



**SAMPLE SCRIPT PAGES**

**Act I, Scene 3 - The Examination**

***Office of the Deputy Prosecutor (same evening)***

(Dantes is brought in by two guards, stripped to the waist, searched and seated. Villefort enters reading a letter.)

Villefort               Who and what are you?

Dantes                 My name is Edmond Dantes. I am first mate of the Pharaon, belonging to Messrs. Morrel & Son.

Villefort               Your age?

Dantes                 Nineteen.

Villefort               And what is the meaning of this cross on your shoulder?

(Dantes has a tattoo of a Caravaca Cross  on his arm.)

Dantes                 It is the cross of El Circulo de Cristo. I am a member of the third order.

Villefort               El Circulo de Cristo is a Spanish order. How did you come to be a member?

Dantes                 There are many Spanish priests in France, Monsieur.

Villefort               True. You say you are a man of faith, and yet you are brought to me, why?

Dantes                 I know not.

Villefort               Go on.

Dantes                 What would you have me say?

Villefort               It is reported your political opinions are extreme.

Dantes                 My political opinions! Alas, sir, I have no opinions. The only opinion I know is that beyond my vow, I love my mother, I respect Monsieur Morrel, and I adore Mercedes. This, sir, is all I can tell you.

Villefort               Sir, have you any enemies, at least, that you know.

Dantes                 None that I am aware.

Villefort            You seem a worthy young man. Here, I will show you the paper denouncing you; do you know the writing?

Dantes                I am sorry sir, but I cannot read.

Villefort            You are denounced as a bonapartist and a traitor. Is there truth to this accusation?

Dantes                No, sir. I swear by my faith, my honor as a sailor, by my love for Mercedes, and by the life of my mother, it is not true. I will tell you everything that transpired.

Villefort            Go on.

Dantes                When we left Naples, Captain de Leclere was dying. He called me to him. "My dear Dantes, swear to perform what I am going to tell you. Sail and disembark at the Island of Elba. Take this letter, and deliver it to the grand-marshal. In response, he may give you another letter, and charge you with delivering it. Do as he says, my dear Dantes." The following day he died.

Villefort            And what did you do then?

Dantes                I followed the good Captain's instructions. When we arrived at Elba, I ordered all to remain on board, and went ashore alone. After explaining my errand, I was instantly admitted and questioned as to the Captain's death. As I was forewarned, I was given a letter to carry on to a person in Paris. Had I not been arrested, I would have made way there tomorrow, after marrying my Mercedes.

Villefort            If you have been guilty, it was naiveté and this imprudence was in obedience to the orders of your captain. Do you have this letter with you?

Dantes                Yes, sir.

Villefort            Give it to me, and then you may rejoin your friends.

Dantes                I am to be free, then, sir?

Villefort            Yes; but first give me the letter.

(Dantes gives him the letter, then begins to leave.)

Stop a moment. To whom is the letter addressed?

Dantes                To Monsieur Nortier, Rue Coq-Heron, Paris.

Villefort           Nortier?

Dantes             Yes, do you know him?

Villefort           No, a faithful servant of the king does not know conspirators. Have you shown this letter to any one?

Dantes             To no one, on my honor.

Villefort           Is there anyone who knows that you are the bearer of this letter?

Dantes             No one, except the person who gave it to me.

Villefort           (softly) And that was too much, far too much.

Dantes             What is the matter?

Villefort           Sir, I am no longer able, as I had hoped, to restore you immediately to liberty. I must detain you some time longer, but I will strive to make it as short as possible. The principal charge against you is this letter. And as you can see, I destroy it.

(Villefort burns the letter.)

Dantes             Oh, you are goodness itself.

Villefort           Should any one else interrogate you, say to him what you have said to me, but do not breathe a word of this letter.

Dantes             I promise.

Villefort           You see, it is destroyed; you and I alone know of its existence; deny all knowledge of it - deny it boldly, and you are saved.

Dantes             I will deny it.

(Villefort rings. Villefort's Lieutenant enters. Villefort whispers some words in his ear, to which the he replies by a motion of his head.)

Villefort           Follow him.

(Dantes and the agent exit.)

Alas, alas.

(Danglars enters)

Danglars            Indeed, if the Prosecutor himself had been at Marseilles you should have been ruined. This accursed letter would have destroyed all of your hopes.

Villefort            So, how did you know?

Danglars            How did I know that your father, de Nortier was the letter's intended? That will remain forever secret, framed in detail in my journal - along with your efforts to jail a perfectly innocent man. I have no doubt Dantes will often wonder at this meeting, for as long as he can survive its resulting cruelty.

