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## THE THREE GUARDSMEN

BY ALEXANDRE DUMAS

"The four-de-his is small, red in color."

"Yes."

"I will see her, D'Artagnan."

"Beware, Athos, beware! You endeavored to kill her. She is a woman to return you the like and not to fail, I promise you."

"My dear friend, of what consequence is it if she kills me?" said Athos.

"Do you, per chance, think I set any great store by life?"

"There is something horribly mysterious under all this, Athos. This woman is one of the cardinal's spies. I am sure of that."

"In that case take care of yourself. If the cardinal does not hold you in high admiration for the affair of London he entertains a great hatred for you. If you go out, do not go out alone. Mistrust, in short, everything."

"Fortunately," said D'Artagnan, "all this will be only necessary till after tomorrow evening, for when once with the army we shall have, I hope, only men to dread."

"In the meantime," said Athos, "I renounce my plan of seduction, and whenever you go I will go with you. You must return to the Rue des Fosseux. I will accompany you. All this will not advance your equipment, but fortunately you have the sapphire."

"The sapphire is yours, my dear Athos. Did you not tell me it was a family jewel?"

"I take back the ring after it has passed through the hands of that infamous creature! Never! That ring is defiled, D'Artagnan."

"Pledge it then. You can borrow at least a thousand crowns on it. With that sum you can extricate yourself from your present difficulties, and when you are full of money again you can redeem it and take it back cleansed from its ancient stains, as it will have passed through the hands of sinners."

Athos smiled.

"Agreed. Let us pledge the ring, but upon one condition."

"What is that?"

"That these shall be 1000 crowns for you and 500 crowns for me."

"Don't think of such a thing, Athos. I don't want the half of such a sum. I am still only in the guards, and by selling my sapphire I shall get it. What do I want? A horse for Planchet, that's all. Besides, you forget that I have my leg like this."

"To which you attach more value than I do to mine; at least I have thought it seemed so."

"Yes, for in any extreme circumstance it might not only extricate us from some great embarrassment, but even a great danger. To be not only a valuable diamond, it is an enchanted talisman."

When Athos was about to go out with D'Artagnan, he made Guimard the sign of a person taking an aim, and the lackey immediately took down his musketoon and got ready to follow his master's orders.

They arrived without accident at the Rue des Fosseux. Bonacieux was standing at the door. He cast one of his ill-meaning, bantering looks at D'Artagnan as he passed him.

"Make haste, my dear lodger," said he. "There is a very pretty girl waiting for you upstairs. You know, women don't like to be made to wait."

Upon the landing leading to his chamber and crouching against the door he found Kitty, all in a tremble. As soon as she perceived him:

"You promised to protect me; you promised to save me from her anger," said she, remembering it was you who ruined me."

"Yes, yes, to be sure, Kitty," said D'Artagnan. "Be at ease, my girl. But what happened after my departure?"

"How can I tell," said Kitty. "I thought she would remember it was through my chamber you had come into here and that then she would suppose I was your accomplice, so I took what little money I had and the best of my things, and I got away as fast as I could. Place me in your province with some lady of your acquaintance."

"My dear little love, in my country the ladies do without chambermaids. But stop! I can manage your business for you. Planchet, go and find M. Aramis. Request him to come here directly. We have something very important to say to him. Kitty, did you ever hear talk of a young woman who was carried off one night?"

"There now! Oh, M. le Chevalier, do you love that woman still?"

"No, no; it is one of my friends who loves her—M. Athos; this gentleman here. You understand, my dear girl, she is the wife of that frightful leech, you saw at the door as you came in."

"Oh, you remind me of my fright! If he should have known me again!"

"Whist! Kitty, you forget! Did you ever see that man before?"

"He came twice to-morrow about fifteen or eighteen days ago, and yesterday evening he came again."

"My dear Athos, we are enveloped in a network of spies! Do you believe he knew you again, Kitty?"

"I galled down my hood as soon as I saw him, but perhaps it was too late."

At that moment Aramis arrived. The man who all explained to him, and the friends gave him to understand that among all his high connections he must find a place for Kitty.

"Monsieur de Bois-Troy asked me, for one of her friends who resides in the province, I believe, for a trustworthy person to be chosen."

He placed himself at the table and wrote a little note which he sealed with a ring and gave the billet to Kitty.

"And now, my dear girl," said D'Artagnan, "you know that it is not good for any of us to be here. Therefore let us separate. We shall meet again in better days, depend upon it."

And he went to conduct Kitty downstairs.

