



## Chicot the Jester

*Alexandre Dumas*

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Con las intrigas políticas y los enfrentamientos de la nobleza francesa durante la segunda mitad del siglo XVI como telón de fondo, Dumas desgrana la historia de amor del señor de Bussy y Diana de Meridor en un relato lleno de aventuras y acción que traza un sorprendente fresco del reinado del último de los Valois.

## Chicot the Jester Details

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## From Reader Review Chicot the Jester for online ebook

### Janez says

When I was younger, I remember watching a French TV series La Dame de Monsoreau. It was, like any other French TV series from the 1970's (humph). However, the book is so much more richer in details, that it beats the TV series on the whole scale.

Dumas and his co-worker had a very vivid imagination when it comes to the two main characters. The noble, courageous and chevaleresque comte de Bussy differs very much from his historic representation. And Diane de Meridor-Monsoreau is, let's face it, very fade. I was really drawn to the character of the jester, Chicot, and to that of Gorenflot. Chicot, funny, cynnical, noble, philosophical, protective and compassionate-what is not to like in him? And Gorenflot, the debauched monk, who likes nothing better than a good meal? He reminds me of certain personae from Francois Rabelais' Gargantua and Pantagruel.

I highly recommend La Dame de Monsoreau to anyone who likes romance, political intrigues, mysteries, humour and a tad of philosophy!!!

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### Djrmel says

One too many intrigues for me, I'm afraid. I know that's what Dumas does best, but when the scheming overtakes the characters, I'm out. I did like this version of Henry III, though, and might have hung in there longer if he played a larger part throughout the first 1/3 of the book.

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### Michael Partyka says

Overall, this was a very enjoyable read. In some ways I liked it more than La Reine Margot, while at other times it was a bit tedious. For being the namesake of the book, I find Diane's charcter to be a little underdeveloped. The scenes with Chicot and Gorenflot are quite amusing and provide comic relief throughout the story.

I read the original French version available at [gutenberg.org](http://gutenberg.org).

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### Luis Celhay says

Es la continuación de "La Reina Margarita" ("La Reine Margot") y todo la novela gira en torno a Diana, su odiado esposo (el conde de Monserau) y dos viejos conocidos: Bussy y el duque de Anjou. Enrique de Navarra aparece de forma esporádica y aleatoria a lo largo de la novela y la tuercas flojas de Margarita no forma parte de la acción, pero hay dos nuevos personajes que le dan vida a toda la historia. El primero es Chicot (un D'Artagnan transmutado en un pérfido bufón que también es gascón) y el segundo un fraile tragón y borracho llamado Gorenfolt.

La novela, como la mayoría de las de Dumas, es larga como la cuaresma, toma un tanto inmersarse en ella y al final uno detesta el haberla terminado por puro miedo a nunca volver a leer algo similar. Y sin afan de querer arruinarles el libro tengo que decir que yo también odio a Monserau, extraño al bueno y leal de Remigio y ¡Bussyyy... !

La historia continúa en "Los cuarenta y cinco".

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### **Jose Moa says**

Some day fall in my hands this novel and only a little late i knew that is the continuation of La Reina Margot,it is mainly located in Paris in 1578.

Awesome novel of adventures, intrigues,murders ,history, and as a subplot a imposible and tragic love between La Dama de Monserau and Bussy Dambroise who in the end is ambushed and killed.

Is followed by the novel Los Cuarenta y Cinco

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### **Stuart Lutzenhiser says**

Great book. 2nd in the series of the Henrys after Queen Margot. It tells of a noble man who is in love with Diana of Meridor who is loved by the King's huntschief who..... well, you can see where it gets complicated. There is a plot to unseat the King. I really loved this book although it would have been easier to keep the characters straight if I knew the history better.

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### **Helen Azar says**

I don't know how this one slipped through the cracks for me until recently but now it is one of my favorite Dumas novels, definitely up there with The Three Musketeers!

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### **Hotaru says**

La peste soit de cette préface et de ces notes de bas de page !!

Si vous avez comme moi la version folio classique préfacée par Janine Garrisson et que vous avez envie de conserver un minimum de suspense dans votre lecture, NE LES LISEZ PAS ! La préface commence sournoisement par une explication fort utile du contexte historique de l'époque (mes connaissances sur le contexte politique de la France en 1578 étaient un peu poussiéreuses). Puis, ayant endormi la méfiance du lecteur naïf, Janine enchaîne sans transition sur l'analyse du roman en lui-même, en précisant tout de go de quelle manière finit l'histoire... Les notes de bas de page (qui sont répertoriées à la fin du livre de 1000 pages et forcent à des allers-retours fort peu commodes) sont du même acabit. Mention spéciale pour une note de bas de page placée au début d'un duel sous haute tension, qui précise cette information indispensable pour le lecteur : "Dumas anticipe d'un an la mort de X, qui n'interviendra qu'en 1579". A s'arracher les cheveux !!

