler. Loyal “side-kick” to the Count of Monte Cristo.
Luigi Vampa	(25-35) Leader of a band of smugglers. Boisterous and lively rogue.
Albert Mondego	(16) Fernand and Mercedes’s son. Headstrong, but values honor above all else.

Townfolk, Mayor, Officers, Servants, Prison Overseer, Guards, Smugglers, Carnival Revelers, Franz, Party Guests, Judge

“THE COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO”

SYNOPSIS OF SONGS

ACT I

Overture

1. “Chateau d’If/ The Count of Monte Cristo” Edmond
2. “1815” Townsfolk, Morrel, Mercedes, Noirtier, Villefort
3. “Serenade” Edmond, Mercedes
4. “Insignificant Betrayal” Danglars
 “Insignificant Betrayal” (Reprise) Fernand, Danglars, Villefort
5. “Where Can I Go?” Mercedes
6. “Mercedes” Edmond, Fernand
 “Where Can I Go /Mercedes” (Reprise) Edmond, Mercedes, Fernand
7. “One More Shovel-Full to Freedom / Bury Your Heart” Faria, Edmond
8. “God Will Avenge” Faria, Edmond
9. “The Vampa” Luigi, Edmond, Jacopo, Smugglers
10. “The Count of Monte Cristo” Edmond

ACT II

Entr’acte

11. “Carnival in Rome” Albert, Franz, Smugglers, Carnival Revelers
 “The Vampa” (Reprise) Smugglers
 “Lost Love” (“Serenade” Reprise) Edmond
12. “He Could Have Been My Son” Edmond
 “Bury My Heart” (Reprise) Edmond
13. “Forgiveness” Haydee
 “He Could Have Been Your Son” (Reprise) Mercedes
 “Chateau d’If/ The Count of Monte Cristo” (Reprise) Edmond
 “Forgiveness” (Reprise) Edmond
14. “Wait and Hope” Edmond, Chorus

“The Count of Monte Cristo”

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ACT I

Overture

SCENE 1: EDMOND’S CELL AT THE CHATEAU D’IF (PROLOGUE, 1832)

(Lights come up on a small prison cell. A panel at the foot of the door once acted as a food slot for the prisoner. An exposed hole (the entrance to a tunnel) sits in the middle of the floor. A large stone sits in one corner of the room. A rough calendar and an inscription have been etched into the wall. The inscription reads: “God, preserve my memory.” Edmond (dressed in fine clothes) and a prison guard enter)

Guard C No, the Chateau d’If no longer holds any prisoners, not since the prison reforms started in July. Now this place stands as a sort of museum for curious folks like you— if you don't mind me saying so, sir.

(Edmond inspects the room thoughtfully, touches the inscription, and turns back to the guard)

Edmond It is difficult to believe that men could ever have imprisoned fellow men in such a place as this.

Guard C Yes, sir. Feel free to explore as much as you like. I’ll leave you the candle.

Edmond No, take it with you. I can see in the dark.

Guard C That is very curious, sir. But, as you wish. *(Guard exits)*

Edmond *(Looking around the room with mixed emotions)* Yes, there is the stone upon which I used to sit. There is the impression made by my shoulders on the wall. *(Tracing the inscription with his finger)* ‘God, preserve my memory.’ Yes, that was the only prayer I had left. I no longer begged for freedom, but memory. God, you have preserved my memory, but, now, I only want to forget.

SONG: “CHATEAU D’IF / THE COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO”

Edmond Chateau d’if, I will weep
For your lost and worn
In this keep, mem’ries creep
Of your tired and torn
Stripped of hope I was placed in chains
But who was to blame for the years I had to suffer?
Where were You all those years ago
Why did You allow evil men to trap and cage me?
Looking back, every pain’s relived
How can I forgive?
You of all were the most to blame
For that past of shame
Why was I condemned to suffer?
February, 1815
Erase that memory
That cursed year, 1815
Began my misery

Edmond The Pharaon had just reached port in Marseilles. Why do the shadows of my past remain so clear to me?

SCENE 2: THE PORT OF MARSEILLES (THE PHARAON ARRIVES, 1815)

(The townsfolk of Marseilles flood onto the stage selling their wares. Half of the crowd (Group 1) are Bonapartists; some are fishermen, soldiers, and poor merchants. Morrel, Mercedes, and Noirtier also enter as part of Group 1. The other half of the crowd (Group 2) are Royalists; significantly richer than the other group with lawyers, statesmen, and wealthy merchants. Villefort is part of Group 2)

SONG: "1815"

(During this song, Group 1 and Group 2 take opposite sides of the stage. Vignettes could be performed were Bonapartists (people in Group 1) are arrested for treason. The song ends with Group 1 and Group 2 shouting at each other from opposite sides of the stage before uniting in a final anthem where both groups join in their mutual love for France)

Group 1

It is the year of 1815
And good King Louis holds the throne
But on Elba's shore isolated
Where he's exiled and all alone
Former Emp'ror Napoleon waits
He's secretly loved by his people
We are anxious for his return
It's treason if the King should learn
And our fear silences our passion
Bonapartist's unite!
Royalist's turn and fight!
For France, for France
Long may she stand
Viva Napoleon!

Group 2

It is the year of 1815
And good King Louis holds the throne
But on Elba's shore isolated
Where he's exiled and all alone
Dispossessed traitor Napoleon rots!
He's openly cursed by all nations
Who join to plan his defeat!
We're sick of neverending wars
Casualties mount up score by fourscore
Bonapartist's take flight!
Royalist's shall unite!
For France, for France
Long may she stand
Long may King Louis reign!

Group 1

Group 2

Group 1

Group 2

Group 1 & 2

Bonapartist's unite!
Bonapartist's take flight!
Royalist's turn and fight!
Royalist's shall unite!
For France, for France
Long may she stand
Viva Napoleon! (To Louis the eighteenth!)
(Noirtier and Villefort exit on opposite sides of the stage)

Citizen 1

(Pointing into the distance) A ship! The Pharaon has returned! She's just docked!
(The crowd reacts with shouts of joy)

Morrel

Wait! The ship's flag is at half-mast! There has been a death aboard.

Mercedes

(Tries to run offstage toward the ship, but is stopped by a citizen)

Citizen 2

I'm sure it wasn't Edmond. Wait until they've lowered the gangplank, Mercedes. They are almost ashore.

(Fernand and Danglars enter dressed as sailors)
Morrel Fernand! Danglars! What has happened aboard?
Mercedes *(Approaching Fernand and Danglars)* Where is Edmond?
Danglars *(Angrily)* Don't mention that jackanapes name in my presence. *(Continues walking past Mercedes to Morrel, but has to push through the crowd to get to him)*
Fernand Bon jour, Mercedes! Edmond is well, though he decided to take a swim during a sudden squall about a week ago.
Mercedes What happened?
Fernand I saved the little whelp's life.
Mercedes Dear Fernand, I should have known Edmond would be safe under your— *(Mercedes sees Edmond enter and runs to him)* Edmond!
(Edmond catches Mercedes in his arms)
Edmond Mercedes! Oh, how I've missed you!
Danglars Monsieur Morrel, Captain Leclare contracted brain fever on the voyage. He is dead.
Morrel Are the rest of the crew safe?
Danglars *(Barely concealing his hatred for Edmond)* Yes, monsieur, but scarcely was the captain's breath out of his body when Edmond Dantes assumed command without consulting any one.
Morrel As any first mate should have.
Danglars And he caused us to lose a day and a half at the Island of Elba.
(Crowd reacts with emphatic whispers)
Edmond It was the captain's last command that we stop at the Island of Elba.
Morrel Then, Edmond Dantes should be commended for enacting Captain Leclare's final orders and bringing the ship to port safely. *(Crossing to Edmond and shaking his hand)* A job well done, I must say. Perhaps others should learn from your example. *(Glances at Danglars)*
Edmond I was only performing my duty as first mate.
Morrel No, you acted like a captain. And a captain you should be.
Edmond A captain?
Morrel Yes, the new captain of the Pharaon!
Danglars What? But I have been aboard two years longer. I thought I was...
Morrel You thought what Danglars?
Danglars Nothing. *(Through clenched teeth)* Congratulations, captain...
Edmond Thank you, Monsieur Morrel! Thank you!
Morrel I can think of no one that deserves the promotion more. Now, your first duty as captain is to oversee... getting the cargo off my ship!
Edmond *(Realizing he's forgotten about the cargo in the excitement)* Immediately!
Morrel Then come meet me at my office. I'll have your captain's papers signed and ready for you, that is... *(Turns to Mercedes)* if a certain smiling girl can bear to miss you a little longer?
Mercedes *(To Edmond)* I'll be waiting along the sea cliffs, but don't be too long, Edmond. I have a present for you.
(Mercedes exits. Morrel walks over to Danglars, and they begin to converse about business matters)
Edmond Fernand, she's even more lovely now than when we left.
Fernand No woman equals her beauty. The man who wins her heart will possess the greatest trophy in the world.
Edmond I'm going to ask her to marry me.
Fernand *(Barely concealing his alarm)* You are?
Edmond Yes! This could be the best day of my life!
(Edmond exits with a skip in his step. The townspeople disperse and exit joyfully. Danglars, Fernand, and Morrel remain on stage)
Fernand *(Approaching Morrel)* Monsieur Morrel, did Edmond Dantes give you a letter?
Morrel A letter? No, Fernand, but perhaps he forgot in the excitement.
Fernand Perhaps.
Morrel Why?
Fernand I thought I saw Captain Leclare give him an envelope just before the Captain died.
Morrel Maybe those were his final instructions to Edmond, and the reason for the delay at Elba. I wouldn't worry any more about it, Fernand.
(Morrel exits. Danglars approaches Fernand)
Danglars What did the letter look like?

Fernand It's none of your business..
(*Fernand exits, Danglars follows*)

SCENE 3: THE SHORE OF THE MARSEILLES PORT (PLANS)

(*Mercedes sits alone on the sea cliffs of Marseilles looking out to sea; she is holding a package. The soothing sound of ocean waves crash in the distance. Fernand enters*)

Mercedes (*Excitedly turning toward the approaching Fernand thinking he is Edmond*) Oh! Fernand, it's you!

Fernand Who did you expect?

Mercedes I thought Edmond would be here sooner, that's all.

Fernand (*Dripping with sarcasm*) Yes, the man whom fortune smiles upon. Our new captain.

Mercedes And perhaps you will be promoted to first mate! (*Sensing Fernand's lack of enthusiasm*) Fernand, is something wrong? You look tired.

Fernand No, I just wish... I wish that just once, you were waiting for me instead of Edmond.

Mercedes Fernand, we talked about this before you and Edmond left...

Fernand And I thought you might change your mind.

Mercedes I'm very fond of you, Fernand.

Fernand Not fond enough.

Mercedes Please, do not continue to torture both me and yourself by asking me to be your wife. I love Edmond, and I always will.

Fernand But what if Edmond were no longer here...

Mercedes I don't understand...

Fernand He almost didn't make it home this time, Mercedes. When that sudden squall came up at sea, we weren't prepared for it. Edmond and I climbed into the rigging to secure the main sail. Lightning flashed, and I saw him above me. Lightning flashed again, and he was gone. I searched the churning water for any sign of him.

(*Edmond enters unexpectedly*)

Edmond A piece of the rigging had knocked me overboard, but Fernand dove into the storm-tossed water to save me. No man could ask for a better friend.

Mercedes Fernand! You didn't tell me you risked your own life to save Edmond's! I would be honored to call you my brother. (*Becoming more intent with her tone*) Will you be my brother, Fernand? (*Offers Fernand her hand to shake*)

Fernand (*With concealed sarcasm*) You are too good to me, Mercedes. (*Takes her hand and kisses it*)

Edmond Fernand, I think Monsieur Morrel was looking for you...

Fernand But why would he—

Edmond (*With a wink and shove to Fernand*) I'm sure it won't take long....

Fernand (*Reluctantly*) Alright, I'll be back soon.

(*Fernand acts like he is exiting, but actually hides and watches Edmond and Mercedes*)

Edmond I have a surprise for you.

Mercedes Mine first!

(*Mercedes hands Edmond a small package*)

Edmond What is this?

Mercedes Something every captain needs.

(*Edmond opens the gift revealing a small compass on a chain*)

Edmond A compass?

