

ALL FOR ONE

Régime Diabolique

101 Adventure Seeds

1) A group of wealthy, bored, young nobles begin playing a game, pitting their inexperienced lovers in cruel social games of seduction and betrayal. More than a few young Musketeers become ensnared in their machinations, growing crueler, less reliable, and less vigorous with each passing week. Is something darker than base human greed and narcissism behind this change of character and health?

2) A famous noble duelist, infamous for his temper and respected for his skill, has announced that his birthday will be his retirement from such pursuits. He intends to present his prized, gem-encrusted dueling sword to a worthy successor, claiming, "It is the sword, not the man." To this end, he has invited any and all to his birthday celebrations, where they will duel each other for the chance to earn his sword and his tutelage. So entranced by the chance are the swordsmen of Paris that few pause to question his motives...

3) Two nights ago a fire took the life of a noted fencing master, his family, and destroyed most of the building in which he offered lessons and lodging to his students. Last night a second school burned taking the lives of the master, his lover, two prized young pupils, and several neighbors who tried to battle the blaze. This afternoon, Monsieur de Tréville, issued a warning as he so often does, against dueling, citing a rash of unclaimed corpses behind churches and other secluded spots. Is there a connection? Is someone hunting the best swordsmen in Paris?

4) The Musketeers are ordered to get hold of a messenger from Spain, who is suspected to carry papers for spies within the Louvre. They do indeed find him, but he's already dead, his corpse lying in his room, locked from the inside without a trace of his murderer save for a stiletto in his heart. They find the papers he transported hidden in his clothes. When they break the code, they learn who they should be handed to. In order to thwart the plot, one of them has to pose as the messenger and deliver the papers—but who, or what, killed the messenger, and will they also be after the hero?

5) A member of the Musketeers was horribly wounded last year, but has recovered admirably. Over the year he has become more cautious, trained harder, and seems torn by conflicting impulses of self-protection and the desire to prove himself the man he always believed he was. Few, if any, want to be assigned duty with the fellow for reasons of his mood and his bouts of foolish bravado. The characters are told in confidence by another Musketeer he has a curious addiction—always sipping at small vials, he wastes his whole salary on to procure from a dingy alchemist's shop. It is as though his very life depends on the murky fluid within.

6) Salaries are late again for the King's Musketeers with the potential for further delays ahead. Running low on funds and the largesse of those often entertained by their tales, many young members of the company seek to find solace and support in the arms of well-to-do patrons—a refuge also growing thin in this period of privation. Suddenly, the talk of

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the town is a new series of romances about a Musketeer and his many lovers...romances with too much truth to them and a protagonist whose description is too close for comfort. Every door is slamming shut for fear of scandal. Whose pen is poisoning a once sweet well?

7) A noble is found dead with a stake through his heart. The Musketeers are ordered to find his murderer. As they unearth some really nasty details about the deceased, another noble is found, a silver-tipped crossbow bolt embedded in his forehead. Paris' nobility fears a radical killer, but the Musketeers have another lead, one that's to do with a secret society of hunters—the Order of St. George.

8) The King's latest mistress has been poisoned. Was the assassination attempt meant for the King? Paris swarms with rumors—was it the Queen's Musketeers protecting Her Majesty's position at court? Richelieu's agents fearing the mistress' influence over the King? Are Milady and the Daughters of Medea seeking revenge? Or is it merely a jealous husband? The Musketeers must unravel the threads of a conspiracy that threatens the court and may lead to bloodshed in the streets of Paris.

9) An illegitimate child of George Villier's, Duke of Buckingham, seeks revenge for his father's assassination. Turning to the Black Arts, he discovers that Richelieu was behind the murder. Knowing the Cardinal is too lofty a target, the wizard plans harm to Queen Anne and her unborn offspring. The wizard has seduced a member of Anne's chamber (possibly one of her own Musketeers!) and will use her to get access to the Queen. The Musketeers must protect the Queen and the future king of France—possibly against the Queen's own servants!

10) Children go missing in the streets of Paris—few notice because most are urchins or the children of the poor. When the children of the wealthy begin to vanish, the authorities take notice. The Musketeers are tasked with the investigation. Evidence leads to the Catacombs of Paris. Is the School of Night preparing for a great sacrifice and summoning, or is something even more sinister happening beneath the streets of the city?

11) It started with street people suddenly acting as if possessed, hallucinating and experiencing dreams or nightmares made real. Now the rich in the salon set are acting the same way. Someone is selling a strange drug that is giving visions. The Musketeers are tasked with tracking down the source of this new scourge in Paris.

12) The Rosicrucians passed on information to the heroes that Richelieu has dispatched a team to recover a strange volume of herb lore, its knowledge encrypted in a secret code. Why would he send a specialized team to recover this item and what does it contain that might be dangerous to France?

