



The Last Cavalier: Being the Adventures of Count Sainte-Hermine in the Age of Napoleon

Alexandre Dumas , Lauren Yoder (Translator)

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Selected as a Top Ten Book of the Year by The Washington Post: the newly discovered last novel by the author of The Three Musketeers. Rousing, big, spirited, its action sweeping across oceans and continents, its hero gloriously indomitable, the last novel of Alexandre Dumas—lost for 125 years in the archives of the National Library in Paris—completes the oeuvre that Dumas imagined at the outset of his literary career.

Indeed, the story of France from the Renaissance to the nineteenth century, as Dumas vibrantly retold it in his numerous enormously popular novels, has long been absent one vital, richly historical era: the Age of Napoleon. But no longer. Now, dynamically, in a tale of family honor and undying vengeance, of high adventure and heroic derring-do, The Last Cavalier fills that gap.

The Last Cavalier: Being the Adventures of Count Sainte-Hermine in the Age of Napoleon Details

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From Reader Review The Last Cavalier: Being the Adventures of Count Sainte-Hermine in the Age of Napoleon for online ebook

Dorene says

Heartbreaking ending, as the novel was unfinished by Dumas before he died.

All of the romantic elements are there, and the voyage is one of Dumas' greatest as you walk along side with Napoleon, Nelson, into the raw jungles of Burma, and wait ever patiently for true love to be validated as was fore told by the fortune teller - yet it is not, we are left hanging.

The Count Sainte-Hermine embodies all of the heroic elements that makes Dumas' men so grand and larger than life. He reinforces the humble, beautiful, eloquent man to whom honor and integrity are the code to which one binds his life.

Swooning.

Dorene

Misfit says

A Dumas novel no one new existed! What a find this must have been, to discover an unknown work of Dumas hidden away in the Library of Paris. As the novel opens, it is the dawn of the 19th century and Napoleon rules as First Consul, not yet having been crowned Emperor, and the Royalist forces are still battling to restore the crown. Our hero, Hector, the Count Sainte-Hermine has seen his father and two older brothers nobly die for the Royalist cause. During a brief truce, Hector hopes to set all battles aside and declares for his true love, Claire de Sourdis. However, just before the marriage contract is signed, Hector is called back to the Royalist forces and is eventually imprisoned (and forgotten) for three years. When he is remembered and released, Hector is stripped of his title and must serve in either army or navy as a mere enlisted man, an insult for one of his class.

Hector signs on as a Corsair instead of the regular Navy and the adventure begins. Bereft of his lost love and his family fallen before him, Hector's only wish is to live life to the fullest and if he must, to die as nobly as his father and brothers did. Problem is, no matter how hard he tries, he never succeeds. Thus begins battles at sea, a fight to the death with a shark, hunting tigers and crocodiles and a close call with a python, as Hector carries off every situation with dignity, charm and élan. If this book hadn't been unknown until two years ago, I'd swear that Hector was the model for our present day super heroes. Swooning female? Out come the smelling salts and more from his bat-belt! It was so over the top and campy at times, but jolly good fun.

No, I'm not giving away the whole story -- actually the first half of the book has very little to do with Hector and very much to do with Napoleon at the start of his reign -- those who read the book jacket and expect it all to be about Hector and his heroics will be sorely disappointed. There is much politics, intrigue and battles about Europe. About half way through Hector comes back into the story and things cooked along for most of the rest of the book until the last 100 pages or so and then dragged down again. I'm not huge on battle scenes, so those were slow for me also, particularly the intricate details of the battle of Trafalgar. I confess to skipping a few pages there.

Readers should be advised that this recently discovered novel was never finished, and we'll never know where he planned to take the story in the end. There are many chapters of what appear to be needless characters, history and scenes, but not knowing how Dumas planned to complete the story, how are we to judge? I recall reading *The Count of Monte Cristo* (Penguin Classics) and so many chapters that went off into another direction until the end where he pulled all the threads together in the end, and perhaps that is what Dumas planned with *The Last Cavalier* as well. We'll never know.

Frances says

I've enjoyed all the other Dumas novels I've read so far, and this was no exception. I couldn't put it down and read it in three days! The characters are wonderful; the men are honourable and the women are feminine (things we've almost lost in today's culture), and it was an inspiring read. There was a sense of respect and honour even between enemies, and it was refreshing to see them do the right thing even if it meant personal loss.

Dumas adds a lot of historical background information about the people and places he describes, which I found very interesting, but some people want to skip those chapters. Overall, it was a wonderful and exciting book that I'd highly recommend to anyone.

DROPPING OUT says

The discovery of this "lost" final novel by Alexandre Dumas (pere) certainly had to be the literary find of the year, if not the decade, and maybe the 20th century.

Dumas, who wrote voluminously, wrote his novel serially, that is, in installments, being paid by the line. He cleverly had written into his contracts, that he reserved the right to edit those installments into individual novels, which were best-sellers in their day.

Dumas died, however, before his final novel was finished, and hence, never being edited and published separately, was forgotten. Dumas was by the time of his death past his prime and the French reading public tended to more modern styles and themes.

Claude Schoop, the preeminent Dumas scholar, (re-)discovered this final novel in 1990, spending the next dozen or so years reconstructing the episodes through published installments, drafts, and letters.

This sprawling novel is incomplete and certainly hardly the best or most memorable of Dumas' works.

The publisher that agreed to publish the work in 2005 only printed 2,000 copies, thinking it would only be a curiosity. But it became a literary sensation, with 60,000 printed, marking an unexpected revival in interest in Dumas in France.