Mercedes Now I know, no matter how long the voyage, you'll always find your way back home... to me.

Edmond Every moment I spend away from you, Mercedes, I think of nothing else.

(*Edmond places the compass on the chain around his neck and slowly leans in to kiss Mercedes, but she coyly turns away*)

Mercedes And my surprise is?

Edmond I wrote you a song.

Mercedes (*Skeptically*) You wrote a song?

Edmond Aren't you surprised? The tune comes from our favorite waltz. (*Offers Mercedes his hand*)

Mercedes (*Realizing Edmond's intentions*) Oh, no. I'm not going to dance with you on the beach— what if someone saw us?

Edmond Trust me.

SONG: "SERENADE"

(During the song, Edmond leads a reluctant Mercedes in a waltz-like dance. Fernand is still watching and reacts with growing agitation and jealousy)

Edmond The fav'ring winds have carried me
Back to the one that I hold dear
Back to this smile I long to see
I find no greater joy than here

Mercedes And in your arms I am content
The world is right, my worries fade

Edmond Oceans apart, you still have my love song...
My lover's serenade

Edmond Do you remember when we met, it was at sunrise
We were just children, gath'ring shellfish on the sand

Mercedes The day that you, Fernand, and I became the best of friends.

Edmond But that feeling grew...between me and you.

Mercedes *(Spoken)* Yes.

Edmond Now every sunrise my first waking thought is of you...
What is she doing?

Mercedes Where's he sailing to today? *(They laugh briefly)*

Both And where you are, my longing heart is ever there with you!
Hear my heart's own cry... "love me 'till I die"

Edmond When winds shall carry me away
When I leave all I love behind
Recall this moment and this day
When our two lives fore'er entwined
Mercedes, will you be my wife?

Mercedes Edmond, there's none I love so dear!

Both I pledge my heart, my hopes, my whole life to you!
This is the day for which I've prayed
To hear my lover's serenade

(Edmond and Mercedes embrace while Fernand comes out of his hiding spot)

Fernand *(With concealed hurt)* Sorry to interrupt this tender moment, but I forgot to ask where Monsieur Morrel is. I couldn't help but overhear. Congratulations.

Edmond Thank you, Fernand.

Fernand *(With veiled unease)* When is the happy occasion to take place?

Edmond Oh, I almost forgot. I have some urgent business in Paris that can't wait. Mercedes, will you come with me... as my wife?

Mercedes A honeymoon in Paris! That sounds enchanting!

Edmond It's settled then, we'll marry as soon as possible.

Fernand *(Quickly thinking of a way to delay Edmond's plans)* But Edmond, you must give your friends more time to plan a proper ceremony for you.

Mercedes I don't need a large ceremony. We only need to sign the contract.

Fernand Perhaps, in a week...

Edmond Tomorrow.

Fernand *(Almost choking on the word)* Tomorrow?

Mercedes Yes, Edmond! There's no need to wait. And think of all the time we'll have together before your next voyage, Captain!

Edmond And you'll be there, Fernand? I couldn't have the ceremony without my best man!

Fernand *(Becoming more and more panicked)* Edmond, may I speak with you a moment?

Edmond Go on ahead, Mercedes, I'll be there in a moment— No wait...
(Before Mercedes can exit, Edmond grabs her in his arms and kisses her. Fernand watches in horror)

Mercedes Don't be long, Edmond.
(Mercedes exits smiling)

Edmond Now, Fernand. I know what you are going to say.

Fernand (*Fearing he's guessed everything*) You do?
Edmond As my best friend you advise me to be more prudent and not rush into marriage.
Fernand Yes, we've been friends a long time haven't we?
Edmond And that will never change.
Fernand Edmond, what if I told you that—
Edmond What, Fernand?
Fernand (*Conflicted over whether to tell Edmond the truth*) Well, Mercedes is— has always been— my very good friend. And over the years I've grown to— I mean she's always preferred – no, I mean our friendship...

Edmond Yes, I see. My love for Mercedes must have made you feel excluded. I apologize. But, mark my words, Fernand, someday you will meet that one special girl, and then you'll understand. You will be my best man tomorrow?
(Danglars enters)

Fernand I don't know, Edmond. A woman does strange things to a man. Absorbs his thoughts, heats his blood, places a wedge between him and his best friend....

Edmond Don't sound so jealous, Fernand! I'll expect to see you there. Nothing is going to change!
Fernand You think so?
Edmond I know so.
Fernand Will we always be friends?
Edmond Only God himself could change that!
(Edmond exits)

Fernand Or, perhaps, the devil....
Danglars So, Edmond finally staked his claim. How does it feel having Mercedes spoken for?
Fernand Shut your mouth, Danglars.

SONG: "INSIGNIFICANT BETRAYAL"

Danglars

I shall speculate the cause of your ill humor
 For you calculate the less of two suitors
 Yet to balance the equation is math'matic'ly clear
 Equaling a bottom line that you should hear
 Edmond finds himself a captain and a husband
 Fernand remains pitifully abandoned
 Though you love Mercedes better than the world, I suppose
 A subtraction is the answer I propose
 Just an insignificant betrayal
 Such an insignificant detail
 We will send Edmond Dantes to jail
 And the more significant will prevail

Fernand Why should I listen to you? You'd do anything to become captain and earn a higher wage....
Danglars I saw the letter too, Fernand. Edmond took it with him when we stopped at the island of Elba. He then returned with a different letter— with Napoleon's seal.
Fernand And?
Danglars Don't you see? It's brilliant! We will denounce the traitor to the Chief Prosecutor, and then he will spend the rest of his pathetic little life in prison... and Mercedes will be free.
Fernand You believe Edmond is carrying treasonous correspondence from Napoleon— to whom?
(Fernand's face changes as if he just had an idea)
Danglars What is it, Fernand?
Fernand Edmond just said he had urgent business in Paris.
Danglars You see?
Fernand No, I don't see. I would rather challenge him to a duel. It seems less underhanded.
Danglars And then Mercedes would marry you? After you killed her husband-to-be? Her love? Don't be ridiculous, Fernand! You already tried killing him once before, think how much cleaner this will be.
Fernand *(With alarm)* Already tried killing him?
Danglars The loose rigging that supposedly knocked Edmond into the sea looked a lot different from where

I was standing.

Fernand Are you accusing me of something, Danglars?

Danglars No. I saw Edmond fall lifeless into the sea, and his friend, Fernand, stood there watching him sink. He hesitated, contemplated, and jumped in to save his friend. (*Very sarcastic*) As far as I'm concerned, you deserve a medal. Maybe Mercedes will pin it on you herself— her husband's rescuer.

Fernand Alright, Danglars, I admit it. I loosened the rigging, and then I thought better of it. But I will slit your throat if you call me a coward. (*With resolve*) If we start this, we go all the way— no backing down.

(*Danglars offers Fernand his hand to shake. Fernand shakes it*)

Danglars Let's find pen, ink, and paper. I'll write the denunciation, and you'll send it.

(*Song resumes*)

Fernand & Danglars We will accuse the young captain of high treason
 For our summed up own numerical reasons
 Anonymously denouncing the sole cause of our woes
 Computations safely hidden that none know
 Just an insignificant betrayal
 Such an insignificant detail
 We will send Edmond Dantes to jail
 And the more significant will prevail

SCENE 4: THE MAYOR'S OFFICE IN MARSEILLES (THE ARREST)

(*The Mayor stands behind his desk on which a marriage contract and pen are placed. Edmond and Mercedes stand in front of the desk and several townspeople including Morrel witness the event. Danglars and Fernand stand to the side watching*)

Mayor In this the year of our Lord eighteen hundred fifteen, in accordance with the law of France, and in the presence of these witnesses, I hereby acknowledge that Edmond Dantes and Mercedes Herrera wish to enter into the honorable estate of marriage. (*The following lines are said under Fernand and Danglars' next few lines*) According to the laws of France, Edmond Dantes' guardian shall sign the contract first, followed by Mercedes Herrera's guardian.

Fernand When will they get here?

Danglars You did notify the Chief Prosecutor?

Fernand I sent him the denunciation.

Danglars Maybe it takes more time than we thought to issue an arrest.

Fernand Don't say that!

Edmond Monsieur Morrel, would you do me the honor of signing the contract in the place of my late father?

Morrel Nothing would please me more. (*Morrel steps up to the desk and signs the contract*)

Mercedes Fernand? You are Edmond's protector and like my own brother. Would you sign?

Fernand I don't think that would be appropriate...

Mayor As there are no living parents nor a dowry specified, I don't see anything wrong with it.

Mercedes Please, you are so dear to me and Edmond.

Fernand Very well. (*Fernand signs reluctantly*)

Mayor Now, Edmond Dantes, do you take Mercedes Herrera to be your lawfully wedded wife, in—
 (*Several officers rush on stage, startling everyone present*)

Officer Where is Edmond Dantes?

Edmond I am he.

Officer Edmond Dantes, I hereby arrest you on the charge of high treason against his majesty King Louis XVIII.

(*The officers grab Edmond by the shoulders and start pushing him out of the room*)

Edmond What? Wait! Let go!

Mercedes Edmond!

Edmond I have done nothing wrong! (*Seeing Fernand nearby, he reaches for him*) Fernand! (*Turns to the head officer pleadingly*) This is Fernand Mondego, my good friend, and Monsieur Danglars. These honorable men will vouch for me.

Officer Silence! *(He backhands Edmond and begins pulling him toward off stage)*

Edmond Please! Fernand, tell this man there has been a mistake.

Fernand Of course, Edmond. I will speak with the officer. Monsieur, if I may... *(Fernand leads the head officer aside to speak with him privately)* This is the man you want. He is carrying a letter written by the traitor Napoleon himself. Do not be fooled. This man is extremely dangerous.

Officer I understand.

Fernand *(Turning back to the entire crowd, he announces)* There has been a misunderstanding. Do not be alarmed, Edmond. The Chief Prosecutor will clear up the mistake. You will be back in only a matter of hours. Take heart, Mercedes. I'll see you out the door, Edmond. No need to restrain him, gentlemen, he'll go quietly.

Edmond Thank you, Fernand. You are truly my most loyal friend. Adieu, Mercedes. It is only a short delay!

Mercedes Au revoir, my dear Edmond! May God go with you!
(The officers exit with Edmond and Fernand briefly before coming back on stage from a different entrance. The witnesses along with Mercedes and Danglars exit slowly taking the Mayor's office furniture with them)

Edmond Thank you again, Fernand—

Fernand *(To the officers)* Do not forget to search him, gentlemen. He may still be carrying the letter.

Edmond What? How do you know I'm carrying a letter? *(The officers begin to rifle through Edmond's pockets until they find the letter)* Fernand— no— not you, what have you done?

Fernand Danglars told me everything. He saw you get the letter at the island of Elba—

Edmond The letter is innocent— it was my captain's dying wish that I carry it— Fernand! How dare you pretend to be—

Fernand *(With a twinge of regret)* Your friend? Sometimes, we outgrow our friendships, Edmond. But do not worry, Mercedes will be well looked after—
(Edmond yells in anger as he lunges forward at Fernand, but the officers hold him back)

Fernand Hold him tight, officers!

Edmond *(Struggling as the officers drag him away)* I have committed no treason! I will— I will—

Fernand You will what, Edmond?

Edmond God help me!

Fernand *(Laughs)* Where you are going, there is no God!
(Edmond is dragged offstage by the officers, while Fernand exits the opposite way)

SCENE 5: VILLEFORT'S OFFICE IN MARSEILLES (INTERROGATION)

(The scene opens on room with a desk, a chair behind the desk, and a chair in front of the desk. A candle and a small, hand bell sit on the desk. Villefort sits behind his desk reading a document. An officer escorts Edmond on stage, and then hands Villefort the letter taken from Edmond. Villefort examines the sealed envelope, but does not open it. The officer exits)

Villefort Your name?

Edmond Edmond Dantes.

Villefort *(Motions for Edmond to sit)* Have a seat Monsieur Dantes. My name is Gerard de Villefort. I am the Chief Prosecutor of Marseilles. The charges against you are extremely serious.

Edmond *(Sitting)* I am completely innocent, Monsieur Villefort.

Villefort We shall see. Where are you employed?

Edmond I am a sailor aboard the merchant ship Pharaon. Monsieur Morrel, the ship's owner, recently made me captain.

Villefort Your age?

Edmond Nineteen.