An instant afterwards the three young men separated, agreeing to meet again at 4 o'clock at Athos' residence, and leaving Planchet to guard the house.

Aramis returned home and Athos and D'Artagnan went about pledging the sapphire.

As the Gascon had foreseen, they found no difficulty in obtaining 300 pistoles upon the ring. Still further, the jeweler told them that if they would sell it to him, as it would make a magnificent pendant for earrings, he would give 500 pistoles for it.

Athos and D'Artagnan, with the activity of two connoisseurs, hardly required three hours to purchase the entire equipment of the musketeer.

But when Aramis' horse and equipment and those of Grimard were purchased Athos had not a sou left; of his 150 pistoles. D'Artagnan offered his friend a part of his share, which he should return when convenient.

But Athos only replied to his proposal by shrugging his shoulders.

"How much did the jeweler say he would give for the sapphire if he purchased it?" said Athos.

"Five hundred pistoles."

"That is to say, 200 more—100 pistoles for you and 100 pistoles for me. Well, now, that would be a real fortune to me, my friend. Go and tell him the ring is his, D'Artagnan, and bring back the 200 pistoles with you."

"Half an hour afterward D'Artagnan returned with the 2000 livres and without having met with any accident. It was thus Athos found at home resources which he did not expect."

At 4 o'clock the four friends were all assembled at Athos' apartments. Suddenly Planchet entered, bringing two letters for D'Artagnan. The one was a little billet, genially folded, with a pretty seal in green wax, which was impressed a dove bearing a green branch.

The other was a large square epistle, resplendent with the terrible arms of his eminence the cardinal duke.

At the sight of the little letter the heart of D'Artagnan bounded for joy. He believed he had seen that writing before, and, although he had seen that writing but once, the memory of it remained at the bottom of his heart.

"Be," said the letter, "on Thursday next at 7 o'clock in the evening on the steps of the Chateau and look carefully into the carriages that pass, but, above all, have any consideration for your own life or that of those who love you, do not speak a single word, do not make a movement which may lead any one to believe you have recognized her who last night saved you from a certain danger."

No signature.

"Don't go," said Athos. "Between 6 and 7 o'clock the road of Chailloit is quite deserted. It is a snare."

"But suppose we all go," said D'Artagnan.

"You won't devour us all with your four lackeys, horses, arms and all?"

"But if it is a woman that writes, said Aramis, 'and that woman desires not to be seen remember you compromise her, D'Artagnan, which is not to be having like a gentleman.'"

"You will remain in the background, and I will advance alone."

"To be sure," said Athos.

"As you please," said Aramis.

"Gentlemen," said D'Artagnan, "it is half past six, and we have scarcely time to be on the road of Chailloit by 6."

"But this second letter," said Athos. "You forget that."

"Well," said D'Artagnan, "let us see together what are his eminent commands," and he unsealed the letter and read:

M. D'Artagnan of the King's guards, company Desaix, is expected at the Palais Cardinal this evening at 8 o'clock. LA ROCHEFOUCAULT, Captain of the Guards.

"Whew!" said Athos. "Here's a reputation much more serious than the other."

"I will go to the second after attending the first," said D'Artagnan. "One is for 7 o'clock and the other for 8; there will be time for both."

"Yes. But the Bastille?" said Aramis.

"Bah! You will get me out if they put me here," said D'Artagnan.

"And Porthos, with admirable promptness and decision, as if that were the simplest thing in the world.

"Let us do better than that," said Athos. "Do not let us leave him during the whole evening. Let each of us wait at a gate of the palace with a musketeer to make him wait. If we see any carriage with closed windows and at all suspicious appearance come out, let us fall upon it. It is a long time since we have had a skirmish with the guards of M. le Cardinal. M. de Treville must be our dead."

"Admirable!" said the young men in chorus.

"Well," said Porthos, "I will run to the hotel and engage our comrades to hold themselves in readiness by 8 o'clock, the rendezvous the Place du Palais Cardinal. In the meantime you see that the lackeys saddle the horses."

A quarter of an hour afterward Porthos appeared at the end of the Rue Fosseux, mounted upon a very hand some horse, the gift of Mme. Coquard. Mousqueton followed him upon an Auvergne horse, small, but very good looking. Porthos was resplendent with joy and pride.

At the same time Aramis made his appearance at the other end of the street upon a superb English charger; Basin followed him upon a roan.

The two musketeers met at the gate, Athos and D'Artagnan watching their approach from the window.