13) Word has reached Cardinal Richelieu's ears of a manuscript written by two Venetian merchants, Nicolo and Antonio Zen, in the 14th century. It supposedly details a voyage to the Americas a century or so before Columbus set sail. The King, acting on Richelieu's advice, orders the Musketeers to locate and retrieve it so that he might present it to the King of Spain as a gift. Is this

simply a plot to discredit and embarrass the Spanish, or is the Cardinal more interested in what the map shows?

14) The Musketeers are ordered to escort an Ottoman diplomat while he is in Paris. Unfortunately, he is murdered and the shadow of guilt is cast upon the heroes by one of the diplomat's aides. Unless the Musketeers find the real killer and bring him to justice, France may find herself at war with the mighty Ottoman Empire and its fearsome Barbary Corsairs.

15) A mad nobleman has constructed a labyrinth filled with deadly traps beneath his chateau. No longer content to watch peasants die a horrible death, he seeks a more worthy prey—Musketeers. Lured to his home on a false errand, the heroes are soon placed in mortal peril.

16) A number of French ships have disappeared with all hands lost in calm weather. The King demands answers, and sends the Musketeers to investigate. While mariners talk of sea monsters and sea demons, the attacks are actually being committed by a Spanish submersible boat fitted with a large drill.

17) A young Musketeer and friend of the characters inherits a small castle from a distant relative. To celebrate his new wealth he throws a grand ball for his comrades. During the festivities, one of the characters accidentally stumbles across an old manuscript hidden behind a false wall. It tells how the young Musketeer's distant ancestor, a Knight Templar, unearthed a fabulous treasure in the Holy Land while on crusade. A later entry in a different hand states the treasure was hidden to prevent it falling into the wrong hands when the Templars were disbanded, and provides a cryptic clue—the first in a chain of clues. The next morning, the Musketeer is found dead in his bed, his face a mask of utter terror.

18) Four Musketeers have died in mysterious circumstances, and the heroes are tasked with solving the crimes. During their investigation, they learn their comrades were all recently charged with investigating a rural village where "strange events" had been reported. The last surviving member of the squad has since gone into hiding. As well as discovering who or what murdered their friends, the heroes must find the missing Musketeer before he too becomes a victim.

19) A French merchant recently returned from the Barbary Coast has suddenly become fabulously wealthy. Questions are being asked as to the source of his income, for all he returned with was an old brass lamp. Is he involved in criminal activity, as many suspect, or does his lamp hold a darker, ancient source of wealth?

20) France's early foray into the war ravaging Europe is an unmitigated disaster. Sensing the growing unrest may undo his nation, the King desires a focus for his army, and asks the Musketeers to locate the grave of the Carolingian hero Roland and retrieve his indestructible sword, Durendal.

According to the *Song of Roland*, a medieval work, the blade was brought to earth by an angel, and contains within its hilt a tooth of Saint Peter, a drop of Saint Basil's blood, a strand of hair of Saint Denis, and a piece of the raiment of the Virgin Mary. Alas, the Musketeers are not

the only people searching for the blade, for it supposedly has properties that make it especially deadly to demons and other unholy spirits.

21) A young woman of some beauty beseeches the Musketeers for help. Her father (an outspoken critic of the Hapsburgs) has been kidnapped and imprisoned by the Spanish authorities, and she seeks his rescue. She produces a startlingly large sum of money to buy the heroes' services. A month after his (hopeful) release, the man is found floating in the Seine, his throat slit from ear to ear. There is no sign of his daughter, and investigations reveal the man had no children. Who was the mysterious woman, why did she seek the man's release, and was she responsible for murdering him?

22) Returning from an adventure, the characters are shocked to hear that each of their homes or lodgings, no matter how remote, secret, or well-guarded, have burned to the ground in their absence (any Refuge Resources are unavailable for a few months while rebuilding commences). Undoubtedly the heroes have made some enemies, but who is behind the crimes, and what did they hope to achieve beyond angering the characters?

23) Partly eaten human remains are discovered in the streets of Paris. Talk of demons and werewolves is rife among the superstitious, while calmer heads speak of a mad dog, wolf, or even a dancing bear. The killer is in fact a merchant recently returned from New France (Canada). Trapped in a remote village over winter, he resorted to cannibalism to survive, and is now a wendigo.

24) Rumors abound the King desires to take up fencing. In order to earn his patronage, the various schools are hosting a grand competition in the fields outside Paris so as to display their skills and prove themselves the most worthy. The day before the King is set to attend the contest, which has rapidly turned into a major market and fair, a prominent duelist is found murdered. Carved into his flesh are mystic symbols.

Some whisper the fencer sold his soul to the Devil in return for his prowess with the blade, and payment was due. Others claim the duelist was a former inquisitor, and his death was revenge for his execution of an infamous magician many years ago. Either way, unless the matter is quickly solved, the King will not attend the event.

25) King Louis desires peace with the English so France may concentrate on the war in Europe. He dispatches a small band of Musketeers to carry letters to King Charles of England. Cardinal Richelieu has learned of the plot through his ever-watchful Hounds, and plans to intercept the letters and kill the messengers. Meanwhile, Carolingian assassins, dressed as King's Musketeers, race to the coast with orders to "silence" a prominent member of the English court who has been outspoken against France. Should they succeed, the Musketeers will be discredited and France faces a war on multiple fronts.