Villefort And what are your political opinions?

Edmond Political opinions! What do you mean?

Villefort You were found with a letter. *(Picking up the letter from his desk)* Is this it?

Edmond Yes.

Villefort Are you aware of the contents of this letter?

Edmond No, I can't read.

Villefort How did you come by this letter?

Edmond On my last voyage, my captain contracted brain fever. Knowing he would soon die, he entrusted

me with a letter to be delivered to Napoleon on the island of Elba. He made me swear, Monsieur, to also carry any reply Napoleon made to whomever he asked. The last requests of a dying man are sacred to everyone, but, with a sailor, the last requests of his superior are commands. Although, I would have done everything he asked of me even if he hadn't ordered me, monsieur; I loved my captain, like a father.

Villefort

I believe you are telling the truth, Dantes. Yes, you may be imprudent, but you were following orders. *(Pause)* We received an anonymous note accusing you, Edmond. Did anyone else know of the letter you were carrying?

Edmond

Yes, Monsieur Danglars, a fellow sailor aboard my ship, saw me with the letter.... and, perhaps, Fernand Mondego, my *(pauses)* friend.

Villefort

I see. Well, you were following your captain's orders, and we have intercepted the letter. No harm has been done.

Edmond

Then... *(Pause)* I am free to go?

Villefort

You are as innocent as you are naive, Dantes. You are free to go.

Edmond

(Getting up from his seat) Thank you, monsieur!

Villefort

Just one more thing, to whom were you to give the letter?

Edmond

Monsieur Noirtier.

Villefort

Whom did you say?

Edmond

Monsieur Noirtier. Do you know him?

Villefort

(Clearly upset, Villefort rips the letter open and reads it) Who else knows this? Danglars? Fernand Mondego?

Edmond

No, Napoleon told me in strictest confidence. Is something the matter?

Villefort

(More calmly) No, of course not. This letter... it is the only piece of evidence against you. I will burn it, but you must never mention Monsieur Noirtier to anyone. Do I have your promise?

Edmond

Yes, if you think that would be wise.

Villefort

(Using the flame from the candle on his desk, Villefort burns the letter) There. The letter is gone. You are free, Dantes. Please, take my carriage home. I will summon some officers to escort you. *(Villefort rings the bell on his desk and three officers enter the room. Villefort motions for one of them to approach him, and then whispers confidential instructions in his ear)*

Villefort

Be sure to see this man safely... home, Officers.

Edmond

Thank you, Monsieur. I will never forget your kindness.

(Edmond exits with the officers. A servant enters the room.)

Servant

Monsieur Villefort, a Monsieur Noirtier is here. He would like to see—

Noirtier

(Bursting into the room unannounced) Gerard, must you keep me waiting outside your office like a criminal awaiting admittance to the judge's chamber! I have urgent business in Paris, and I cannot afford to wait hours to take my leave of you.

Villefort

(Motions for the servant to leave. The servant exits) Have a seat, Father. You're just the person I wanted to see.

Noirtier

(Sitting) Really? And here I thought you hated me.

Villefort

No, I just cannot be associated with you. And yet everywhere I turn, your treasonous actions continue to put my career at risk.

Noirtier

Hiding behind a new name didn't work, did it? What was it you changed your name to? Villefort? You know I'm still your father, no matter what name you use.

Villefort

Exactly, our fates are intertwined. I cannot gain favor in the new Royalist government if you continue acting as a Bonapartist agent.

Noirtier

A Bonapartist agent? Me?

Villefort

Yes, I just intercepted a letter from Napoleon detailing his plans to escape the island of Elba. Do you know the name of the agent the letter was addressed to?

Noirtier

Well, I could always venture a guess....

Villefort

Monsieur Noirtier.

Noirtier

Why, that's your name! At least, it used to be before you changed it to Villefort.

Villefort

Father, you must stop these intrigues....

Noirtier

Did you read the letter for me, son?

Villefort

I burned the letter! The only man who knows your connection to it is in prison!

Noirtier

Thank you, Gerard. What a steadfast son you are— protecting your father—

Villefort

No. I am warning you. I will not let the weight of your sins drown us both!

Noirtier

When the Emperor Napoleon returns, you may be glad you're my son. My name could save your Royalist hide.

(Noirtier exits. The servant re-enters)

Servant Two other gentlemen—

Villefort *(To the servant)* I don't want to see anyone else. Tell them to come back tomorrow.

Servant The matter seemed quite urgent. They mentioned coming on behalf of an Edmond Dantes.

Villefort Very well, show them in.

(The servant exits. Danglars and Fernand enter)

Villefort Good evening, gentlemen. How may I help you?

Danglars We are here to inquire after the fate of our dear friend Edmond Dantes, Chief Prosecutor.

Villefort And you are?

Danglars Danglars, his colleague aboard the merchant ship Pharaon.

Villefort Ah, he mentioned you. And this must be Fernand Mondego.

Fernand At your service, monsieur. May we ask, why has Edmond been arrested?

Villefort *(Examines Fernand and Danglars closely)* You know very well why he has been arrested.

(Pause) You look surprised. After all my years as Chief Prosecutor I've gained the art of reading people. I know at a glance who is innocent or guilty. *(Picking up the document he was reading at the beginning of the scene)* This document is an anonymous denunciation obviously written in a concealed hand. But you've seen this before haven't you?

Fernand Of course, we considered it our duty to inform the authorities of the treasonous letter Edmond was carrying.

Danglars A solemn duty to our king.

Villefort Too bad Dantes is innocent.

Danglars Innocent?

Villefort I was going to set him free.

Fernand *(With veiled disappointment)* This has all been a misunderstanding then.

Villefort Apparently. However, for a price....

Danglars A what?

Villefort Gentlemen, I think I understand your dilemma a little more than you realize. You want Edmond Dantes out of the way, gone, no longer heard from again. And I want someone, well, eliminated as well.

Danglars I think you've gotten us all wrong, Chief Prosecutor. We have no ill intentions toward—

Villefort I have the power to keep Edmond Dantes in prison for a very long time. In addition, I can also write an official notification of Dantes' execution; that should keep his friends and family from meddling any further in this affair.

Fernand What do you want in return?

Danglars *(Unsure)* Fernand...

Villefort I need someone... executed.

Danglars This has gone far enough, Fernand.

Villefort I could sweeten the deal with, oh let's say, one million francs?

Danglars Perhaps, I was a bit too hasty. A gentleman such as this must have a good reason for wanting someone dead.

Fernand We're listening, Monsieur Villefort. Who is it you have... sentenced to execution?

Villefort My father.

(There is a moment of complete silence while Danglars and Fernand contemplate the ramifications of helping this man commit patricide. Villefort feels the need to explain himself and sings:)

SONG: "INSIGNIFICANT BETRAYAL" (Reprise)

Villefort

I will imprison the one man who knows the guilt
 Of my father with the intrigues he has built
 But it's not enough to silence the young Edmond Dantes
 I must sever all my ties to Noirtier
 I will conspire to murder my own father
 But my favor with the King will grow higher
 Without father's untold treasons as a thorn in my side
 My political ambitions safely thrive

(The chorus is sung in harmony. Villefort starts, placing his hand out in front of him. As Danglars

joins in, he places his hand on Villefort's. And finally, when Fernand joins in, he places his hand on top of the other two)

Villefort	Just an insignificant betrayal		
(Danglars)	Such an insignificant betrayal	(Just an insignificant betrayal	
[Fernand]	We will send Edmond Dantes to jail	Such an insignificant betrayal	[Just an insignificant betrayal
	And the more significant will prevail	We will send Edmond Dantes to jail	Such an insignificant betrayal
		And the more significant will prevail)	We will send Edmond Dantes to jail
			And the more significant will prevail]

SCENE 6: THE PORT OF MARSEILLES (THE CHATEAU D'IF)

(Edmond and the three officers enter)

Edmond Where are we? Why have we left the carriage? Ow! Where are you taking me? Stop! Monsieur Villefort said I could go home! Why won't you speak to me?

Officer I have orders not to speak to you.

Edmond Please, I am asking calmly and politely. I will not resist you. Just tell me: where are you taking me?

Officer The Chateau d'If.

Edmond What! The island prison?
(Pulling away from the officers, Edmond is able to grab one of their swords. Edmond tries to run, but one of the three officers blocks his way with a drawn sword. Edmond tries to fight his way past the officer, but only receives a cut on his arm for his trouble. Turning around, the other two officers knock the sword out of his hand and hit him across the face knocking Edmond to the ground. Fumbling to regain his sword, Edmond hears one of the officers cock his pistol and freezes)

Officer Mark my words! I have no problem shooting traitorous dogs like you!

Edmond I am innocent! I was set free!

Officer You will rot in the dungeons of the Chateau d'If until you're carried from it— as a corpse! *(He hits Edmond over the head with the pistol knocking him out, then says to the other men)* Pick him up and carry him to the boat!
(The officers drag Edmond off stage)

SCENE 7: EDMOND'S CELL AT THE CHATEAU D'IF / THE SHORE OF MARSEILLES (SIX YEARS PASS)

(The scene opens on a small prison cell. A panel at the foot of the door acts as a food slot for the prisoner. A large stone sits in one corner of the room. The officers throw Edmond into the cell and lock the door behind him. The officers exit)

Edmond *(Shouting and pounding on the door)* No! I am innocent! Please, find Chief Prosecutor Villefort! He will tell you! He set me free! This is a mistake! Tell Mercedes I am here! Tell her— I love her... *(Pauses, from beneath his shirt he pulls out the compass Mercedes gave him which he is still wearing around his neck, then says more softly as a prayer)* God, please, rescue me from this pit. Guide the hearts of the men who have imprisoned me. Help them to realize the mistake they have made.
(A prison guard enters and opens the food panel. He places a plate of gruel in Edmond's cell)

Guard C Food.

Edmond Please, don't go— I—
(The guard slides the panel shut)

Edmond —feel so alone here. *(Tastes the gruel, looks disgusted, and pushes the food away)* Villefort will

tell them I am innocent. I just need to make the best of things for now. I probably won't have to wait long, a few days, a month?

(The lights go down on Edmond's cell and come up on Mercedes holding a Bible and a handkerchief. She is reading from Psalm 139 and begins singing a prayer)

SONG: "WHERE CAN I GO?"

Mercedes

Where can I go?
Where can I flee
Where Your Spirit cannot find me?
From mountain heights or beneath the sea
Your Spirit goes before me
Where can I go?
What can I do?
Even the darkness is light to You
Beyond despair, beyond the grief
Where Your Spirit is, You'll find me

(Fernand enters and walks across to Mercedes)

Fernand

Mercedes?

Mercedes

I am over here, Fernand.

Fernand

I just heard the news.... Edmond was...

Mercedes

Executed....

Fernand

Villefort told you, too. *(Pause)* What are you reading?

Mercedes

The only hope I have left.

Fernand

Yes, God can bring you comfort, but remember you have friends, too. Friends who worry about you. *(Gently places his hands on her shoulders)*

Mercedes

You are kind, Fernand. Seeing you reminds me of better days, of Edmond and.... *(Begins crying into her handkerchief)*

Fernand

Mercedes— no, don't use that soggy handkerchief. Edmond has gone to heaven, but my shoulder will always be here to catch your every tear....

(Fernand hugs Mercedes tenderly and smiles knowingly. The lights go down on Fernand and Mercedes and come up on Edmond's cell. Edmond's appearance has changed; he now has a long beard. Fernand and Mercedes walk to the opposite side of the stage while the lights are down)

Edmond

God why?! Over a year— perhaps longer— I don't even know! What have I done? Why have you allowed this to happen to me? *(With desperation clutching the compass)* Mercedes... I will see you again.... I must!

SONG: "MERCEDES"

Edmond

Find me, Mercedes, I've been abandoned
God in His anger has left me here
Lonely and anguished, helpless and hopeless
Without the love that I once held dear
Where can I turn to, who has the answer?
Who is my compass if not you?
Mercedes, be constant, point me to
The Maker of justice and grace
Find me, Mercedes

(The lights go down on Edmond and come up on Fernand and Mercedes. A year has passed)

Fernand

Mercedes... *(Kneels upon one knee beside Mercedes)*

Mercedes

Fernand, please do not ask me again. Know that you are the only man... living that I would marry, but my heart is broken....

Fernand

(Stands) It's been one year, Mercedes. How long will you stay in mourning?