Villefort            Now that you have saved me from certain shame, what do you want?!

Danglars            Ah, we have yet to think of all the benefits.

Villefort            We?

(Fernand enters)

Fernand            Yes, you see someone has to do the dirty work.

Danglars            (laughs) And I thought you were a "*burro*". You have restored my faith in the Spanish.

Villefort            Ah, the deliverer of the note. Well, before you believe this is all one-sided, your roles in this conspiracy are punishable by death. I need but call the guards...

Danglars            Ah, you already know that will not serve you, and I believe we have mutual interests.

Villefort            How so?

Danglars            I believe I can help you keep your family secret and find an appropriate way for you to compensate us for our troubles.

Villefort            I'm listening.

Danglars            We have our eye on a small shipping business here in Marseilles. Morrel & Sons. Do you know the good sir?

Villefort            Morrel is Bonapart sympathizer.

Danglars Yes, another traitor. A man in your position could help ensure that his company assets are not wasted, and put to good use. I believe there is great potential for such a venture.

Villefort I see. And I am to...?

Danglars ...to watch our backs, so to speak. I assure you it's worth the cost.

Villefort Not quite. You see it will cost a great deal more to earn my trust. For instance, helping me get rid of this family problem will be a good start.

Fernand You mean, kill him?

Danglars (to Fernand) Hold your tongue!

Villefort That will provide some confidence that I'm working with men of means. With that done, my trust will require an ongoing investment as an equal partner of this shipping enterprise. I assure you, it's worth the cost.

Danglars I believe we can come to some equitable arrangement, Monsieur de Villefort (looking at Fernand). Shall we share a glass to seal our partnership? (He pours each a glass) A pact -- one that unites us in prosperity or ruin. Which shall we drink to?

Villefort I have no taste for ruin.

Fernand I am sick of poverty.

Danglars Indeed. Then we are agreed – to our health and prosperity. Long may it last.

**{Song: Devil's Pact}**

Danglars *A pact made this day,*

Danglars & Fernand *The devil will preside,*

All *Three men drawn together,  
Our secret to confide.*

*A match made in blood,  
On each other we rely.  
We drink to each other,  
Our secret till we die.*

Fernand *In time we will bask in luxury,*

Danglars *From this union born of necessity,*

Danglars & Fernand *Riches, power, comfort, control,*

Villefort *And the cost, just one poor soul.*

All *A pact made this day  
The Devil to preside  
A pact from this day till death*

*When we think upon this hour,  
As many years depart,  
We will toast this fateful day,  
In mem'ry of the start.*

*A pact made this day,  
Will follow us till death.  
A pact made this day,*

Danglars (spoken) We drink to our success.

(They drink. Lights fade)

**Scene 4- The Chateau D'If - the Arrival/Pleading for Dantes' release  
A prison cell and the Office of the Deputy Prosecutor (the next day)**

(Dantes arrives at the prison and is immediately thrown in with the general prison population in the courtyard.)

**{Song: I Have Never Done Anything Wrong}**

Dantes *I have never done anything wrong  
Accused of a crime I could never commit  
And yet I am here in the prison of the damned!*

Prisoners (mocking) *I have never done anything wrong  
Innocent as the day I was born  
I deserve better treatment  
I am innocent too.*

Dantes *I have never done anything wrong  
I swear it is true*

Prisoner #1 *I swear it is true*

Prisoner #2                    *I'm more innocent then you*  
Prisoner #3                    *I'm the innocent one*

Dantes                         *But I haven't done what they said I have done*

Prisoners                      *I haven't done what they said I have done*  
                                      *I have never done anything wrong*

Dantes                         *A word with the Gov'nor is all it will take*

Prisoner #4                    *I've been waiting ten years,*

Prisoners                      *It will be any day.*

Prisoner #5                    *Is there hope for me?*  
                                      *Twenty-two years I rot in this place.*  
                                      *There is no God*

Prisoner #4                    *There is no God*  
Prisoner #3                    *There is no God*

Prisoners                      *At least, not in this place!*

Dantes                         *They'll find out I'm innocent,*  
                                      *They'll get me released.*  
                                      *I'm not like you,*  
                                      *My soul is at peace.*

(Through the following, Dantes is grabbed by two jailers and escorted to his cell, one is carrying a whip. After arriving at his cell, he is stripped of his shirt, his arms roped up.