26) A last minute change of orders sends new recruits on an escort mission to Picardy to ensure the safe arrival of a royal messenger. Well-liked for their *esprit de corps*, their disappearance on the road is taken hard by more seasoned Musketeers. One horse returned to the stable,

blood in great quantity soaked into the saddle. Rumor at court suggests the messenger was carrying important orders and a large sum of money. Which were they killed for? The Cardinal's Guard are dispatched to investigate, but it is All for One, and One for All!

27) Our faithful troupe of Musketeers are framed for a crime they didn't commit and are incarcerated in Le Bastille. Who framed them and why? Only their lackeys can attempt to solve the mystery but will they be able to free their masters?

28) The Spanish have installed a pair of truly colossal cannons in a coastal fortress, El Varone, in the southern Spanish Netherlands. From their vantage point atop the cliffs, the cannons are capable at striking at French ships many leagues out to sea. A small band of Musketeers is hastily assembled to infiltrate the fortress and destroy the guns at all costs.

29) Rumors have reached the King that one of his colonies in New France is plagued by demons. Richelieu, sensing an excuse to get rid of the troublesome Musketeers, arranges for them to be sent overseas to deal with the matter. On their arrival, the heroes discover the settlement has been long abandoned. What became of the inhabitants, and what is the source of the troubles?

30) The characters are hired by the Comte de St. Germaine in a private capacity. He has arranged the purchase of a rare alchemical manuscript from a collector on the other side of the country. He desires the heroes to transport the sizeable payment, make the exchange, and return with the book. Other interested parties have no intention of paying for the manuscript, intending instead to waylay its custodians on the return journey.

31) A spate of duels has left a string of corpses across Paris. The combatants have all been vying for the attention of a young and attractive noblewoman. While she makes no demands of her would-be suitors, they seem strangely compelled to fight each other to the death in order to win her affections. When a friend of the heroes is defeated and slain in such a duel, the characters are unwittingly drawn to investigate.

32) While traveling across France, the characters thwart an assault on a merchant. His attackers are well-dressed and carry fine weapons, not the usual trademarks of common ruffians or highwaymen. The merchant explains he was kidnapped from an inn and taken to a clearing in the woods. There he found two loaded pistols, a rapier, and a letter informing him he would be hunted for the next seven days. That was yesterday evening. He offers the Musketeers a modest reward to safeguard him until the deadline expires. Les Chasseurs de l'Homme are on the hunt, and the Musketeers interference has just made them fair game for a hastily convened grand hunt. They are about to learn that a week can be a very long time when determined hunters are trying to kill you.

33) While visiting relatives or on a mission to the coast at La Rochelle, the Musketeers are asked to investigate several disappearances in the marshes around Olonne-sur-Mer. Could this just be a case of some local oyster farmer trying to kill off his competitors, or is there something

to the rumors of strange lights that lead people to their deaths in bogs and quicksand? Will the insular locals actually help with the investigation, or will the heroes just end up as fish food?

34) After a character casts a spell during an adventure he looks up from his location and sees an innocent bystander staring in shock and pointing a finger at him. It is someone he knows, a neighbor, a child of a friend, or a former comrade. Does he try to explain his actions, silence them by some means, or hope they do not report him to the Inquisition?

35) It's a hot summer in Paris, and almost all the nobility have fled to the country to leave the stench of the city behind. At the Château de Dampierre, Marie de Rohan-Montbazon, the Duchess Chevreuse, holds court in an endless series of balls. The Musketeers act as guards to get some *livres* in their pockets, as revelers turn up dead, floating in the canals of the Dampierre gardens. They must find the killer in the waters, while trying to keep the deaths a secret, before panic spreads.

36) The Musketeers are ordered to find and stop a troupe of saboteurs, coming from Spanish-Flanders and operating in Picardy. While following a trail of poisoned wells, burned livestock, and robbed supply wagons, they can't help themselves but to get the notion, that their adversaries are always one step ahead of them—as if miraculously knowing their plans beforehand...

37) A wolf is plaguing a small village in the middle of a particularly cold winter. M. de Tréville, orders the Musketeers to track down and kill the beast. As a fierce blizzard begins to rage, the intrepid heroes discover that not only is the killer a werewolf, but it is one of the villagers they are here to protect.

38) The French are now committed to fighting Spain and the Holy Roman Empire in the Thirty Years War. It's 1636 and the Spanish are now marching on France and will ravage the provinces of Champagne, Burgundy and Picardy before approaching Paris.

The Musketeers are sent on an important mission in to the heart of Spain and, possibly, the royal court itself, in order to make contact with a deep cover French spy who may have important tactical information. This may be the very information that enables Bernhard of Saxe-Weimar to repulse the Spanish forces before they manage to besiege Paris.