Mercedes For all my life.
Fernand But Edmond would not have wanted you to live like a destitute widow. You need someone to take care of you. I can give you a home, children, wealth. You will never want for anything. Edmond would have wanted that happiness— for us both.
Mercedes Fernand, I do love you, but a part of me will forever be Edmond's. Do you really want half a wife?
Fernand I want you. And I will have you any way I can take you. *(Takes her hand and kisses it)*
Mercedes I will prayerfully consider your request, Fernand.
(Fernand drops her hand and turns away. Mercedes takes him by the shoulders and turns him back)
Mercedes God bless you, dear Fernand.
(Mercedes walks to the other side of the stage consumed by her own thoughts)

Fernand Oh, my Mercedes, you I will treasure
 I'll make you love me, have no fear
 I've killed and I've lied for your beautiful face
 I've given up Edmond to get to this place
 The wife I have wanted, the life I deserve!
 I turned the betrayer to gain the whole world!
 But darling, Mercedes, I will have you!
 Nothing can stop me, you are mine!
 This God that she prays to means nothing to me
 I have created my own destiny....

(The lights come up on Mercedes and Edmond as well as Fernand. The three sing the last strains of the song in harmony)

SONG: "WHERE CAN I GO? / MERCEDES"

Edmond	Find me, Mercedes...		
Mercedes	Where can I go?		
Edmond	I've been abandoned...		
Fernand	I will have you!		
Edmond	Lonely and anguished		
Mercedes	What can I do?		
Edmond	Helpless and hopeless...		
Fernand	You are mine!		
All three	All these emotions I feel deep inside		
	Burn in my heart, and they can't be denied		
	Here in this moment, I'm not alone		
Fernand	One voice is	(One voice is	
(Edmond)	Guiding me home	Guiding me home)	
[Mercedes]			[One voice is
			Guiding me home]
Edmond & Fernand	Mercedes		
	<i>(Lights quickly black out on Fernand and Edmond)</i>		
Mercedes	<i>(Spoken softly)</i> Edmond. <i>(Begins to cry softly)</i>		
	<i>(Lights slowly fade on Mercedes)</i>		

SCENE 8: EDMOND'S CELL / FARIA'S CELL AT THE CHATEAU D'IF (ABBE FARIA)

(The prison guard enters and opens the food panel. He places the food in the cell, but receives no response. The Prison Overseer enters and watches him)

Guard C *(Knocking on the prison door)* Hey! Food!
Prison Overseer Is that prisoner givin' you trouble again?

Guard C *(Jumping to attention)* No, sir!

Prison Overseer After six years of this gruel, maybe he's dead. *(Yelled into the panel)* You still alive in there? Food!
(Edmond wakes up, drags himself to the food dish, and begins lapping up the gruel like a dog)

Prison Overseer I guess that's as good a response as any!
(The overseer slams the food panel shut, and the two guards exit. Edmond stands, walks over to the stone in one corner of his cell, and sits down. He looks crazed. Taking out Mercedes' compass, he clutches it desperately)

Edmond How many years would we have been married by now, Mercedes? Danglars... Fernand Mondego... I will kill you— No— I will make you suffer. You will suffer more greatly than anything I have endured. No forgiveness. No pity. Slowly, painstakingly, I will tear your lives apart as you have torn mine!
(A small tapping sound startles Edmond. He spends several seconds looking around his cell for the source of the noise and finally places his ear to the floor. The noise suddenly stops)

Edmond What was that?
(A stone in the middle of the floor begins to move and lift up)

Edmond God in heaven, what new despair is this?!

Faria *(From under the stage)* Who speaks of God and despair in the same sentence?
(Abbe Faria enters through the "trap door" in the floor. He is wearing a large crucifix sharpened to a point and holding a skillet)

Edmond *(Trembling)* It's a tunnel... You dug a tunnel... into my cell?

Faria I am sorry for startling you, I thought I was digging toward the outer wall. I must have made a miscalculation.... *(Laughs)* God works in mysterious ways! Who might you be, son?

Edmond Number 34.

Faria No, son, your name.

Edmond My name is *(Edmond stops for a second as if trying to remember)* Edmond... Edmond Dantes. Who— who are you?

Faria I am the Abbe Faria. I have been imprisoned here for nine years. Six years of which I have been employed in digging this tunnel. *(Sighs then laughs gently)* If I recalculate the angle to the outer wall and... and... is that a compass around your neck?
(Edmond grasps Mercedes compass protectively)

Faria May I see it? For just a moment?
(Edmond reluctantly gives Faria the compass. Faria uses the compass to orient himself and then begins to laugh)

Faria Yes! Yes, now I see it! I've been digging in the wrong direction! I must have accidentally curved the tunnel eastward instead of continuing northward. But using this compass we could find where the tunnel curves and branch off in the right direction! Working together we could—

Edmond *(Skeptically)* Dig another tunnel? A tunnel to freedom?

Faria Yes, exactly!

SONG: "ONE MORE SHOVEL-FULL TO FREEDOM / BURY YOUR HEART"

Faria

One more shovel-full to freedom
Liberty beneath our feet
Caref'ly hidden so it can't be found!
Dug with skillet, dagger, fingers
Load the dirt into a sack
Lab'ring every night to hide the sound— under the ground!

Faria With this crucifix, God pardon me, I have sharpened into a chisel and this skillet I use as a shovel we could possibly dig the tunnel in...

(As Faria calculates, Edmond looks curiously into the tunnel Faria just came out of)

Edmond But where do you hide the dirt?

Faria I grind it into a very fine dust; then toss it out my window and let the wind carry it away! Oh! How rude of me! Come see my cell!

(Faria and Edmond enter the tunnel and their dialogue continues "underground" as they travel)

from Edmond's cell to Faria's)

- Faria** I have books the head guard gave me, and a calendar for marking the passage of years. How long have you been here, Edmond?
- Edmond** I don't know.
- Faria** What year were you imprisoned?
- Edmond** 1815
- Faria** 6 years. But you are still young. When our tunnel is complete, you will have a long life of freedom to enjoy.
- Edmond** But how long will it take to dig the tunnel?
- Faria** With the two of us digging together, I'm sure the work will be much faster. Perhaps, it will only take us seven or eight years.
- Edmond** Years? *(Laughs)*
(The two men climb out of the tunnel into Faria's cell. Edmond looks around the cell with wonder and amazement)
- Faria** Yes, it takes a great deal of faith to dig a tunnel. But, for your help, perhaps, I could offer you something in return? I would gladly impart to you all the knowledge my greater years and education have afforded me.
- Edmond** *(Gingerly picking up one of Faria's books)* You will teach me to read?
- Faria** What?! Absolutely! In five different languages if you wish it! When I was a soldier, I even learned to speak—
- Edmond** *(Drops the book)* A soldier? So you know how to fight?
- Faria** Be careful with that book, Edmond! It is more precious than our freedom. *(Picking up the book)* These are the Holy Scriptures. *(Noticing the Edmond has continued to look at him pleadingly)* I have some knowledge of combat, yes. I was a soldier a long time ago, but now, I am a priest. Edmond, I don't think...
- Edmond** Teach me to fight, old man, or I will not help you dig.
- Faria** Very well, my son. But temper your sword with wisdom, and your fighting arm with discretion—the power to take life means very little compared to the power of restraint.
- Edmond** When do we begin?
- Faria** *(Handing the skillet to Edmond)* Haven't we already started?
(Faria and Edmond begin digging their tunnel as the song resumes. From here on, as the song advances, years pass, and Edmond and Faria's appearance changes over time to become more ragged)
- Faria** One more shovel-full to freedom
Skillet scraping, we will dig
With this compass we return on track
- Faria and Edmond** Finger's might be torn and bloodied
Calloused knees and tearing eyes
We're determined never to look back!
For we know that we're imprisoned by Hell's own lie
So we'll move all heav'n and earth or we'll die try-ing!
Two more feet of rock and rubble
Aching, trembling, tir'ed and torn
One more shovel-full before the sun, and then we're done
(Edmond and Faria stop digging and emerge from the tunnel)
- Edmond** Mercedes, I love you, Mercedes, forever
And each day of toil brings me closer to you
Though I'm like a man asleep
Here's one promise I can keep
Mercedes, I'll come back and we'll be together
Please pray for my soul— down in this hole
- Faria** *(Faria brings out two long sticks. He hands one to Edmond and continues to hold the other)*
Here, take this. I made it from my bedpost. It will do for a training sword. Take your stance. No, no, like this. *(He corrects Edmond's stance then takes a similar stance in front of Edmond.)* That's right. En garde!
(After Faria shows Edmond a few basic attacks, Edmond leaps forward overenthusiastically, and

Faria raps him on the knuckles)

Edmond Ow!

Faria You can do better than that! Block!

Edmond We've been working in the tunnel all day; I'm tired.

Faria *(Good-naturedly teasing)* So have I, and yet I weave— I dodge— reflexes more acute than a cat! But you, you're tired.... And how many years younger?
(Edmond runs at Faria hoping to catch him by surprise, but the Abbe expertly dodges his attack and sticks out his leg tripping Edmond who falls to the floor)

Faria *(Looking down at the upended Edmond)* Never let your anger cause you to do something rash, my son. Always keep your focus!

Edmond You tripped me!

Faria You should always be prepared, Edmond. Your opponent might do something... unexpected.
(Laughs) Here, let me help you up. *(Helps Edmond to his feet and pats him on the back. He hands Edmond back his sword, and they take another fighting stance, doing a couple of light parries while Faria sings)*

Faria Harden your arms, harden your legs, harden your muscles
Life with its struggles makes a body sound
Bury your doubts, bury your fears, or you'll keep losing
You must bury your emotions 'neath the ground—
(They pick up their digging tools again)

Both One more shovel-full to freedom
Breathing in the fetid air
Greedy ground that sucks our sweat and tears,
Inches of determination
Curse the stone and cast it down
Meas'uring time by shovel-full, not years
Though we know we've been imprisoned here by Hell's own lie
Sometimes digging in this Hell-hole's worse than dy-ing!
One more night of ceaseless striving
Trapped within our rocky tomb
One more shovel-full before the sun...
(Edmond and Faria exit the tunnel, and Faria picks up one of his books. Faria pantomimes teaching Edmond to read, but Edmond's mind clearly wanders as he dreams and frets over Mercedes)

Edmond Mercedes, your vision is ever before me
And waking, or sleeping, I ache for your arms!
But the vision starts to fade
Ten long years make me afraid
Mercedes, beloved, have you waited for me?
I'm losing my soul— down in this hole

Faria *(Breaking in on Edmond's musings)* Learning Latin doesn't interest you today?

Edmond Why do I need to learn a language no country speaks?

Faria Because Latin is the basis of both Spanish and Italian.

Edmond I can already speak, read, and write in French and Greek! Why do I need to know two more languages?

Faria They may come in handy some day. And don't forget, I said I'd teach you German as well!

Edmond What's next!

Faria As a matter of fact...

Edmond My brain is full.

Faria Bury your can'ts, bury your won'ts, all your frustrations
Determination makes a mind that's sound
Just concentrate, it's not too late! Son, you're a scholar!

Edmond *(Jokingly surly)* I would rather bury these words 'neath the ground!

Faria Bury Holy Scripture! Give that to me!

(Faria grabs the book from Edmond and sits down muttering. Picking up Edmond's training stick, he bangs it on the ground in time to the music. Edmond stands and dances basic waltz steps while reciting his lesson)

Faria Now, conjugate in French: To dance...
Edmond Danse, dances, danse, dansons, dansez, dansent.
Faria To pray, in Latin...
Edmond Oro, orat, oramus, orates, orant.
Faria To love, in Greek...
Edmond Enough, priest!
(Faria stops keeping time with the stick and looks at Edmond with surprise)
Edmond Forgive me. Let's dig.

