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THE THREE MUSKETEERS

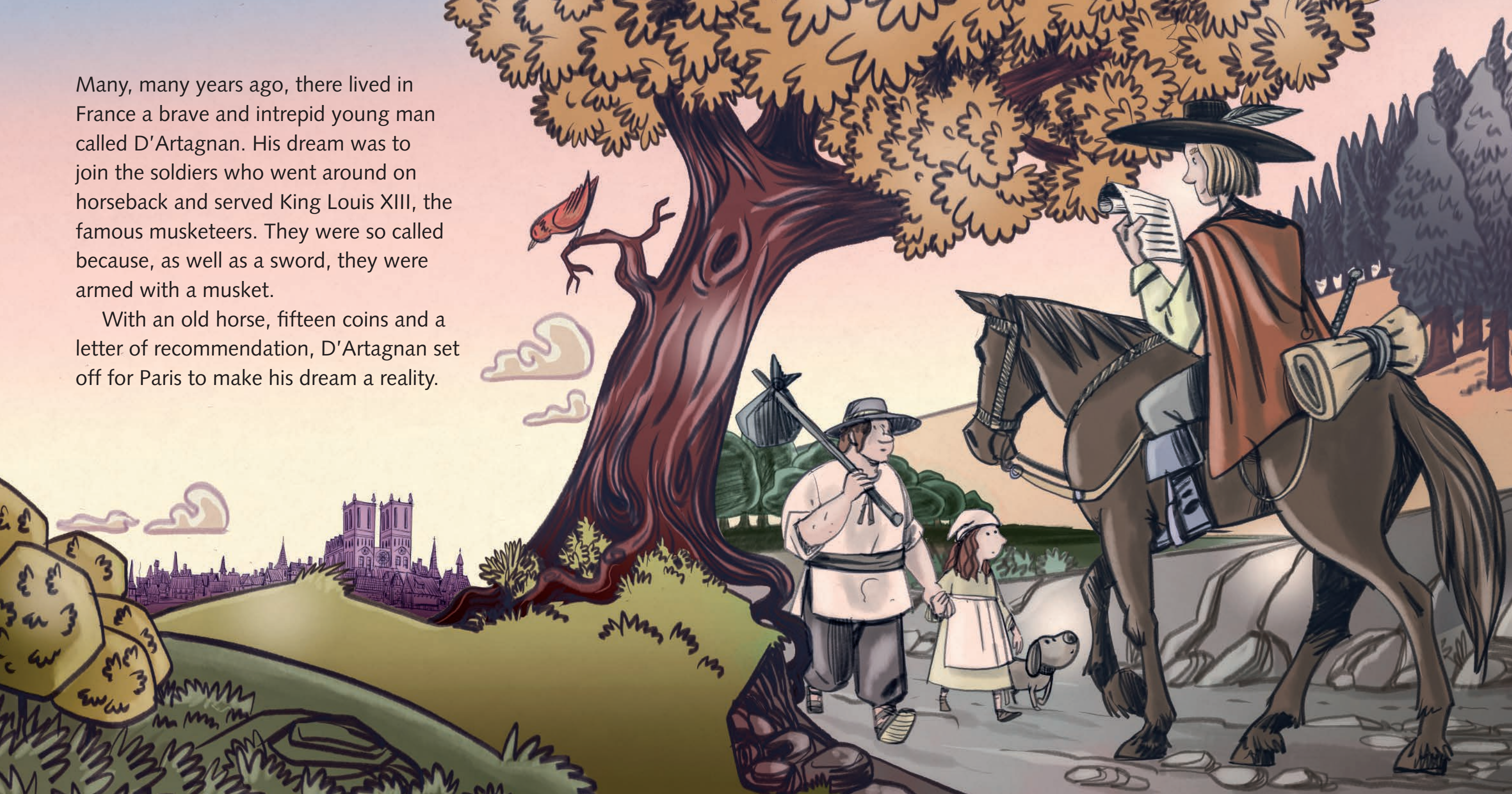
ALEXANDRE DUMAS



Adapted by Irene Rodrigo • Drawings by Agustín Comotto

Many, many years ago, there lived in France a brave and intrepid young man called D'Artagnan. His dream was to join the soldiers who went around on horseback and served King Louis XIII, the famous musketeers. They were so called because, as well as a sword, they were armed with a musket.

With an old horse, fifteen coins and a letter of recommendation, D'Artagnan set off for Paris to make his dream a reality.



The day after arriving in Paris, D'Artagnan introduced himself to the captain of the company of musketeers.

"Since I was a young boy, I have only desired one thing: to be a king's musketeer," D'Artagnan proclaimed. "My father, an old friend of yours, has written me a letter of recommendation. Let me show you it."

D'Artagnan searched for the letter in his pockets. But he couldn't find it. He must have lost it on the way!

"Young man," said the captain, "to be a musketeer, you have a lot of training to do yet! Learn how to handle your horse and sword first, then come back in a few months."



D'Artagnan left the captain's office feeling very disappointed. On the way to his hostel, he came across a brawl between three of the king's musketeers and four of his great rival Cardinal Richelieu's guards.

Here's a chance to prove myself! thought D'Artagnan and, straight away, he joined the king's musketeers, who won the fight. Those three men, who were strong and friendly, were called Athos, Porthos and Aramis.

"All for one, and one for all!" exclaimed D'Artagnan and all four crossed their swords in a symbol of brotherhood.

