



The Club Dumas

By Arturo Perez-Reverte

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A provocative literary thriller that playfully pays tribute to classic tales of mystery and adventure

Lucas Corso is a book detective, a middle-aged mercenary hired to hunt down rare editions for wealthy and unscrupulous clients. When a well-known bibliophile is found dead, leaving behind part of the original manuscript of Alexandre Dumas's *The Three Musketeers*, Corso is brought in to authenticate the fragment. He is soon drawn into a swirling plot involving devil worship, occult practices, and swashbuckling derring-do among a cast of characters bearing a suspicious resemblance to those of Dumas's masterpiece. Aided by a mysterious beauty named for a Conan Doyle heroine, Corso travels from Madrid to Toledo to Paris on the killer's trail in this twisty intellectual romp through the book world.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Fallen angels, satanic manuals, and a passion for the works of Raphael Sabatini and Alexandre Dumas among others--this is the stuff of Spanish author Arturo Pérez-Reverte's engrossing novel *The Club Dumas*. Set in a world of antiquarian booksellers where dealers would gladly betray their own mothers to get their hands on a rare volume, *The Club Dumas* is a thinking person's thriller: in addition to a riveting plot, the book is full of intriguing details that range from the working habits of Alexandre Dumas to how one might go about forging a 17th-century text. Woven through these meditations is enough murder, sex, and the occult to keep both the hero, Lucas Corso, and the reader hopping.

As in his previous novel, *The Flanders Panel*, set in the world of art restoration, Mr. Pérez-Reverte has written a literary thriller to tease both the intellect and adrenaline gland. Lucas Corso makes a complex, ultimately sympathetic hero, and there's plenty to delight in the intricate twists and turns the story takes before the mystery of *The Club Dumas* is finally solved.

From Publishers Weekly

The hero of Spanish author Perez-Reverte's freewheeling, ambitious literary mystery is Lucas Corso, an itinerant rare-book hunter who'd gladly sell his grandmother for a first edition. When a wealthy cookbook publisher and bibliophile is found hanged in his study, leaving behind an original handwritten chapter from Alexandre Dumas's *The Three Musketeers*, antiquarian book dealer Flavio LaPorte asks his friend Corso to authenticate the manuscript. What begins as a straightforward assignment soon complicates into a bewildering tangle of literary gamesmanship as the book detective finds himself swept into a real-life adventure-serial and crime novel rolled into one. As the action shifts from Madrid to Portugal to Paris, the intrepid, bad-tempered, gin-swilling Corso encounters a host of intriguing characters, including devil worshippers, obsessed book collectors and a hypnotically appealing femme fatale. Suspense-filled and ingenious, Perez-Reverte's latest (after *The Flanders Panel*) is also something of a primer on the rare-book business and a witty meditation on the relationship between book lovers and the texts they adore. Rights: Howard Morhaim.

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From Library Journal

Perez-Reverte, who proved with *The Flanders Panel* (LJ 6/15/94) that art history and chess can mix to create suspense, is back with another literate mystery. Here the focus is on literature, particularly the world of antiquarian books, which proves much less stuffy than one might expect. Lucas Corso, a "mercenary of the book world [who hunted] down books for other people," gets more than he bargained for when he seeks to authenticate a manuscript of Chapter 42 of Alexandre Dumas's *The Three Musketeers*. The manuscript was purchased from Enrique Taillefer, a publisher subsequently found hanged, and it leads him on a search for the original of *The Book of the Nine Doors to the Kingdom of Darkness*, a work of the occult that was banned in the 17th century. So why is a man with a scar trying to kill Corso, and why is Taillefer's lubricious widow using her wiles to get back the Dumas chapter? This book takes a little longer to heat up than *The Flanders Panel*, possibly because the misanthropic Corso is not as attractive a protagonist as Flanders's heroine, but soon the chase is on?and it's as suspenseful as any mystery buff could want. The learned detail about early printing, the occult, and Dumas is just as stimulating. Highly recommended for readers who want their thrills a cut above the average. Barbara Hoffert, "Library Journal"

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Elnora Perry:

The book with title The Club Dumas has lot of information that you can understand it. You can get a lot of profit after read this book. This book exist new know-how the information that exist in this reserve represented the condition of the world at this point. That is important to you to be aware of how the improvement of the world. This kind of book will bring you with new era of the globalization. You can read the e-book with your smart phone, so you can read that anywhere you want.

Ray Shippee:

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