Edmond (Faria) One more shovel-full to freedom (Mercedes! Edmond, just hold on to Mercedes!)
Dark my thoughts below the ground
Mind and spirit lifeless as this stone
Buried are my bright tomorrows (Remember, Mercedes is waiting for you!)
Buried, my unfeeling God
I will dig toward justice on my own!
Does she suffer as I do? 14 years within this hole!
If I set my sights on vengeance, will she still pray for my soul— ?!
NO! Bury what was, bury my past, bury this Edmond
He is a dead man, I must lay him down
Bury my heart, bury my soul, all my emotions
I must bury all I was beneath the ground—
Faria One shovel-full before the sun
Edmond and Faria One more shovel-full and— then—
Edmond I'm— DONE! *(Last word shouted)*

(The music stops abruptly with an echo reverb on Edmond's final word. Edmond climbs out of the tunnel into his own cell. He picks up a "stone" (use chalk) and "scratches" the words: "God preserve my memory" on the wall. Suddenly, Faria jumps out of the tunnel excitedly)

Faria Edmond! Come see the calculations I just made! The tunnel is already beyond the outer wall! A few more months and freedom, Edmond! Freedom! What's the matter, son? Aren't you elated?
Edmond *(Facing the reality of freedom, Edmond hesitates)* After fourteen years... how do you think the world has changed... out there?

SCENE 9: THE PARIS ORPHANAGE / THE PORT OF MARSEILLES (HAYDEE'S DREAM)

(On one side of the stage, Haydee sleeps in an uncomfortable-looking bed. She is tossing and turning as she dreams about her past. On the other side of the stage, we see an event that occurred 14 years before. Younger Haydee and her father, General Quesnel enter. A fog effect might enhance this scene)

Young Haydee Father, when we get home, you promise to tell me a bedtime story?
Quesnel I promise. Just hurry, it's already late!
(Fernand and Danglars enter. Both are holding pistols. Alarmed by the pistols, Quesnel quickly hides himself and his daughter behind a set piece)
Fernand Give me the gun, Danglars. You're shaking like a leaf.
Danglars *(Handing Fernand the gun)* Take it, Fernand. I am not shooting anyone, remember.
Fernand I remember. *(Fernand tucks one of the pistols in his clothing and keeps the other at the ready)*
Young Haydee *(In a hushed tone)* Father, who are those men—
Quesnel *(In a hushed tone)* Shhh. Be very quiet, Haydee. I don't think those men see us.
(Noirtier enters holding a bottle of wine. He sways from side to side obviously drunk)
Noirtier *(Slurred)* Long live Napoleon! The true ruler of France!
Fernand Your son does not share that opinion, Monsieur Noirtier.
Noirtier Well, he has always been— Who are you?
Fernand The last person you will ever see. *(Raises the pistol and shoots Noirtier)*
Noirtier *(Cries out in pain, then says weakly)* Why?

Fernand Ask your son, Gerard de Villefort!
(Noirtier falls to the ground. The gruesome scene is too much for Younger Haydee, and she screams. Quesnel tries to silence his daughter, but too late)

Fernand What was that? Danglars, you coward, was that you?

Danglars No. Someone else is here, Fernand.

Quesnel *(In a hushed tone)* Haydee, when I tell you, I want you to run. Do you understand?

Young Haydee *(In a hushed tone)* Yes, Papa.

Fernand *(Spotting Haydee and Quesnel's hiding place)* You, over there! Come out from there!

Quesnel Now, Haydee, go!
(Young Haydee and Quesnel begin to run, but Fernand shoots Quesnel in the back with his other pistol. Young Haydee pauses for a moment, and then continues to run off stage. Fernand and Danglars run up to Quesnel's body)

Danglars *(Shocked)* You shot him! Who is he?

Fernand No witnesses, right Danglars? *(Pushing Danglars in the direction Young Haydee just went)* Catch the little girl, quick!

Danglars She is gone, Fernand. And I am not going to be responsible for the life of a child! Who are you becoming, Fernand Mondego? Even I don't recognize you anymore.

Fernand Fine. No one would believe her anyway.
(Older Haydee begins to scream as she awakens from her nightmare. Sister Julie runs on stage)

Julie Shut up, you ungrateful brat! *(Slaps Haydee across the face)* You've woke the whole orphanage with your caterwauling!
(Haydee begins to cry softly, but never says a word)

Julie Every night the same nightmare! Every night the same noise! Your father's dead. Move on. It's been 14 years, for pity's sake.
(Sister Julie stamps off stage. Haydee lifts her eyes to heaven, folds her hands, and prays silently)

SCENE 10: FARIA'S CELL AT THE CHATEAU D'IF (THE ABBE'S WISDOM)

(The light's come up on Faria's cell. Faria holds the two training swords and approaches Edmond)

Faria Engarde!
(Edmond takes the training sword and assumes a perfect fencing stance)

Faria Good! Have you been practicing like I asked?

Edmond I guess you'll have to judge for yourself, Priest.
(Edmond attacks, and Faria blocks)

Faria Perfect form, Edmond!
(Edmond quickly disarms Faria)

Faria *(Yelps in pain and surprise, then laughs)* Your first victory! I salute you!
(The Abbe and Edmond bow graciously to each other. And then Faria takes a seat on the stone covering the tunnel entrance)

Faria Edmond, why are you so intent on learning to fight?

Edmond I've already told you. Danglars and Fernand Mondego falsely accused me of treason.

Faria And you are going to kill them?

Edmond After I have made them suffer.

Faria But Fernand and Danglars didn't truly have the power to send you to prison. Why are you here?

Edmond What do you mean?

Faria You said that Villefort had set you free. He believed you were innocent?

Edmond Yes, there must have been a mistake.

Faria Or not. What happened after he said you could go?

Edmond I don't remember. He burned the letter and offered me a carriage home. That is all.

Faria He burned the letter?

Edmond Yes...

Faria Why?

Edmond He said it was the only evidence of my guilt.

Faria Villefort.... where have I heard that name before. Not Gerard de Villefort?

Edmond Yes, do you know him?

Faria I did not recall the name at first because he changed it. His father's name is Noirtier.

Edmond Noirtier! NO! Not Noirtier! The letter from Napoleon was addressed to Noirtier!
Faria Come to think of it, Villefort's father held strong political views in favor of Napoleon.
Edmond The letter was addressed to Villefort's father?!

Faria I remember Villefort being a very ambitious man. If his father and your letter got in the way of those ambitions.... Your imprisonment would be extremely convenient for him.
Edmond Convenient? He will soon see how conveniently he brought about his own demise.

SONG: "GOD WILL AVENGE"

Faria Edmond, you speak of vengeance as a close, dear friend
 Closer than the God who knows you more
 My son, take heed the wisdom God has blessed us with
 For on His path will lead through freedom's door
 God will avenge
 Do not take your revenge for He will repay
 God will avenge

Edmond Listen to my words, Edmond, forgiveness is the way
 Forgiveness will not give me back the years I've lost
 Only through revenge will I regain it all
 I will make them suffer more by taking from their lives
 All that they hold dear and crush them till they fall
 I will avenge
 I will take my revenge and they will all pay
 I will avenge

Faria Only God will pass judgment hear what He has to say
 Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction
 Faithful in prayer, cling to what is good
 Repay not evil with evil, but overcome the darkness
 Rejoice in forgiveness, let God avenge you!

Faria (Edmond (echoes)) God will avenge (He will not take this from me)
 Do not take your revenge
 For he will repay (I avenge myself)
 God will avenge (There is no truth in your words)
 Heed His words, Edmond, forgiveness is the way
Edmond Vengeance is my only way
Faria Trust in our God, remember
Faria (Edmond) God will avenge! (I will avenge!)

Faria Edmond, I pray every day that God will teach you the one thing I cannot— forgiveness. You hurt only yourself by grasping your hate so tightly.

Edmond Danglars coveted my captaincy. Fernand desired Mercedes. Villefort valued his position above my life! Am I not justified in my hate?!

Faria But, Edmond, God will—

Edmond God has no further place in my life, priest. Do not mention Him to me again.

Faria Edmond, I— I (*Gasps, grabbing his chest and falling to the floor*) Edmond! Something is wrong! There is a pain— in my chest—

Edmond Priest— here let me help you to the bed.

Faria No, no time. I have something of great importance— (*Cries out in pain*)

Edmond Don't talk—

Faria No, listen. All these years together, you have become like my own son. The tunnel is almost finished, keep digging! There— over there, hidden under that stone in the corner— (*Edmond lifts a stone in the corner of the cell revealing a piece of paper*)

Faria Bring the paper here. It is a map of the isle of Monte Cristo. It is the reason I was imprisoned. I would not reveal the contents of this map. There is a treasure— find it.

Edmond A treasure?

Faria Yes, follow the map. God saw fit to give me what my profession never allowed me to have, a son.

Edmond Son?

Faria You are my heir, Edmond. This treasure is yours. I bequeath it to you with all the love a father can give. *(Gasps)* Edmond! Forgiveness, Edmond!

Edmond I'm sorry, Abbe, but I cannot...

Faria *(Weakly)* Vengeance belongs to God!

Edmond Please, stay calm.

Faria *(Extremely weak, Faria grabs the crucifix that has been sharpened into a point and places it in Edmond's hand)* He was betrayed as well— By his friend— With a kiss—
(Faria dies quietly and serenely)

Edmond *(Beginning to cry softly)* Abbe! Please, don't leave me...
(The prison guard enters and opens the food panel, leaving the food as usual. Edmond quickly hides in the tunnel concealing the entrance)

Guard C. *(Knocking on the door when there is no response)* Food! Come on, it is time to eat. *(Crouches down to look through the door panel)* Oh... I see God finally set you free, Abbe. *(Stands back up)* I will get your burial shroud. A nice, new, clean one for a member of the clergy.
(The guard leaves the stage briefly to get the shroud. Edmond climbs out of the tunnel and kneels beside Faria)

Edmond Priest, now you are free. But how can I complete the tunnel alone? I will continue to rot here, until the day when I meet the same fate as you. Death is the only true escape from the Chateau d'If. You only leave this place sewn into a shroud and... *(Has a sudden realization)* ...carried out!

SCENE 11: OUTSIDE THE CHATEAU D'IF (EDMOND'S ESCAPE)

(Outside of the prison beside the ocean, Jacopo is dragged on stage by two prison guards. The sound of crashing waves is heard)

Jacopo Let go of me! I haven't done anything!

Guard B You are a smuggler, a thief, and a kidnapper.

Jacopo Allegedly.

Guard B *(Without skipping a beat)* And the authorities have decided to make an example of you.

Jacopo Example? I'm a horrible example!

Guard B Hold him, Andre! We're almost to the prison entrance.

Jacopo But why imprison me in the Chateau d'If? I'm claustrophobic! I'm afraid of heights! Please! Anything but this!
(The Prison Overseer and Guard C. enter holding a body in a laced up shroud. Jacopo and the other guards react with horror and disgust)

Guard C Sorry to see the old man go. He was always so quiet...

Prison Overseer Convenient though, we have a new prisoner arriving this evening. Ah! There he is!

Guard C *(Aside to the Overseer)* Should we wait 'till the new prisoner's inside before throwing the body over the cliff?

Prison Overseer Nonsense, this is the perfect welcome for him. Give him something to think about. *(Laughs)*
(The overseer and prison guard set down the body with an effort)

Prison Overseer Pretty heavy for an old man! Tie the weight on.
(The prison guard ties a rope with a weight attached to the end to the leg's of the body)

Jacopo I shall never see the light of day again!

Guard A Shhhh! Have some respect for the dead.

Prison Overseer *(To Guard C.)* All right, lift. *(The two guards swing the body preparing to throw it offstage)* One. Two.

Guard C Wait a moment. I think I see a hole in the bag.

Prison Overseer What does it matter? One. Two.

Guard C Yes! The lacing is loose on this side!

Prison Overseer I'm sure the fish won't care! One. Two. Three.
(A guard rushes on stage)

Guard Stop! Wait! The Abbe's body is still in the prison!

Prison Overseer Then whose body is this? *(He drops the body and draws his pistol)*
(Edmond bursts out of the burial sack wielding the Abbe's make-shift knife. The Prison Overseer shoots Edmond in the shoulder just before Edmond pushes him over the cliff (offstage) The Guard who just entered, runs offstage to get help, and we soon hear cannons being fired as a signal of

distress. Guard A. draws his pistol, but Edmond knocks it out of his hand. Guard B. draws his sword and uses Jacopo as a shield. Guard C. fumbles for the dropped pistol. Edmond knocks Guard A. out and takes his sword. Guard B. pushes Jacopo aside and begins fencing with Edmond, but Edmond's skill in swordfighting has improved significantly since he was imprisoned. Guard C. has the pistol, but he's shaking and afraid to use it. Jacopo tries to take the pistol from Guard C. Edmond finally disarms Guard B. Jacopo wins the struggle with Guard C. for the pistol and holds Guard C. at gunpoint. Edmond hits Guard B. over the head, knocking him out. Guard C. surrenders in shock)

Jacopo Quickly, Monsieur! We must flee! Now is our chance!
(Edmond and Jacopo quickly exit the stage)

SCENE 12: AN ISLAND (LUIGI VAMPA)

*(Wet and collapsing with fatigue, Jacopo and Edmond find themselves on an island)
(Laughing and jumping around despite his injury, Edmond finally drops to the ground and kisses it)*

Edmond Where are we?