39) While traveling on a minor errand for M. de Tréville, the Musketeers come across a beautiful young girl being chased by an angry mob. The girl claims innocence, the mob claims she's a witch. Do the Musketeers stand down the angry mob, or do they let a beautiful lass go to a horrid death at the stake? There is, of course, the matter of the strange occurrences around her to be considered...

40) A series of thefts are confounding the authorities. In rob from the rich to give to the poor tradition, an unknown thief leaves his calling card inside the vaults of some of the wealthiest people in Paris. Despite elaborate and expensive precautions, seemingly impregnable vaults are being looted, and their contents given to the

poor. The Musketeers are given the task of uncovering the perpetrator.

41) Rumors in the south indicate that the Cathar Heresy of the Middle Ages has sprung up again amid the ruins of Montsegur. Is this a new Protestant faith? A plot of the Cardinal to stir up yet more sectarian hate? King Louis has asked his Musketeers to investigate before the cries of the nobles for a new Albigenian Crusade are answered by the Cardinal.

42) Cardinal Richelieu is attempting to renew the French Navy and it is imperative that France stay ahead of other European navies, especially England.

With the construction of La Couronne nearly completed Cardinal Richelieu, with the King's consent, orders the Musketeers to undergo a dangerous undercover operation in the heart of England and London. They are to acquire details and plans of the new English "super ship" under construction, HMS *Sovereign of the Seas*, at the Woolwich Dockyard near Greenwich.

43) HMS *Sussex* of England's Royal Navy is found drifting off of Dieppe. There is no crew onboard, food is on the table in the Officers' Mess ready to eat, the life boats are in place, the ship's papers and money are in the captain's lock box, and charts and navigational tools are in the wheel house. Three things of note: *Sussex* was carrying three French prisoners back to England; the ship's cat is found in the bilge absolutely terrified; and according to French spies, the *Sussex* was last reported in the Indian Ocean over a month ago.

44) French forces retreating from the Spanish advance have abandoned a fully stocked granary in their haste to reach safety. The Musketeers (along with a small detachment of regular soldiers) are ordered to sneak through enemy lines and destroy the granary before the Spanish liberate the supplies.

The decision has been made to place the heroes under the command a young (and totally incompetent) army officer, who just happens to be the son of an important court official. He is determined to prove his valor, and orders attacks against Spanish patrols at every opportunity, despite the mission calling for stealth against a vastly superior force. If he is killed in action, his father blames the Musketeers, and becomes a very powerful and motivated enemy.

45) While on a routine mission of little consequence the Musketeers discover an abandoned village. Evidence suggests the villagers simply upped and left, leaving meals uneaten and chores half done. A short while later, they discover another abandoned village. No matter where they spend the night (an inn or village is best), a strange, green mist begins to rise...

46) M. de Tréville summons the heroes to a secret meeting. He informs them that four months ago he was sent a pawn (the chess variety). He thought nothing of it, even when a peasant was discovered ritually slain on the last day of the month, his body carved with unholy sigils. The next month he received a rook, and a military officer was found similarly butchered as the month ended. A knight received two months ago resulted in a

slain chevalier, at which point he finally pieced together the pattern (he gets a lot of information during a month, and not every report regarding strange events reaches his ears). Last month he received a bishop. Not wishing to involve Richelieu, he secretly despatched several teams to protect prominent clergymen. They failed, and the team sent to guard the eventual victim was found horribly slain. Today he received a queen.

There can be only one possible victim, and the Musketeers have until the end of the month to track down the killer and foil his plans. M. de Tréville suggests there might be a link between the victims and Her Majesty, though cursory investigations have unearthed nothing.

47) It is late October and Spain has occupied the town of Corbie since August. The Musketeers join their regiment and the rest of the 50,000 French troops at the Siege of Corbie. They are given a secret mission to gain access to the library of Corbie Abbey and remove the *Church History of Hegesippus* before the Spanish realise what they have in their possession. Upon entering Corbie the Musketeers quickly deduce some major weaknesses in the Spanish defense. Now they have to decide whether they want to exploit the Spanish defenses and bring the siege to a quick end or protect the priceless works of Hegesippus; to attempt both may mean complete failure. Save thousands of French lives or incur the serious displeasure of Cardinal Richelieu for not obeying his orders and losing possession of one of the most valued works on the history of the Christian Church. It may seem an easy decision but is it really?

48) One of the King's supposed mistresses, a famous actress, is due to perform in London. In a rare, and somewhat scandalous move, Louis grants her the protection of the Musketeers. Unfortunately, London's theatres are closed soon after the party arrives due to an outbreak of bubonic plague. Forced out of the city, the actress decides to take her performance on the road. Anti-French radicals take note, and plan to abduct the actress.

49) Tommaso Campanella is an Italian philosopher, theologian, astrologer, poet, and Francophile. Unfortunately, his views have led to several brushes with the Inquisition. Despite this, he is currently Pope Urban VIII's astrological advisor. In 1636, he suddenly initiates secret contact with the French ambassador, de Noailles, who agrees to smuggle him to France. The Musketeers are tasked with collecting him at the border from Italian sympathizers and escorting him to Paris. Hot on his heels are the Inquisition, the Cardinal's Guards, and the Carolingians. Are his theories really that heretical, or has his astrological research uncovered something Cardinal Richelieu or the Pope would rather keep quiet? Are the Inquisition friend or foe in this chase across France?