Ckw538 says

Dumas is one of my favorite authors. And this novel is one of his bests. Too bad it is unfinished. The biggest problem is a hack of a Dumas expert tried to finish it. Other than that its a great story taking you from revolutionary France to the jungles of India. A great novel, and there is not much more to add to that.

Jaime says

I love Dumas books. Lots of history with engaging fictional characters woven in to bring the stories to life. I would say that Sainte-Hermine is a blend of d'Artagnan and Edmund Dantes. I was sad to discover that Dumas did not finish writing this book, but was very glad that he wrote a letter (which is included in the front of the book) that quickly tells what his intentions for the end of the book were. If you do not want to spoil the ending, wait to read the letter until after you have finished reading the book.

I give this book 4 out of 5 because of a couple of parts that are all history and get a little long and boring. While you learn a lot from them, they take you away from the story for too long at one time, in my opinion. Overall, though, it was a good read.

Melissa says

Dumas does it again, taking a story fantastic all on its own and giving it that extra umph with its mixture of historical back round and settings. Dumas is my favorite author for many reasons, one being the author of my favorite book *The Count of Monte Cristo* and another being his complex plots and set ups involving many characters. Despite being his largest book *The Last Cavalier* is engrossing and exciting. *The worst thing about this book is it is unfinished, however if you pick up on some of Dumas' foreshadowing you can predict how the story might have been continued if Dumas had not died before its completion. Wonderful story, especially if you are a big fan of Dumas.*

Malachi Antal says

the count of Monte Cristo o, the Three Musketeers, nyet . writer\ghostwriter discuss Napoleonic era so obviously missing feather in cap of Dumas . lionize Corsican ruined his father, entire family & himself, took better man to pen his enemy .

from hurried carriage ride chance encounter with Napoléon Bonaparte following Waterloo sets high adventure . spoiler alert isn't galley slave rubbish .. yet, le Comte de sainte-Hermine earns spurs in novel .

encore prison setting like the count of Monte Cristo . yet, however, the Last Cavalier is lacking the Eyetie sidekick fellow convict camaraderie . Pierre seconded to René on American sloop is closest cigar .
<http://imgur.com/cwgHCEE>

worthwhile nineteenth-century read formerly lost in serialization . French Revolution the Grande Dame of revolutions is time entire family could conceivably guillotined like la Maresaille bloodthirsty French national anthem mentions on 'impure blood .'

bomb throwers à la Georges Caudal faction foreshadowing nihilists whacking Czar Alexander II, terroristic Black Hand useful idiots .

women very forgiving of protagonist such as Lourdis & Jane .

proving himself to old salty dog by lifting --pounders cannonballs in St. Malo is impressive . Fouché underrated antihero .

<http://imgur.com/fx1JV0f>

battle of Trafalgar highlights is written realistic since anonymous rifleman whacked Horatio Nelson, the Englishman kept progressively losing parts of his body in service The Admiralty . nice Marshal Marat cameo and, Alexandre Dumas' criminality fascination also mentioned in C.of M.

Shahab says

Entertaining historical novel, detailing the everyday life in Napoleonic era. I gained an appreciation for the french history.

Jeanette says

This is one of those books that when you first pick it up...it's so heavy you may drop it. Knowing what a great author Dumas was after reading The Count of Monte Cristo I knew that I wouldn't be disappointed. There are so many characters in this spun novel that you would think you would get lost in all the details....but it couldn't be any further from the truth. These characters were so real & so awesome that I simply didn't want the story to end. When I turned to the last page I was so disappointed that I had nothing else to read. By far one of my favorite books. Dumas is amazing and there are very few authors that compare. I'm off to read The Three Musketeers.

Jenni says

UGH! Last great novel this is not. This is billed as the adventures of the Count Sainte-Hermine, yet of the first 275 pages we have probably 10 pages TOTAL that deal with the Count Sainte-Hermine's story. There is SO much back story and SO many tangents that any hope of a plot has long since crumbled. The point where he's describing a random guy's adventures in the wilderness of America in a novel set in Napoleonic France was when I threw in the towel. I'm pretty sure it picks up the plot of Sainte-Hermine at the beginning of Part II, but that's not until page 343... and I just can't you guys... I just can't.

So as much as I love Dumas and I have thoroughly enjoyed his other works... this one is just not happening for me. Maybe I'll reread Count of Monte Cristo to make myself feel better.

Gerald Sinstadt says

A lost masterpiece? Not for me. The frequent disruption to narrative thrust noted by another reviewer eventually became too much - I gave up on page 421. Dumas' strengths are undeniably there but payment by quantity undermines him. When Napoleon goes to hear a performance of The Creation, most of a page is given to a biography of Haydn; when St Hermine arrives in St Malo, a whole chapter relates the port's history; when his ship arrives at Mauritius, the narrative stalls again for another chapter of history. And St Hermine himself disappears from the story for well over a hundred pages. This is not The Count of Monte Cristo

or The Three Musketeers rediscovered. What Dumas needed was not a generous paymaster but a ruthless editor.

Giorgi says

it should be more interesting or i should read it more interestingly

K.M. Weiland says

The historical half, about Napoleon, was fascinating, but the fictional hero's sad perfection suffered drastically in contrast with the dynamic and decidedly flawed Napoleon.

KurdishBookworm says

Awesome! I wanna read it again.the longer version of course. In the future. Maybe