Jacopo An island of some sort. Stealing that boat was a good idea, Monsieur, we must be miles away from the prison by now.

Edmond It's not far enough.

Jacopo Don't blame yourself, Monsieur. That storm came out of nowhere. And no matter how skillfully you handled it, the boat was just too small. I'm afraid we're stranded here, for better or worse.

Edmond Well, if we are being pursued, perhaps the storm will slow them down as well.

Jacopo You know, this island looks familiar... I may have been here before.

(Edmond carefully examines the wound in his shoulder)

Jacopo Aye! You are wounded badly!

Edmond I'm fine.

Jacopo Monsieur, as God is my witness, you are my rescuer, and I am indebted to you for life. Please, allow me to tend the wound. When I was in Luigi Vampa's service, I was quite the surgeon!

Edmond *(Skeptically)* Surgeon?

Jacopo Unofficially, of course. *(Uses a piece of torn cloth to bandage Edmond's wound)* By the way, my name is *(Said with a flourish)* Jacques-Louis Giovanni Bertuccio, your humble servant. My mother was French, my father Italian, it's a long story— Everyone just calls me: Jacopo. What is your name?

Edmond Edmond Dantes.

(Several smuggler's begin sneaking on stage and hide behind trees)

Jacopo How long were you... imprisoned?

Edmond Fourteen years.

Jacopo *(Almost whispered; in French and Italian)* Monsieur! Ma non è possibile.... *(Means: But it is not possible...)*

Edmond *(Answers in Italian)* Sì, è possibile *(Means: Yes, it is possible)*

Jacopo You speak Italian, Monsieur?

Edmond Sì. *(Means: Yes)*

Jacopo You amaze me. Always remember you can trust, Jacopo. You will never be imprisoned like that again. Not if I can help it—

(The smuggler's jump out from behind the trees and grab Jacopo and Edmond who struggle to get away, but to no avail. The smugglers shout their lines quickly, overlapping each other)

Smuggler 1 You are trespassing!

Smuggler 2 Take their money!

Smuggler 1 They don't have any.

Smuggler 3 They're spies! Slit their throats!

Smuggler 1 They don't look like spies.

Smuggler 3 They're disguised, you idiot!

Smuggler 2 No wait! It's Jacopo! I'd remember that smell anywhere.

Smuggler 1 Jacopo? No, it can't be.

Smuggler 3 He still owes me money!

Jacopo Which I will gladly pay... with interest... very soon....

Smuggler 2 Weren't you arrested?

Jacopo I was saved by a fellow miscreant. Meet the honorable Edmond Dantes!
Smuggler 1 I don't like him.
Jacopo Give him a chance!
Smuggler 3 Looks worthless to me. What is he? Some sort of hermit who never bathes?
Smuggler 2 The Vampa won't like him either.
Edmond Who is this Vampa anyway?
Smuggler 1 Who is Luigi Vampa? Where have you been? Under a rock?

SONG: "THE VAMPA"

Smugglers (*Barbershop Quartet-like*) The Vampa, Vampa, Vampa, Vampa
He started as shepherd on a lonely Tuscon hill (Hill, hill)
The work was dull and te'dious, he lived by the wool and milk (Goat's milk)
When one day came a rabid wolf to have him for a feast (**Big** feast)
He shot the wolf between the eyes, good shot, to say the least
Then he waylaid a priest as he was walking down the mount
Non-violently he asked to learn to read and write and count (One, two, **three**)
And then there was a girl, a dress, a brigand and a fight (Good fight)
To sum it up, the shepherd boy became a rogue that night
He became the Vampa, Vampa, Vampa, Vampa

Smugglers (*"Vamp" under dialogue*) Vampa-vampa-vampa-vampa vampa, vampa-vampa-vampa-vampa
(*Etc.*)

(*Luigi enters*)

Luigi You called? (*Seeing Jacopo*) Jacopo! I thought you were dead!

Jacopo Monsieur Vampa!

Luigi Where have you been?

Jacopo I was caught, Monsieur Vampa! Nearly imprisoned in the Chateau d'If—

Luigi That's how we lost Mario... (*Smuggler's murmur "poor Mario," etc. in the background*) So now there's a vacancy. We need another hand.

Jacopo What a coincidence! Monsieur Dantes—

Luigi Do you mean this skinny lout?

Edmond (*Stepping up to Luigi*) It is an honor to meet you—

Luigi (*Drawing his sword and pointing it at Edmond's chest, all of the smugglers copy Luigi's move and stop vamping*) Not so fast. We are all smugglers and thieves here. Who are you? A spy who will send us all to prison?

Jacopo Oh, no! He could not possibly be—

Luigi Shut up, Jacopo!

Edmond I am a skilled sailor, and I speak five languages. But, I must warn you, I am a wanted man...

Luigi (*Laughs*) We are all wanted men! I like you, Dantes. I'll make you a deal: join us... or die.

Edmond I never thought I'd become a pirate.

Luigi A pirate?!

Luigi A Pirate is a felon, they all dress and talk the same

Smugglers While me, I'm a businessman

Luigi Of ill-repute

And fame!

You see, men need things moved from here to there, under the table

"Laisee Faire" creates demand, "I just do" what I'm able.

You're able now to make a choice

To go (*or die*)

Or stay!

Luigi (Smugglers) On the one hand is starvation (*death!*)

Jacopo The other hand is pay

Luigi (Smugglers) You've heard our voices, know our business, and you've seen our crew

We can shoot your kneecaps, run you through, or let crabs take a crack at you

Luigi (Smugglers) So will you join (*Join, join, join, join*)

Our little band? (*Clan, tribe, crew, posse*)

Edmond What do you say? (*I'd make, it, quick*)
Jacopo I think you're bossy
Smugglers (*Spoken*) Uh-oh.
 That's why he's Big Baddy Vampa
 He's the terror of the sea (see)
 Him in an alley, hide you loot
 Before he robs you blind and please
 Forgive the bruises and the bumps
 He gives you when you're on your knees
 And thank your stars he left you breathin'
 But half-naked in Belize

Smugglers (*"Vamp" under dialogue*) Vampa-vampa-vampa vampa, vampa-vampa-vampa-vampa (*Etc.*)
Jacopo (*Sighs*) That actually happened.
Luigi So, Dantes, what is your decision? Will you travel the world with us? I can promise that you'll be hunted, hated, but you'll have a devil of a time.
Edmond (*Resigned*) Where else can I go?
Luigi Then it's settled. First to the port of Grenoa; then by land to Bavaria.
Edmond Bavaria?
Luigi Yes, they love me in Bavaria.
 (*Smugglers murmur and wink knowingly. As the song resumes, Luigi and Edmond's exploits progress over a period of three years*)

Smugglers They call him Heis Anken Strudel (*German for Hot Butter Strudel*)
 With the hearty appetite
 Whether it's romance, wine, or pastries
 He can pack it in all night-ly
 Raids the pantries of Bavaria
 For one tasty, cream-filled bite
 Sized morsel off'ring kisses till
 Her husband comes to start a fight!

Smugglers (*"Vamp" under dialogue*) Vampa-vampa-vampa vampa, vampa-vampa-vampa-vampa (*Etc.*)
Luigi (*Out of breath, patting Edmond on the back*) Mamma Mia! Who knew you could use your fists like that, eh? I thought he was going to kill me!
Edmond (*Also out of breath*) Yes, well, I'll assume you didn't know the lady was married....
Luigi (*Innocently*) Me? No. Don't worry, there will be less adventure in the Orient....

Smugglers They call him _____
 In the Orient he's known
 To import porcelain and silks
 And scanty dresses he has sewn
 Discord throughout the Qing's (*Pronounced Chin's*) west Empire
 Till his cover there was blown
 Up like the incident in Macao (*Pronounced Ma-cow*)
 He made fireworks of his own

Smugglers (*"Vamp" under dialogue*) Vampa-vampa-vampa vampa, vampa-vampa-vampa-vampa (*Etc.*)
Luigi That was some fancy sailing out of Canton.
Smuggler You sail as if you were a Captain all your life!
Luigi You're making me look bad, Dantes. Keep up the good work!
Edmond Thank you for providing the distraction. Nice fireworks.
Jacopo Yes, people always celebrate when he leaves.
Luigi Then we'll just go where I'm most appreciated. Navigate a course to the Ottoman Empire. Yes, they love me there. They call me _____ Radia.
Edmond (*Laughs*) That means "Big Fat Baby."
Luigi (*Steely*) Does it? Well, then,

Smugglers They call him _____ Radia
And that name they will lament
As he comes blazing with his pistols
Shooting quite by accident-ly
Setting fire to their rugs
And casually rif-ling through their tents (tense)
The situation seems to be
Over so small an incident
He's Big Baddy Vampa
Heis Anken Strudel
(Chinese) _____
(Arabic) _____ Radia

Luigi *(Spoken)* Forget that last one!

The terror of the sea!

Luigi *(Over last held note, yelled / laughing)* Didn't I promise you a devil of a time?!
(Blackout)

SCENE 13: THE ISLAND OF MONTE CRISTO (THE TREASURE)

(Three years later; Luigi, Jacopo, and Edmond stand on the Island of Monte Cristo)

Luigi How time flies.... Here is the share I promised you, Dantes. I wish you could stay with us longer, but I understand why you must go... I think... Come on, Dantes, tell me the truth. Did you hide the loot here?

Edmond Loot?

Luigi Why else would you want to be left on a deserted island? You must have hidden your riches here before you were imprisoned.

Jacopo Did you, Monsieur Dantes?

Edmond Luigi, know this, if I ever become rich, I won't forget you.

Luigi *(Laughs)* Dantes! You have been more valuable to me than my own flesh and blood! I will miss you. And Jacopo, I cannot comprehend that you are leaving me, too!

Jacopo I owe my life to Monsieur Dantes. I will never leave his side.

Luigi I'll hold you to your word, Dantes. Don't forget us. If you ever have need, we are your faithful thieves.

Edmond Au revoir, Luigi.
(Luigi exits)

Jacopo Why exactly are we here, Monsieur Dantes?

Edmond This is it. Three years ago we stumbled upon it without even knowing.... The Island of Monte Cristo!

Jacopo Yes, the Island of Monte Cristo— lots of goats. Not much else.

Edmond Look at this, Jacopo. *(Unfolds the map given to him by the Abbe Faria)*

Jacopo That looks like a treasure map! You do have treasure hidden here!

Edmond *(Hands Jacopo the map)* Take it. I've spent so many hours pouring over that faded page that every line and curve are etched in my memory. Do you see the cave? *(Points to the cave on the map)* The treasure is hidden within a secret chamber inside that cave.
(Edmond takes out the compass Mercedes gave him so long ago. He correlates the compass with the map. Jacopo watches)

Jacopo There, Monsieur Dantes! Up there! That's the cave on the map!
(Edmond and Jacopo walk to the entrance of the cave)

Edmond Stay here, Jacopo, and keep a look-out. It's vital that we keep this treasure a secret.

Jacopo *(Solemnly)* Yes, of course, Monsieur Dantes! *(Edmond enters the cave, and Jacopo shouts into the cave mouth so Edmond can hear him)* Do you know what you will buy with this treasure? 'Cause I know what I would buy! A castle! But not just any castle— a castle on the beach! White sand, turrets glistening in the sun! Is the treasure there, Monsieur Dantes!