50) The Musketeers are sent to hold a vital crossroad village in the face of a Spanish advance. While there, the settlement comes under fire from Spanish guns launching what appears to be a new innovation—exploding cannon rounds. It quickly becomes apparent, however, that instead of a normal explosion, each shell unleashes a short-lived fire elemental. In order to deprive the Span-

ish of this deadly and unholy new weapon, the characters need to destroy the stockpiles, and then discover (and eliminate) whoever is creating the rounds.

If magick is rare in your campaign, then mundane alchemy is behind the new weapon, and acquiring a round for France's armorers becomes the priority after destroying the Spanish stockpiles.

51) The unexplained deaths and total insanity suffered by a number of the court musicians has not gone unnoticed. During their investigation, the heroes discover that every musician was trying to play the same piece of music, a special composition written for a forthcoming royal ball by an unnamed composer. Is the music in some way cursed, or is there a mundane serial killer at work in the court?

52) The mistress of a friend, an intoxicating and vibrant woman of means and no uncertain desires, has made it plain to him that their relationship (and therefore his life as he knows it) is at an end unless he can obtain for her a fabulous emerald presented to the King a few months before by a visiting dignitary. She must have it, or she will have someone who can get it. The friend can think of nothing else and will launch a scheme to seek her prize with or without the help of his fellow Musketeers.

53) One of the Cardinal's closest "unofficial advisors," a taciturn and clever man tasked with tracking each *livre* of the nation's finances, was rumored to have been investigating irregularities in the usage of funds allotted to the King's defense—particularly those marked for the Musketeers. This morning, he was shot at long range by a roof-top assassin, dying in the street with the name Tréville on his lips. Outraged, the Cardinal calls for the disbanding of the company and the arrest of Tréville for conspiracy against the King.

54) Warriors in Roman and Gaulish gear have been terrifying villagers near Alise-Sainte-Reine in Burgundy. Local nobles believe they are ghosts from the Battle of Alesia, a defining moment in French history. Those who go into the hills are chased away or do not return. Sounds and lights fill the night sky near the village. Musketeers are sent to discover if these are shades of the past, or a mortal plot.

55) While rummaging through some old papers, a junior clerk in Richelieu's employ uncovers a letter signed by Richelieu. It is dated 1625, and is an order to destroy the roof of a cave in southern France known as Mas-d'Azil. Intrigued as to why Richelieu should find a cave roof so offensive, and more loyal to his cousin, one of the characters, he passes the letter on.

56) A radical cleric has developed a cult following, one that is growing daily. His followers proclaim he is a miracle worker, capable of raising the dead. For his part, the holy man is extremely modest, and has done nothing to anger Richelieu. Still, M. de Tréville is suspicious of his motives after he requested an audience with the King, and orders the Musketeers to infiltrate his cult and gather information. Is the man merely possessed of great wisdom? Can he perform miracles, or is he in league with Satan and guiding souls to damnation?

57) M. de Tréville orders the Musketeers to hunt down and arrest a radical who is posting crude but scandalous images of King Louis around Paris. Richelieu overrules him, and orders the radical's death before his artwork weakens the position of the king. What do the Musketeers do when they discover the "dangerous subversive" is actually a young girl, little more than a child?

58) Château de Trécesson (in Brittany) is haunted. Ghostly card players have been seen on more than once occasion. Those who have witnessed them claim they speak, inviting the watcher to join them. If the mortal wins, he will release their souls from damnation. Lose, and he must take one of their places. Word reaches one of the heroes that a distant relative recently took up their challenge and lost. He has since disappeared, lending credibility to the legend. Has the hero the stomach to wager his soul in the hope of releasing his kinsman? Is there a more earthly (yet no less sinister) reason behind the vanishing relative?

59) Gilles de Rais, a companion-in-arms of Joan of Arc, ended his days as a prolific serial killer of children and black magician. After his execution in 1440, his castle was left to the elements. Peasants in the region once again live in terror. Lights have been seen in the ruined castle, and several children have been murdered, their remains mutilated in the same very specific and ghastly method de Rais used. Has his ghost risen from Hell, is the School of Night attempting a dark ritual, or is there a mundane copycat killer prowling the area?

60) A duc and keen patron of the King's Musketeers, invites the characters to attend him on a hunt, followed by a feast at his hunting lodge. During dinner, assassins in the pay of the duc's younger brother attack, murdering the duc. His widowed daughter is also present, along with her infant son, the named heir to the duc's title and estates. Though they survive the initial assault, more assassins are soon dogging the party. Unless they can deliver the girl and child to the royal court, the only truly safe refuge, the usurper will have them murdered, allowing him to claim the title for himself.

