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The Forty-Five Guardsmen (Illustrated Edition)



Synopsis

The Forty-five guards were recruited by the Jean Louis de Nogaret de La Valette, Duke of Nemours to provide Henry III of France with trusted protection in the midst of the War of the Three Henrys. The Forty-five were noblemen of lesser nobility (many from Gascony) with little more than a horse, a sword, and a few acres to live on. In the king's service, they were paid a lavish wage (by their standards). In return, 15 of them were to be on duty, day or night, ready at the king's call. After the Catholic League revolt in Paris, King Henry III was forced to flee to Blois, there, he staged a coup, regaining control of the Estates-General by employing the Forty-five to kill Henry I, Duke of Guise when he came to meet the king at the Châteaux de Blois on 23 December 1588, and his brother, Louis II, Cardinal of Guise, the following day.

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Customer Reviews

I agree with the review of TK below, but as for the ending leaving the reader "hanging", I know exactly what has happened. If one buys the Fredonia edition of the book, it comes in two volumes. For whatever reason, when searching the site and calling up the book, only volume one appears. It is possible to find volume two by typing in the ISBN number: 1589631714. After reading volume two,

all those loose ends are tied up quite nicely and it makes it a very rewarding reading experience. The whole series of books in Dumas's Valois series: Queen Margot (Margaret de Valois), Chicot the Jester, and the two volumes of The Forty-Five Guardsmen are a wonderful story and deserve more attention.

Yes, I am absolutely crazy about 16th century French history. And Dumas has a whole series for this era. Though "La Dame de Montsoreau" is my favorite of the series, the Forty-Five does not lack young, handsome and rich gentlemen and beautiful and graceful ladies, not to mention the private lifestyle (humorous I found) of the King Henri III and his brother the duc d'Alençon. It was overall just captivating, I felt like I was reliving this time period. Again, I suggest you read the whole series, especially since this is the last book in the series. But I prefer this 'Valois' series to the 'D'Artagnan' or 'Marie-Antoinette' etc. series... It's more fascinating for me. The only thing is, that the end leaves a little something to be desired. I don't know if Dumas meant to write a fourth book in the series, cuz he seems to leave a few things hanging. But if you can ignore that, the rest of the plot is great!

While this is to my knowledge a work of complete fiction, it reads like someone took a history book and used it for an outline to write the most enjoyable piece of fiction I have read in a while. Very nicely done.

This was great stuff! I am a huge Dumas fan and was excited to find something by him that I was completely unaware of previously! Lots of great twists and turns. Terrific characters and way too many of them lol! It made me want to bone up on my French history and the structure of royal hierarchy. Some many French names and titles, I don't know that I've ever enjoyed confusion so much! Loved it!

It was really thrilling to read the story of the beginning of the King's musketeers. Excellent translation, wonderful action and characters, Dumas did it again. highly recommended.

He is the greatest adventure story teller of all time. He even let's me like French literature! If you like Dumas, check this out

The book is keep reading if You start. Adventure and action at few century back at France. I read

most every book from Alexandre Dumas.

Great storyline and characters. Many plots , villains, pawns and hero's. I learned a lot about warfare on the middle ages.

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