Edmond *(Popping his head out of the cave, sarcastically)* Could you be a little louder, Jacopo? I'm not

Jacopo sure if the smugglers can hear you back at the boat!
Edmond Sorry, Monsieur Dantes. *(Whispered)* Is the treasure there?
Jacopo I think I see a hidden crevasse at the back of the cave. Wait a moment.
Edmond *(Edmond goes back into the cave. Jacopo waits anxiously and silently lists all the things he is going to buy. Edmond laughs boisterously from offstage and re-enters carrying handfuls of coins and gems)*
Jacopo Never before have I imagined...
Edmond This is only the beginning! An entire cavern of treasures lies untouched in the back of that cave!
Jacopo *(Edmond places the coins and gems in Jacopo's hands)*
Edmond We are rich!
Jacopo *(With hardened resolve)* Yes, for three years I have patiently awaited this moment. Now, I can buy my revenge.
Edmond Revenge? Against who?
Jacopo Those who stole my life from me.
Edmond I'm confused, Monsieur Dantes.... What does revenge have to do with treasure?

SONG: "THE COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO"

Edmond

Though this treasure brings you pleasure

It's part of my plan

Coins and gems pave a pathway

Toward my revenge

Enemies of my long lost past

Will be rooted out; their dark secrets revealed at last

Danglars' greed will be sure to feed

All the steps I need to set then bait, snare, and trap him

Villefort's love of power shows

How to bring him low, powerless, begging on his knees

But Fernand, he will beg for death

But it will not come!

I will crush him like grains of sand

I've held in my hand and let the wind take him away

Preserved in memory, every injury

Is weight upon my soul

My true treasure is still owed me

And it must be repaid in full

Jacopo *(Spoken)* But, Monsieur Dantes, you could do so much good with this treasure! Hire someone to assassinate these men and go on with your life! Think of where we could go: Venice, Rome, distant islands we could claim for ourselves! Think of who we could become—
Edmond Like a Count?
Jacopo Yes! Now you're seeing reason! You could be the Count of... The Count of...
(The song resumes. Jacopo stands horrified as Edmond twists his words into a new meaning)

Edmond

Disguising myself as a Count

I will seek them out as the Count of Monte Cristo

A new name and wealth I've gained

Will soon bring me fame as the Count of Monte Cristo

Pretending to be one of them

I will plan their end!

As the Count of Monte Cristo!

End of ACT I **ACT II**

Entr'acte

SCENE 1: PORT OF MARSEILLES AND MORREL'S HOME (PROSPERING IN PARIS)

(The port at Marseilles bustles with vendors and townsfolk. Edmond and Jacopo enter. Edmond has changed his appearance significantly: he is now richly dressed and has trimmed his beard into a goatee)

- Jacopo** *(Rambling)* I still can't believe it! You are rich, Monsieur Dantes, rich!
- Edmond** Hush, Jacopo. Remember, my name is not Edmond Dantes. I am the Count of Monte Cristo.
- Jacopo** Cheer up! The sun is shining, the sea is sparkling, Marseilles is bustling, and you can buy anything your heart desires!
- Edmond** Jacopo, remember, this place used to be my home. But now it is strange, and yet, haunted by memories. Wait by the boat, I must pay a visit to an old friend.
- Jacopo** Yes, Monsieur Dantes—I mean Count!
(Jacopo exits, and the townsfolk begin to filter out as Edmond approaches a house. He knocks at the door, and Morrel answers. Morrel looks old and feeble; a moth-eaten blanket is wrapped around his shoulders)
- Edmond** Good afternoon. I am looking for Monsieur Morrel.
- Morrel** Come in. But I was not expecting anyone?
(Edmond enters Morrel's home which has little else than two chairs and a stack of papers on the floor)
- Edmond** No, I am a friend of Edmond Dantes.
- Morrel** Edmond Dantes! I have not heard that name since... well... since Edmond was executed seventeen years ago.
- Edmond** Executed! *(Clears throat)* Yes, that is why I am here.
- Morrel** Please, sit down.
(Morrel offers Edmond a seat, and he sits. Morrel sits nearby)
- Morrel** You must excuse me for not offering you refreshment, Monsieur...
- Edmond** Wilmore.
- Morrel** Monsieur Wilmore. I beg your pardon, but what food I have is so meager I would be embarrassed to offer it to you.
- Edmond** I require nothing. Have you fallen on hard times?
- Morrel** Aye. Once I owned several fine ships, but now, I am ruined. But I need not burden you with my hardships.
- Edmond** Perhaps, your luck will change.
- Morrel** God will provide. He always has.
- Edmond** I am here in accordance with Edmond Dantes' final wishes. Before he was executed, he left a small inheritance. He asked me to split it among his friends. He said that you, Monsieur Morrel, could help me locate them.
- Morrel** I will do my best. Edmond was like a son to me.
- Edmond** There was a man named... Danglars.
- Morrel** Aye, he's Baron Danglars now.
- Edmond** Baron?
(As each character is mentioned, they enter, take a position in the background (Paris), and freeze as the next person is mentioned. Danglars enters first, poses, and freezes)
- Morrel** He married a baroness. When she died, he inherited all her wealth. He's a banker in Paris now.
- Edmond** I see. There was another, the chief prosecutor for Edmond's case, do you know his name?
- Morrel** Gerard de Villefort? *(Villefort enters, poses, and freezes)* He also moved to Paris after his father died tragically in a duel. I seem to remember there was some sort of investigation into the matter. *(Haydee walks across the stage with Sister Julie following and pestering her. They both exit)* A child named Haydee witnessed the catastrophe: both men shot and killed each other—and who knows over what! But Villefort never had much time to grieve, the king elevated him from chief prosecutor to judge very soon afterward.
- Edmond** I'm also looking for a man named Fernand Mondego.
- Morrel** Aye! *(Fernand enters reading a book, poses, and freezes)* He returned from the war a hero and with a large fortune to boot! I heard he bought one of the largest mansions in Paris!

Edmond Monsieur, you have been extremely helpful, thank you. Oh, one more thing, can you tell me where Edmond's fiancé is living?

Morrel Mercedes? She married Fernand sixteen years ago. *(Mercedes enters and joins Fernand, poses, and freezes)*

Edmond Mercedes— married— Fernand?

Morrel Aye, she has kept in touch with me. She sends letters every few months. *(Searches through his papers and grabs an envelope)* Ah, here it is— the envelope from Mercedes' last letter. Perhaps the address will be useful to you? *(Hands Edmond the envelope)*

Edmond Yes... this is her handwriting?

Morrel Of course! She wrote to tell me her son is almost sixteen!

Edmond She has a son?

Morrel Aye, Albert Mondego. *(Albert enters exuberantly and joins his parents, poses, and freezes)* He'll be celebrating his birthday in Rome this year. That is, if Mercedes ever gives him permission to leave her side!

Edmond Thank you. And I am sure Edmond thanks you as well, wherever he may be. Here is your share of the inheritance. Good day, Monsieur Morrel. *(Edmond hands Morrel a large diamond before quickly leaving his house)*

Morrel What?! But this doesn't make any sense! This is a diamond! Where did you get this? Did Edmond really give this to you? I can move to Paris! *(As Morrel exits the stage, dumbfounded, Jacopo re-enters nearly colliding with Edmond)*

Jacopo Monsieur Count! How did it go? Did your friend remember you?

Edmond *(Taking the compass on the chain off from around his neck)* Mercedes... now I have four betrayers instead of three. *(He throws the compass on the ground and exits)*
(Jacopo picks up the compass, gingerly and respectfully touches it, and places it in his pocket)

SCENE 2: CARNIVAL IN ROME (BANDITS!)

(The characters standing frozen on stage unfreeze. Danglars and Villefort exit. Albert, Mercedes, and Fernand stay on stage)

Albert Everything is planned, Mother! Franz and I will meet in Rome just in time for the Carnival!

Mercedes Albert, Rome can be dangerous—

Albert Father, please tell me I can go!

Fernand *(Turned away from his son, still reading his book, he says carelessly)* I don't see why not. You should see the world while you're still young.

Mercedes But, Fernand, perhaps we should discuss this—

Fernand Don't be ridiculous, Mercedes; you worry too much. *(Offhandedly)* Have a glorious time in Rome, son.

Albert Thank you, Father! Franz! Franz! *(Albert runs offstage)*

Mercedes Maybe we could go with him, Fernand.

Fernand *(With growing impatience)* We've discussed this before, stop smothering the boy and let him be a man. He needs experience past the confines of his mother's sheltering arms.

Mercedes Yes, he is almost a man, but he needs a mentor, an example. Please, teach him to be a good man, Fernand.

Fernand *(Angrily)* Mercedes, why must you always question my authority? I know what is best for the scrawny whelp, stop arguing.

Mercedes I apologize, Fernand. I didn't mean to be critical. But Albert and I both wish you would spend more time...
(Fernand slams the book shut and exits with an air of contempt)

Mercedes *(To herself)* ...with us. We feel so ignored.
(Mercedes exits, as Albert re-enters with Franz. Several Carnival revelers also enter dressed in masks. Luigi Vampa's smugglers, also wearing masks, hide among the revelers)
(On a level above the crowd, a costumed "grizzly bear" by his side. Spoken loudly over crowd:) Bienvenuti Signori e Signore! Welcome to Carnival in Rome! *(Wild cheers & noisemakers.)* Sì! Sì! But before we officially begin our festivities, because of what happened last year—those ... shall we say, unfortunate incidents that caused a bit of a public uproar...*(The crowd roars approval and cat-calls rudely)* Signori Mayor and other public officials have laid down a few rules. *(Crowd "Boos" loudly)* Please! Please! They are simple rules that those officials assure

me even “simpletons” can remember. (Crowd vocally reacts dim, “HUH?!” “DUH...”, etc. then breaks into laughter. M.C. clears throat officiously, then reads from paper) They are as follows:

SONG: “CARNIVAL IN ROME”

As the song progresses, Luigi and his smugglers, obscured by their masks, begin to follow and surround Albert. Near the end of the song, the Carnival revelers exit including Franz who has become separated from Albert. Luigi's gang remains on stage and surrounds Albert)

M.C. (Sung. *Slightly*) There'll be no screaming, spitting, or gesticulating.
the square. *slowed tempo* There'll be no punch-ing “Punchinello” in

We beg you please, to use discretion even when you're indiscreet,
True, there's no Polizia, (Sung or spoken in time) but we have a grizzly bear!
(Bear growls menacing, one woman screams, crowd laughs)

M.C. And should your “Romeo” try climbing to your window
All If he should slip, just shout out to the crowd below
(Sung OR spoken in time with comical emphasis) This is no guarantee the partiers will try to break his fall
(Sung, up tempo) No he'll likely break his neck, ah but
(Sung OR spoken in time with comical emphasis) What a way to go! (Crowd cheers wildly) At...
(Sung, up tempo) (! / !) Carnival!

You can lose yourself in revelry!
There are shows spectacular and great feats of daring-do
So lay all your cares aside, and forget that you are you!
At (! / !) Carnival!
Nice or naughty, have a little fun
Come, indulge! Delight your senses, and be hanged the consequences!
At (! / !) Carnival!
Solo (Or group) 1 Behind each mask and costume lies a tempting mystery,
Solo (Or group) 2 But be it monster, maid, or miscreant, it's not for you to see
Solo 3 (Or All) So pour the ale and drink a toast to ano-nymity
All Here at Carnival—
Whirling eggs filled with confetti pummel friend and foe
Each friendly missile fired with love or hate, nobody really knows
It's celebration with a touch of mayhem, by the close
Of (! / !) Carnival!

(Lighting dims, with a “disco-ball” effect that mimics candlelight. Boys are spotted downstage center in a special colored light.)

(Music slows, boys move slowly, and the crowd around them moves/cavorts slowly too as if in a dream)

Albert and Franz It's like a waking dream, as though the stars have fallen
(And small ensemble) As fifty-thousand candles turn night into day
They seem to mingle in a dance amidst the chaos and romance

Albert (Lifting his mask) Will we find romance here too?
Franz (Elbowing Albert) Fool, they're looking right this way!
(A group of masked teen-aged girls look flirtatiously and Franz and Albert. They push one girl forward, and coyly, she runs forward and hands Albert a note, kissing his cheek. Giggling, the girls run away. Surprised, Albert hastily opens and reads it, Franz looking over his shoulder, and then Albert break into blushes. Franz laughs and slaps Albert on the back in congratulations. They reread note, and Franz points to the direction she left; the boys run after the girls)

All (Dreamy, slightly hushed) So pass a note and blow a kiss to your amore'
Forget all warnings; just pursue your maiden fair
But know that cabbage-heads and kings may be intent on darker things

(Luigi/ henchmen [Dressed as a king/ 2 giant cabbage heads, green monkeys, etc.] stealthily follow boys)

And great evil could be lurking...
So young and innocent, beware!