61) A Jewish family has been discovered living in northern France, near to the border with the Spanish Netherlands. All attempts by the local authorities to arrest them have resulted in failure thanks to their guardian—a golem. Richelieu has ordered his agents to kill the family and bring the golem to him unharmed. Meanwhile, M. de Tréville, acting without official orders and in open defiance of the law, requests volunteers to stop the golem and smuggle the family out of France. The Musketeers must act incognito, for if their actions were traced back to M. de Tréville it would discredit the company and give Richelieu ammunition against them.

62) One of the characters' comrades-in-arms has recently raised suspicions about his paramour. A beautiful creature, she has begun asking questions about the king and his routines. The day after he speaks of his suspicions to his friends, he is found murdered. The next time the heroes visit court, they see the mysterious lady (identified by some feature, such as vibrant red hair or a visible

birthmark, mentioned by their friend) waiting on the Queen. Is the woman an assassin, or merely an innocent young woman hoping to raise her social status?

63) The Musketeers are contacted by a friar, who has recently returned from visiting a remote village. He has a small army of children in tow. He claims the villagers have suddenly started accusing their children of being faerie changelings. They intended to murder them (since in their eyes they weren't human, this would be neither a crime nor a sin), but the friar convinced the parents he would take the kids to a monastery, where they would be dealt with appropriately. He asks the matter be investigated urgently, before any of the remaining children are actually harmed. Are faeries really to blame, or is there some other cause for the mass hysteria?

64) Despite elaborate precautions, a revolutionary new cipher machine has been stolen. Its theft is no great loss, as it has yet to be used to encode messages. Richelieu, though, seems very intent on securing its return, and that in turn has M. de Tréville's suspicions aroused. Delivering it to the King first would undoubtedly boost the Musketeers status, but the Cardinal's Guards are not the only other faction searching for it.

65) In 1632, Ursuline nuns at a convent in Loudun were subjected to demonic possession. Father Urbain Grandier, who had been acquitted of immortality two years previously, was accused by the nuns of bewitching them, appearing to them in sexual dreams, and of calling upon demons to possess their bodies. In 1634, Grandier was burned at the stake as a witch following a short trial by a special Royal Commission convened by Cardinal Richelieu. According to witnesses, a large fly was seen to buzz around the burning cleric's head; undoubtedly an emissary of Beelzebub come to claim his soul. It is now 1636, and the Ursuline convent is again bedeviled. The nuns are reporting suffering strange dreams, and a large number of flies are plaguing the area.

66) After payday, a late night of carousing is planned. After settling on a tavern, and starting the festivities, a fellow Musketeer cries out for everyone to stop drinking, pointing to dying rats curling up in agony over a puddle of spilled wine. The tavern owner blanches and seeks escape from the room like the coward he is. Who paid him to poison the King's Musketeers? Has anyone drunk enough wine for the poison to do its foul work?

67) Reports of people suffering violent fits and speaking in tongues are coming in from across Paris. Investigation reveals a single common link between the victim—they all patronized the same brothel.

68) A fellow Musketeers has shown a sudden and massive improvement in his fencing skills. Given his previous ineptitude, M. de Tréville is curious as to the reason for the sudden change. The Musketeer refuses to divulge the source of his dramatic transformation, saying only that his mentor refuses to remain anonymous, so prompting the captain to initiate a covert investigation.

69) Among the established members of the King's Musketeers, most have stories of the larger-than-life character who went by the name Jervoise and boasted to

any and all that so charmed was he that when Death itself came from him, it would have to let him go. His death by cannon a few years earlier was met with much less surprise than his sighting in the Paris market today. Is he truly back from the dead, or is someone or something wearing his face?

70) At the trial of a black magician brought to justice by the characters in a previous adventure, the accused publicly curses one of the heroes. That character immediately gains the Unlucky Flaw. The day before his execution is scheduled, the magician sends a letter to his victim. He states quite openly that he will remove the curse, but only if he is released from prison (before his execution) and smuggled to another country. Only then will he revoke his spell. Is the misfortune psychosomatic or a genuine curse? Will the hero break the law to rid himself of his ills, or does he take the risk the curse will die along with the magician?

71) While on the King's business, the Musketeers find themselves having to take shelter from a fierce storm in the ruins of a peasant's home. Already sheltering within is a well-spoken man who passes the time by asking each man their greatest wish. In the morning, he is gone before they wake, but in the days to follow, things begin to happen which suggest those dreams are starting to come true. Will there be a price?

72) Monsieur de Tréville sends the Musketeers to meet a contingent of clergy from Rome, bearing a gift for the King: an illuminated manuscript of Ruy Lopez de Segura's *Libro de la invención liberal y arte del juego del Axedrez*, with a beautifully sculpted chess set supposedly used by Lopez. Looking at the manuscript, however, reveals the illustrations are insulting caricatures of the King and mock his intelligence.

73) A series of gruesome murders has shocked the capital. High profile soldiers—both cardinalist and royalist—have been found killed, their heads missing, seemingly torn off. The only common thread is that each was seen the evening before their murders in the company of an exotic beauty. The Musketeers must be wary, for they could be next.