Sur le fond du roman, malgré la longueur, on retrouve la facilité de lecture et le rythme enlevé des romans d'aventure de Dumas, qui combine complots politiques, duels à morts entre valeureux, histoires d'amours et de jalousies... J'ai eu cependant beaucoup de mal avec le personnage principal, sans défaut, sans peur et sans reproche. L'auteur était tellement dithyrambique que j'avais l'impression de lire du Bob Morane. Un jeu à boire obligeant à vider un shot à chaque mention "du beau, du brave Bussy" aurait rendu l'assistance ivre morte avant le chapitre 3. C'était l'esprit des romans de cape et d'épée de l'époque j'imagine, mais j'ai trop grincé des dents à la lecture pour accorder une 4e étoile.



### **Cristina says**

I loved this books and I loved Chicot!

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### **Chris Purser says**

Very good. Can't wait to read the next volume in the series.

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### **Kakha says**

Impossibly great book. Dame Diane de Meridor, legendary Louis de Bussy d'Amboise, great Chicot and a beautiful love story with incredible action narrated by the matchless author. What else a good reader want?

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### **Krasimira Stoykova says**

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### **Dangermousie says**

If I had to pick the book that shaped my childhood, this would be it. Oh God, this was such a childhood favorite of mine.

Political intrigues, tragic lovers (I bawled so much at the end that it could have been legitimately labeled hysterics), a deliciously tongue-in-cheek sense of humor, and plots-within-plots. Still so very good, after all these years.

Diana, our heroine, is not that interesting, I confess (her best friend Jeanne is about twenty times more exciting and awesome), but the rest - the pragmatic, irreverent Chicot, who genuinely loves his weak King, Henri III (a fascinating character in his own right), the various Guises, the villanous Duke d'Anjou, the irrepressible and crushworthy St Luc and Jeanne, the gluttonous monk friend of Chicot, the sinister Monsoreau, and of course, the hot-tempered, proud, and passionate Bussy, Diana's lover and my ultimate childhood crush (I shudder to think how Dumas influenced my real-life preferences in men).

In fact, I am probably going to go reread it right now!

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### **Roman Clodia says**

A sequel of sorts to La Reine Margot, this is another classic romantic adventure set against the political infighting between Henri III and his brother Duc d'Anjou, as well as the religious wars that raged in C16th France, spearheaded here by the dashing Henri de Guise, Le Balafre.

Structurally, this is very similar to Margot: we have two young and handsome men, and a fraught love triangle between the heroic Bussy d'Amboise, Diana de Monsoreau and her villainous husband. With duels and imprisonment, last-minute escapes and disguises, conspiracies and betrayals, this is fast-paced and entertaining reading. Dumas is an expert at the cliff-hanging chapter end and employs the technique consistently to keep the pages flying.

Readers unsure about the politics of C16th France may need to do a bit of Googling to get the politics and personages straight, especially as Dumas draws so closely on real history. The drawback, of course, is that we know who's going to die and when... (view spoiler)

So this doesn't quite have the sublime drama of Margot, or the political complexity of the later Musketeers books, but Dumas marshals the tropes and figures of romantic adventure very well.

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### Ahmad Sharabiani says

La Dame de Monsoreau = Chicot the Jester (The Last Valois, #2), Alexandre Dumas

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### Gracie says

if you are going to read one dumas in your life, this is the one.

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### Denis says

Reading a novel by Alexandre Dumas is always a treat: it brings back the kind of joy of reading that I experienced as a kid, and it immerses me into the convoluted, but deeply entertaining, world of French history I grew up with. Dumas has a way of bringing History alive that nobody can really match - even if he sometimes twists real events to make them fit what his imagination prefers. This book is massive (close to 1000 pages), complex, and in some ways more old-fashioned than The Three Musketeers and The Count of Monte Cristo. There are myriads of things happening here (which I guess can be a bit disconcerting for some readers) and Dumas definitely takes his time installing the story and moving it forward. But what a story! What fascinating heroes (most of them have existed) ! Dumas is not afraid of melodrama, and he knows how to make it work superbly - he's also incredibly gifted at describing all the plots that heated up the King's court during the reign of the Valois, and he cleverly uses them to construct a highly suspenseful and elaborate historical saga. What's most surprising, maybe, is Dumas' wonderful sense of humor and wit, which are especially evident in some of the dialogues and in the character of Chicot, the court jester, a wonderfully charismatic character. The last chapters, filled with tragedy, are much more moving than one

would have expected. No wonders this novel was one of Dumas' greatest successes.

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### **Stephen says**

After reading the Count of Monte Cristo and the Three Musketeers series, I did not think I would ever read another Dumas book that ranked so highly. Chicot the Jester (also published as La Dame de Monsoreau) proved me wrong. The character of Chicot is impossible not to love, he is both a warrior and comedian, making jokes at his opponents dispense as he runs his sword through them. Even the King is fair game for Chicot. The unique thing about this book is that there are actually two protagonists in the story and several antagonists, giving the reader plenty of emotions toward the different characters. This is the second book in the series known as the Valois romances, the first being La Reine Margot and the final being The Forty-Five Guardsman. The entire series is excellent.

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