D'Artagnan and Athos came down, got into their saddles and all four set forward—Athos upon a horse he owed to a woman, Aramis on a horse he owed to his mistress, Porthos on a horse he owed to the lawyer's wife and D'Artagnan on a horse which he had purchased and the best mistress possessed. The lackeys followed.

A short hallop brought them to the road of Chailloit; the day began to decline, carriages were passing and re-

passing. D'Artagnan, keeping at some distance from his friends, darted a searching glance into every carriage that appeared, but saw no face with which he was acquainted.

At length, after waiting a quarter of an hour and just as twilight was beginning to thicken, a carriage appeared coming at a quick pace on the road of Sevrès. A presentiment instantly seized D'Artagnan that this carriage contained the person who had appointed the rendezvous; the young man was himself astonished to find his heart beat so violently. Almost instantly a female head was put out at the window, with two fingers placed upon her mouth, either to enjoin silence or to send him a kiss. D'Artagnan uttered a slight cry of joy. This woman, or, rather, this apparition, for the carriage passed with the rapidity of a vision, was Mme. Bonacieux.

By an involuntary movement and in spite of the injunction given D'Artagnan he put his horse into a gallop and his few strides overtook the carriage, but the window was close shut; the vision had disappeared.

D'Artagnan then remembered the injunction. "If you value your own life or that of those who love you remain motionless and as if you had seen nothing."

He stopped, therefore, trembling, not for himself, but for the poor woman who had evidently exposed herself to great danger by appointing this rendezvous.

The carriage pursued its way, still going at a great pace, till it dashed into Paris and disappeared.

They reached the Rue St. Honore, and in the Place du Palais Cardinal they found the twelve convoked musketeers walking about in expectation of the arrival of the young man. There only they made them acquainted with the matter in question.

Athos divided them into three groups, assumed the command of one, gave the second to Aramis and the third to Porthos, and then each group went and took a position for watching near the entrance of the city.

D'Artagnan on his part entered at the front gate.

"If De Wardes has related all our affair to the cardinal, which is not to be doubted, and if he has recognized me, which is probable, I may consider myself as being a condemned man."

But why has he waited till now? Humph! That's all plain enough. Mladly has laid his complaint against me with that hypocritical grief which renders her so interesting, and this evening she will have the cup overflowing. D'Artagnan, my friend, you brave, you are prudent, you have excellent qualities, but the women will ruin you."

In this waiting room were five or six of the cardinal's guards, who recognized D'Artagnan, and, knowing that he was a condemned man, they looked upon him with a smile of singular meaning. This smile appeared to D'Artagnan to be of bad augury.

The usher returned and made a sign to D'Artagnan to follow him. It appeared to the young man that the guards on seeing him depart whispered among themselves.

He followed a corridor, crossed a grand saloon, entered a library and found himself in the presence of a man seated at a desk and writing.

The usher introduced him and, regarding him as speaking a word, D'Artagnan remained standing and examined the man. It was the cardinal.

## SOME GOOD ADVICE.

Intended For the Farmer, but of Use to the Merchant.

A man of considerable experience in retail routes suggests the following series of don'ts for guidance of readers:

Don't retail your goods at wholesale prices and kick the grocer if he does not pay you retail price.

Don't have a different price for each customer.

Don't have your customers make your prices. Be sure you are right, then go ahead.

Don't buy cold storage eggs and sell them for freshly laid eggs. It is an insult to honest farmers.

Don't sell fifty-five pounds for a sixty pound barrel of small apples in the bottom of the barrel.

Don't overestimate the quality of your goods.

Don't forget that "here a little and there a little" is the gross profit in the end.

Don't forget that a steady keep at it will win.

Don't talk politics or religion.

Don't sell a fowl for a chicken. It will pay best to reverse the order.

Don't talk about the last customer you called on at the next stopping place.

Don't try to make people believe you know what they want better than they do.

Don't forget, rain or shine, circus or town meeting, to be on hand on your regular trips.

Don't try to sell overcoats in July and line coats in December. Sell seasonable goods at seasonable times.

Don't forget to say "No" to a doubtful customer.

Don't be afraid to turn your basket of berries bottom side up.

Don't forget to sell No. 1 goods at top market prices.

Don't forget a bargain counter has its demerits. If you have any admit it and pass on.

Don't forget to suit your trade, and they will pay for it.

Don't forget common sense people.

Don't wear your heart on your sleeve. If you have a hankering to meet keep it to yourself.

Don't forget to smile on entering the house and don't forget to keep your place as a salesman.