74) M. de Tréville has been kidnapped under the noses of the Musketeers! If word of this gets out, the Musketeers will be humiliated with shame, and M. de Tréville may lose the King's confidence! A team is dispatched to discretely investigate and mount a rescue. Who is behind this? Is it a cardinalist plot to discredit the Musketeers? Is Milady finally seeking her revenge on the company that cost her favor and position (and, well, almost had her beheaded)? The clock is ticking, Musketeers!

75) A band of rowdy German mercenaries are making trouble in Eastern France. Local nobles who have attempted to "pacify" them have been humiliated, injured, and even killed. They have been making their way towards Troyes, burning, looting and generally behaving in a most ungentlemanly manner. Are these just drunken louts on an extended binge? Or is this a reconnaissance in force as a prelude to an Imperial invasion?

76) The Salon of courtesan Marion Delorme is one of

the most famous in Paris—she is said to have been a lover of the late Duke of Buckingham and even the Cardinal himself! It seems however, that someone believes she knows too much. She hires the Musketeers (who seem to be without any pocket money at this time) as bodyguards (and what a body to guard) and investigators to find out who is trying to have her killed.

77) The Musketeers are given a tip-off that a thief who stole secret documents off a Spanish agent in Paris is looking to sell them to the highest bidder. The information could be very useful to France in their war against Spain, and the Musketeers endeavour to apprehend the thief and "acquire" the documents free of charge.

Having heard that the thief is at a local tavern, the Musketeers arrive only to find that a group of the Cardinal's Guard are also there with similar intentions. With the Musketeers hoping to impress their king and the guards hoping to impress Richelieu it's only natural a brawl ensues. Who will win, and will they still be able to gain possession of the important documents?

78) As the Musketeers carouse in a particularly seedy bar in a particularly seedy part of Paris, their revelries are interrupted by a swarm of rats, enormous in size and ferocity. People hurl bottles, knives and tankards at the beasts, who bite and tear at everything from the tables to the patrons. Retreating almost as quickly as they arrived, the rats disappear into a great hole in the basement leading to the sewers. What drove these rats above ground, and how did they get so enormous? As rumors of similar eruptions reach the ears of the King, an armed inspection of the underground is in order.

79) One of the player characters (who must be a Musketeer), has been asked to join the Cardinal's Guards. They are most persistent in their invitation, and it does not seem "no" is an acceptable answer.

80) A bidding war for the lucrative contract to tailor Musketeer uniforms has just finished. High quality, stylish garments, and no small amount of bribery to well-placed musketeers, has gotten Alphonse Benoit the contract. Benoit professes a great love of the King and a desire to one day become one of his exclusive tailors. At a group fitting for a long-overdue updating of the classic uniform, a young Gascon Musketeer accuses both Benoit's son and assistant of being assassins who killed his father for loyalty to the crown. Could this be the tip of a deadly needle stitching a plot against the King?

81) There have long been rumors England has a new weapon—a flying ship! True or not, King Louis petulantly demanded he wanted one. Alas, no French inventor has managed to produce a reliable working model. Richelieu has now despatched agents to steal the English plans. M. de Tréville, knowing the Cardinal will use any success to further his own position, has decided the Musketeers should have the honor of not only presenting the king with the plans, but with the English ship!

82) An investigation into reports that soldiers on the frontline are being sent into battle without muskets has led to an inquiry. The armories are producing more than enough muskets, but they're not reaching the troops.

Concerned they are being stolen to equip a peasant revolt, or being sold to the Spanish, the King demands his Musketeers resolve the issue with all haste. Is there really a plot to weaken France's armies in her hour of need, or is there a more mundane excuse, such as an incompetent bureaucrat sending the shipments to the wrong warehouse? This is *All for One*—there's bound to be mischief afoot!

83) A character is summoned before an elderly relative on his death bed. In rare lucid moments, the old man keeps saying he is sorry, though he will not, or cannot, elucidate on what crime or sin he may have committed. In the remaining moments before his (natural) death, he passes the character a slim notebook filled with columns of numbers and asks him to make amends for the past. What terrible secret does the code hold, and why is a third-party so keen to take possession of it?

84) France's intellectuals are in a fluster. A number of prominent authors, poets, scientists, theologians, and free-thinkers have been found murdered. More grisly is the fact their brains have been removed. Talk about a demon that feasts on the brains of intelligent men and women is growing, even among the intelligentsia. The real killer is quite mortal, and quite insane. He is creating a living library of brains in jars, and he has his eyes on one of the characters as a potential target (or one of their friends, if all the characters are dim-witted).

85) With the heat of July, rumors of a ghostly female appearing in the Place de Grève (where most public executions are carried out) make their rounds. Reports triple with the recognition of the figure as the shade of Leonora Galigai (a convicted witch, and a favorite of Louis' now-exiled mother). The King grows worried, and on July 8th, the anniversary of Leonora's execution, falls ill with one of his many maladies. M. de Tréville exhorts the Musketeers to distract the King with sport and a military review tour, but also to double the guard and investigate his fear of possible assassination.