Prisoner #2                    *There is nothing but despair,*  
                                      *Death, cold and faceless.*  
                                      *They give you a rag,*  
                                      *To hang yourself with.*

(In Villerfort's office. Morrel and Mercedes are pleading with Villefort as lights come up. Fernand is also present.)

Morrel (to Villefort)            *He's never done anything wrong,*  
    *I'm afraid you have made a mistake.*  
    *Monsieur, I entreat you,*  
    *He is an innocent man.*

Mercedes (to Villefort)	Dantes
<i>Where is he?</i>	<i>I have never done anything wrong!</i>
<i>My heart betrothed today?</i>	<i>I have never done anything wrong!</i>

Mercedes (to Villefort)                      Dantes

*Please release  
The one I love, I pray  
My hope  
That he'll return to me  
Please send him back to me  
I beg you, please.*

*He is my love                                      They'll find a way  
He is my heart                                    They'll set me free  
He is my soul                                    Lord save my soul.  
He is my soul*

(Music changes. During the following, Dantes is unchained and collapses to the cell floor.)

Villefort (spoken)                      Madam, I perform my duties impartially,  
I approach each judgment cautiously.  
A man can be kind and trustworthy,  
And betray his king irrevocably.

Morrel (spoken)                      I'm aware of that, sir.

Villefort (spoken)                      The charges were justifiable,  
And the evidence undeniable.  
His sentence was read,

(The music stops momentarily)

Edmond Dantes is dead.

(A GONG sounds. The music continues as the following is spoken)

Mercedes (spoken)                      Dead? No. (she begins to weep)

Fernand (spoken)                      Come, Mercedes.

(There is one last look from Morrel and they all exit. Fernand helps Mercedes out. Lights go down on Villefort's office. Lights come up as Dantes is unchained and left in his cell. The following is sung.)

Dantes                                      *I have never done anything wrong.*

Prisoners                                    *He's as innocent as the day he was born.  
A taste of the cord,  
Ten lashes his reward.  
He has never done anything wrong*



Dantes *But I swear!*

Prisoner #1 *He swears it is true*  
 Prisoner #2 *He swears it is true*  
 Prisoner #3 *He's innocent too*

Prisoners *He more than you*

Dantes (spoken) *I haven't done what they say I have done!*

(Lights fade on prison cell. Lights come up on Camille's bed. Camille is dying. Mercedes is kneeling at her side. Fernand is standing at a distance.)

**{Song: Camille's Vision/Mercedes Lament}**

Camille *Where is he?  
 My dear son, born today?  
 Small, sweet child,  
 In my arms you lay.*

*Sleeping sound,  
 Feet and arms so small,  
 Yet, he's not here at all  
 Where can he be?*

Mercedes (spoken) Quiet, Mother.

Camille (spoken) He is my son.

Mercedes (spoken) Sweet mother.

Camille (spoken) He is my one and only child!

Mercedes (spoken) No mother, he's gone!

Camille (spoken) No, he lives!

Mercedes (spoken) No, he was taken from us. They...

Camille (spoken) Small, sweet child, in the dark.  
 Hurt, frightened and forlorn  
 Pray my daughter that you can cope.  
 Pray that you never lose hope....

(Camille dies.)

Mercedes *Quiet now, sweet mother,*

*You need no longer fear,  
Your child is now there with you,  
Safe, secure and near.*

*To Heaven, he has lead you,  
Together you both shall be,  
A least you have each other,  
I'm left alone to grieve.*

*God in Heaven,  
I need an answer to my prayer  
Why'd you take him?  
The one whose life I was meant to share  
He was for me,  
How selfish can you be?  
To take my love from me?*

*God in Heaven,  
I need an answer to my prayer  
Why'd you take him?  
The one whose heart I was meant to share  
How can this be?  
For he belongs to me.  
How cruel can your plan be?*

*Help me now, sweet mother  
For I can no longer pray  
For I have but a weak desire to live  
Love, blessed and kind,  
Please pray, that I find  
A reason to forgive.*

Fernand

*Dear sweet cousin,  
I'm the answer to your prayer.  
Strong and patient,  
Just one left, just one to care.  
Faithful and true,  
Who else can help you through?  
I'm here, I'm here for you.*

Mercedes

*Quiet now, sweet mother,  
Rest for eternity,  
For I am grim, dark and lost,  
No hope is left for me.*

(Mercedes embraces Fernand as music continues. Mercedes stops and looks back at Camille. Then Fernand and Mercedes exits as lights fade.)