(Crowd cheers & uses noisemakers briefly, breaking dream-state, then they begin exiting, partying through the audience)

At (! / !) Carnival!
Nice or naughty, have a little fun
Just indulge! Delight your senses, and accept the consequences
At (! / !), (! / !) Car-ni-val!

Albert Franz! Rome has never looked so bright! Franz? Where are you? I must have run too far ahead....

Luigi Looking for someone, Albert Mondego?

Albert Yes.... How do you know my name?

Luigi I know a great deal more than that— like what you are worth!
(The smugglers grab Albert. One smuggler puts a knife to Albert's throat)

Albert Let me go! Ow!

Luigi Careful gentlemen! That boy's flesh is worth a hefty ransom! His parents will pay well for his hide! Here, tie this blindfold on him, tight! *(Luigi removes a piece of cloth from his pocket and tosses it to one of the smugglers who ties it over Albert's eyes)*
(Edmond enters)

Edmond Let the boy go!

Luigi Who are you? Come a step closer, and we slit his throat!

Edmond I am the Count of Monte Cristo! I demand you free the boy, or I will purchase his freedom with your blood! *(Edmond draws his sword)*

Luigi *(Laughs)* Perhaps, I will add your purse to my spoils of the day! Let's see how you defend against all five of us, braggart!
(Luigi and each of the smugglers draw their swords. One by one, Edmond fights each smuggler ending with Luigi. The fight is obviously contrived and even comical, but Albert, who stands blindfolded, believes the fight to be horrifyingly real. Each smuggler ends up lying on the ground)
(Awestruck) Who did you say you were?

Luigi The Count of Monte Cristo!

Edmond You have slain all my men! I surrender! I beg your mercy, signore!

Luigi Sympathy is one quality I do not possess!

Edmond *(Groans and cries out over-dramatically as if he has been run through with a sword and falls to the ground)*

Luigi *(Approaching Albert, he begins to remove his blindfold)* Are you hurt, young man?

Edmond Monsieur, I— I don't know what to say. Thank you.

Albert I had planned to leave for France a day early, but now I am glad I did not.

Edmond France? If you are near Paris, Monsieur, you must visit me and my parents! They will want to thank you in person for saving my life!

Luigi I would be honored to meet your parents. You are?

Albert Albert Mondego. My father is the Count Fernand Mondego.

Edmond May I offer you my carriage to your hotel? Give my driver your parents' address, and I will send word when I shall be in Paris.

Luigi You will not ride with me, Monsieur?

Edmond I should inform the authorities of what transpired here tonight. Go ahead, Albert, the carriage is just around that corner. *(Points offstage)* I would trust my driver, Jacopo, with my life.
(Albert exits)

Edmond Luigi? Are you hurt?

Luigi *(Laughs)* No, my friend. Help me up! Everyone up! Come on, you cowardly dogs! Back to life! The ruse worked?
(Edmond helps Luigi to his feet as the rest of the smugglers get up laughing and congratulating each other)

Edmond Yes, thank you, Monsieur Vampa. Here is the money we agreed on for a farce well played!
(Edmond throws Luigi a purse full of gold coins)

Luigi *(Laughs)* Let me know if you want us to kidnap anyone else, Dantes!
(Edmond exits)

SONG: “THE VAMPA” (Reprise)

Smugglers

They call him “Kind-hearted Vampa”
 Always helps a friend in need
 Whether it’s smugglin’ or kidnappin’
 He will always do the deed
 And if by chance you want to pay him
 When the scrawny pris’ner’s freed
 You up to tip him five more lire
 There is nothing wrong with greed

SCENE 3: MONDEGO’S MANSION IN PARIS (THE DINNER PARTY)

(The home of Fernand, Mercedes, and Albert is filled with guests. Albert waits impatiently with his parents for The Count of Monte Cristo to arrive at this party they are holding in his honor. Villefort and Danglars are also at the party. A Servant enters and announces a new arrival)

Servant The Count of Monte Cristo!
(Edmond enters, and Albert runs toward him. Fernand follows at a slower pace. Mercedes stays far off and watches clearly overcome with emotion)

Albert Finally, you have arrived! Everyone is waiting for the guest of honor! *(Shouts)* Father! Mother!

Fernand Calm down, Albert, no need to shout.

Albert Father, I have the honor of presenting to you the Count of Monte Cristo.

Fernand Welcome, Monsieur. I am eternally grateful for the service you have rendered my son. *(Offers his hand for Edmond to shake)*

Edmond *(Without moving a muscle)* Pardon me if I don’t take your hand. I seem to have injured it to some degree in the fight.

Fernand *(Retracting his hand)* You suffer still for my son’s sake? Monsieur, how will I ever express my gratitude? *(Noticing Mercedes is not with them)* Ah, Mercedes, there you are! Why are you standing so far off? Come and meet the man who saved your son!
(Mercedes begins to approach them slowly. She recognizes Edmond, but pretends she does not)

Albert Are you ill, mother?

Mercedes No, I am just— overcome by emotion— on seeing the man who allowed my son to return to me safely. From the bottom of my heart I bless you, monsieur.

Edmond *(Pauses and speaks with difficulty, stumbling over his words)* You are too generous. Saving your son was only a simple deed of humanity. Anyone would have done the same in my place.

Fernand Do not weigh yourself short. I think it is very fortunate for my son that he found such a friend.

Mercedes *(Slowly and with great emotion)* Very fortunate.

Fernand Please, if I may introduce you, Count, to some of our friends. *(Calls to Danglars)* Baron! *(When Danglars approaches, he continues)* Meet The Count of Monte Cristo.

Edmond Baron Danglars and I have already met. Yesterday, I invested some money in his bank.

Danglars Some, monsieur? Six million francs is quite a large amount!

Edmond Six million francs is a trifling amount! Why, I carry that much with me in my pocket book! — Oh, no offense to you, Baron, nor your bank.

Danglars Oh, no! Of course not! I am entirely at your service!
(Villefort approaches, interrupting, he is carrying a wine goblet)

Villefort May I cut in? I have been anxious to meet the man who takes justice in to his own hands so easily!

Fernand Count, this is Gerard de Villefort, the chief magistrate of Paris and the King’s Attorney.

Edmond Justice takes many forms, Monsieur de Villefort.

Villefort Truly, it does indeed. *(Turning and speaking to the other party guests)* Come! A toast to the Count of Monte Cristo. Savior of Albert, protector of the innocent, and Avenging Angel!
(The party guests react: Here, here!, To the Count of Monte Cristo!, Cheers!, To Albert’s rescuer!)

Edmond *(Aside)* Avenging Angel? You have no idea.
Villefort *(Good naturedly)* What was that Count?
Edmond Thank you, you have no idea how much I appreciate your kind words.
(A waltz begins to play, and the guests begin to take partners for the dance)
Albert Come, Count! You must choose a partner for the waltz!
Edmond I am not fond of dancing. In Italy we—
Albert In France, you will insult us if you don't dance. I insist!
Edmond I am afraid I would embarrass myself. I do not know any French dances.
Albert Mother, why don't you introduce the Count to the French waltz. I'm sure he wouldn't be embarrassed dancing with you.
Mercedes No, Albert, don't pressure the Count to—
Fernand Don't be shy on my account, my dear. *(Pointedly)* You've never needed my permission before, and it's not like you would dance with me anyway.
Mercedes But you never ask me to dance.
Edmond I would be honored to receive the Countess's generous hospitality. *(Edmond bows, takes Mercedes hand, and leads her to the middle of the dance floor)*
(The following dialogue occurs during the dance)

SONG: “LOST LOVE” (“Serenade” Reprise)

(During the instrumental interlude, the party guests waltz in the middle of the room. Mercedes and the Count dance at center stage)

(Edmond and Mercedes dance for a moment in silence)

Mercedes You seem to follow our French waltz rather well, Count. Are you sure you've never danced it before?
Edmond Never.
Mercedes Albert says you live in Italy?
Edmond I travel a great deal.
Mercedes The letter you sent Albert piqued my interest considerably. You are a unique man, Count of Monte Cristo. So, you have seen much, traveled far... and suffered deeply?
Edmond I have suffered deeply, Countess, but I did not write that in my letter.
Mercedes Perhaps I was thinking of someone else. You are alone? Unmarried? No father, no sister, no son?
Edmond I have no one.
(Singing resumes)
 Long ago I knew the love of a young maiden
 Then ill-fortune and the war took me away
 She had pledged to me her faithfulness,
 Her heart for all her life
 But when I returned, my love
 Had become another's wife...

Mercedes And you love her still, this young girl?— Did you ever see her again?

Edmond *(Pauses)* Never.

Mercedes Did you forgive her?

(Jacopo enters yelling, disturbing the party guests)

Jacopo Monsieur Count! Monsieur Count!

Edmond *(Annoyed, hushing him)* Yes, Jacopo?

Jacopo Oh, sorry— The matter we were discussing... I have the information you wanted.

Edmond *(To Mercedes)* I am afraid business calls me away. Thank you for your generous hospitality, Countess.

Mercedes May God go with you, Count of Monte Cristo.

(Edmond takes Jacopo aside.)

Edmond Are all the pawns positioned?

Jacopo What? ... Oh! yes, Monsieur Count. The plan is being carried out as we speak.

Edmond Tonight I begin my revenge— with Danglars.

(Edmond and Jacopo exit)

(The party guests begin to exit. Fernand bids farewell to the guests as they leave. Danglars is one of the last guests to leave and is immediately followed by a man dressed as a party guest who is actually one of Luigi's smugglers. Mercedes walks to center stage absorbed in her own thoughts; Albert approaches her)

Albert Mother? You have not been yourself tonight. Is something wrong?
Mercedes No, Albert, but the heat is stifling in here isn't it?
Albert *(Concerned)* I hadn't really noticed...
Mercedes Albert, how has this... Count of Monte Cristo... been treating you?
Albert He saved my life!
Mercedes That may be true, but sometimes men of affluence may have another agenda...
Albert Are you worrying again, Mother? And about the Count? He may be mysterious, but that doesn't mean you should think the worst about him. For what possible reason would he hide anything from us?
Mercedes *(Asking herself the question, knowing full well the Count is Edmond)* Yes, for what possible reason....
(Danglars re-enters, walking in front of the stage. Luigi and the smugglers emerge from the curtains, grab Danglars, and drag him off as he utters muffled protests)
Danglars Who are all of you? What are you doing! Someone help! Help!

SCENE 4: DANGLARS' CELL (DANGLARS IS IMPRISONED)

(Danglars is imprisoned in a cell similar to the one occupied by Edmond. Luigi sits outside the door eating an apple. An ink pot and quill sit on the floor)

Danglars You can't keep me in a cage like some animal! I demand to know what is going on!
Luigi Don't you know?
Danglars If you were bandits, you would have taken my money.
Luigi That is logical, monsieur.
Danglars Why am I here?
Luigi How should I know? I am just your caretaker, Luigi— *(Realizing he just revealed his identity)* of course, that is not my real name....
Danglars Caretaker?
Luigi Yes, monsieur. Are you hungry?
Danglars Starving!
Luigi What would you like to eat?
Danglars What I wouldn't give for a chicken leg.
Luigi Excellent choice. But you will have to pay us for any food you consume.
Danglars Very well. There is 20 francs.
Luigi 100,000 francs, monsieur.
Danglars 100,000 what?
Luigi If you would rather not eat....
Danglars How much for a crust of bread?
Luigi 100,000 francs.
Danglars You are bandits! Do you expect me to carry that kind of money with me!
Luigi *(Luigi takes a piece of paper from his pocket and slides the quill and ink toward Danglars)* If you sign a draft slip for us, we can take it directly from your bank account. Sign here.
Danglars No, you're crazy!
Luigi *(Takes a huge bite of the apple and speaks with his mouth full)* Alright, I'll come back tomorrow. *(Luigi begins to exit, and Danglars panics)*
Danglars Fine, take your money! *(Signs the paper)* How can this be happening to me?

SCENE 5: THE COUNT'S MANSION IN PARIS (SUSPICIONS AND PLANS)

(Jacopo enters into a room in Edmond's mansion. Edmond waits for him)
Edmond Come in, Jacopo. What did you find?
Jacopo Here is the police report. *(Hands Edmond a piece of paper)* Your suggested bribe allowed me to procure it quite easily.