Don't forget to make friends with all your customers.—Orange Judd Farmer.



WOODROW WILSON  
Scholar and Statesman, Democratic Candidate for President.

## HON. WILLIAM J. BRYAN:

"Governor Wilson's speech of acceptance is admirable. It is original in its treatment of the issues of the campaign. I am sure the address will impress the country favorably."

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"Governor Wilson's speech of acceptance is a masterpiece, setting forth with great clearness his conception of the work to be accomplished by the Democratic party under his leadership. It is in complete harmony with the progressive sentiment of the country, but also appeals strongly to every legitimate business interest."

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"I think it was an admirable speech. It was wise, conservative, comprehensive, prophetic not only of Democratic success but of Democratic supremacy, for years to come."

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"It was an admirable presentation of the real issues upon which the campaign will be fought this fall. I think that it is bound to strengthen Governor Wilson among the thinking people of the country."

## GOV. GEO. W. DONAGHEY, ARKANSAS:

"It was a great speech. It will ring through the country. It is just what he should have said. The people have never felt more confident of success since the first nomination of Grover Cleveland."

## JUDGE MARTIN J. WADE, IOWA:

"For the first time since the state was admitted to the Union, Iowa will this year give its electoral vote to the Democratic nominee for President."

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"Governor Wilson's speech fits the occasion and the man; progressive but not wild; sane, strong and unmistakably Democratic. It makes an inspiring opening of the campaign, indicating clearly and nobly the spirit in which the leaders of our regenerated Democratic party must work; not one of mere partisan make-believe, but of honesty and justice toward all men."

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"Considered from a literary standpoint Governor Wilson's speech of acceptance will take high rank in the political output of the year. It will make pleasant reading, and, therefore, will prove a fetching campaign document. He discusses the issues of the day philosophically, clearly and forcibly. His courteous tone will ally opposition and win him friends. It is an admirable pronouncement."

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## NEW YORK "SUN":

"Governor Wilson's speech of acceptance has good luck as well as merit. It comes just in time to contrast sharply with the inextinguishable Bedlamite rant of Th. Dentatus Africanus Ferox. And, if without contempt of campus it may be said, though written by a college president, very recently retired, it is in the English language, not anemic and seldom with suspicion of priggishness or donnishness, though it has an air, a certain academic distinction of its own. What will please everybody who has a living to make is Governor Wilson's scintilla of reform in tone. Governor Wilson is for repair, not for destruction."

## NEW YORK "TIMES":

"It is applicable. The dominant thought, the very soul of his discourse, is the common interest of all the people, their partnership in our activities and our prosperity. The partnership idea comes from his mind, not as a sublimated political theory, but as a practical, immediate remedy."

## NEW YORK "WORLD":

"Governor Wilson's speech of acceptance is the ablest, clearest, sanest statement of high public purpose this country has known in a generation. Without passion, without invective, without abuse, without partisan bitterness, without denunciation, without dogmatism, without demagoguery, he has driven straight to the heart of the supreme issue of American institutions—the partnership between Government and Privilege."

## JOHN E. LAMB, EX-REPRESENTATIVE FROM INDIANA:

"Speech is discreet, able, safe and sane. Governor Wilson believes in the efficacy of the scalpel rather than the big stick. His dissection of trust and tariff evils is unique and convincing. His suggestions of reform in methods of government and reduction of tariff schedules will meet with approval of legitimate business and the laboring masses as well."

## HOKE SMITH, SENATOR FROM GEORGIA:

"I am delighted with Governor Wilson's speech of acceptance. It is a superb statement of the present purpose of the Democracy and points the way for justice to all through real progress by law, under the Constitution. With his election assured, it should give confidence to honest business and new courage to those who need a square deal."

## JOHN F. FITZGERALD, MAYOR OF BOSTON:

"Governor Wilson's acceptance is characteristic of the man. He lays his soul bare to the people and asks them to join with him, irrespective of party, in righting present wrongs without undue clamor or injury to legitimate interests. He lays emphasis on constructive thinking and I believe this epitomizes one of the nation's greatest needs at the present time. It will be President Wilson overwhelmingly in November."

## Ambitious young men and ladies should learn telegraphy,

for, since the new 8-hour law became effective there is a shortage of many thousand telegraphers. Positions pay from \$50 to \$70 a month to beginners. The Telegraph Institute of Columbia, S. C. and five other cities is operated under supervision of R. R. Officials and all students are placed when qualified. Write them for particulars.

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