86) King Louis has been sent a valuable new cloak by a powerful nobleman and close friend of the king. The king dislikes the color on sight, and gifts it to a favorite courtier. As soon as the servant dons it, he dies an agonizing death, his flesh melting away. The nobleman is promptly accused of devilry, arrested, and dragged off to jail.

M. de Tréville can see no reason why Louis' close ally and supporter would try to murder the monarch. He urges the Musketeers to quietly investigate who is behind the plot to rid the king of one of his few true friends before the pyres are stoked and an innocent man dies.

87) One of the characters (who sleeps alone and has no alibi for any potential actions) begins having bad dreams. In them, he sees people dying in very horrific ways, and always in the dead of night. Within 48 hours, the gruesome murders come to pass just as he saw. After a few such dreams, his next nightmare concerns a powerful and well-known person. Can he convince the soon-to-be victim his or her life is in mortal peril? Is the character possessed, and actually committing the mur-

ders? Or could it be his visions are divine, sent so he can stop a deranged serial killer?

88) A red plague is sweeping France! Victims suffer violent convulsions and sweat blood before swiftly dying. Unconfirmed reports claim that before each outbreak a figure dressed in red robes was seen in the area. Rabble-rousers are stirring up ill feelings against the Church, blaming cardinals sent by Rome to punish France for siding with the Protestant forces in the war. An investigation is ordered what is left of the population in the affected areas take up arms.

89) A highly-respected Musketeer has retired to a monastery to contemplate the life he has led. His twin sons came to Paris seeking to emulate his example in service to France, but after speaking with their father one joined the Cardinal's Guard instead of the King's Musketeers. Now the boys are fierce rivals, and their rashness may get one or both of them killed, shaming the father and both companies.

90) Tulip mania is still sweeping Europe. The King is hosting a grand winter ball in a few months, and he desires tulips to adorn the ballroom. At 2,000 *livres* per bulb, they are an extremely expensive luxury. The Musketeers are ordered to purchase 50 bulbs from the Dutch Republic and deliver them to the court in time for the ball. Transporting 100,000 *livres* across France in secret is not going to be easy, and Spanish forces guard the land and sea routes. Worse, the tulip market is enjoying an economic boom (which collapses in early 1637). By the time the Musketeers reach the Dutch Republic, the price has jumped to 3,000 *livres* per bulb. Dare the Musketeers deliver fewer bulbs to Louis, or will they resort to nefarious means to honor their orders?

91) While on a mission in the countryside, the Musketeers stop at a small town. A wealthy merchant asks them to aid him in recovering his daughter, who has been kidnapped by the local ruffian. This must be done quietly to protect her reputation. When the party finds the girl they find out she has not been abducted; she has run away with the man she loves, the son of a rival family. The couple wants to marry and end the bitter feud between the families. Which side will the Musketeers take; duty, honor, and family obedience, or love?

92) A young noblewoman contacts the Musketeers by letter. She explains that her husband was recently killed, torn apart by some savage beast. An investigation by the local authorities blamed a wolf, but she is not convinced. Unearthly howling has been heard in the grounds, and her dreams are haunted by visions an enormous black dog with glowing red eyes. To start with, the hound was chasing her at a great distance. But the dream is recurring, the beast getting steadily closer with each passing night. She fears what will happen to her if the beast catches her. Did her husband somehow incur the wrath of Satan, and end his days in the maw of a demonic hound? Perhaps the beast is of earthly origin and the nightmares nought but troubled dreams, for the woman's cruel neighbor (a duc) has long coveted her lands.

93) In 1482, Notre Dame Cathedral was at the center

of a scandal involving a hunchbacked bell-ringer and a gypsy girl. It is said the affray ended with the girl (allegedly a witch) being hanged, and the hunchback dying of starvation as he lay by the dead girl's side in the crypt.

In recent months, the cathedral has suffered a case of haunting. Clerics claim to have witnessed an ugly hunchback swinging through the rafters, and several priests have been physically assaulted. While most clerics speak of an evil spirit, Jean-François de Gondi, the first Archbishop of Paris, believes the figure is corporeal, and using the legend to scare the priests. He demands the intruder be arrested and brought to justice. Catching the mysterious hunchback will not be easy, for he is remarkably athletic. Success could earn the party a powerful and grateful ally.

94) During research into another matter, a character comes across a document dated 1314. It speaks of the final moments of Jacques de Molay, last Grand Master of the Knights Templar, and records his final words. While it is still common legend that he cursed the incumbent king and pope to die soon after him, the document relates an additional curse—any monarch who defiled the site of his cremation would meet an untimely death. That spot is the Square du Vert-Galant, built by Henry IV (Louis' father) as a pleasure park. Henry was assassinated in 1610. King Louis, who has not yet visited the Square du Vert-Galant, has unexpectedly ordered it be closed to the public soon so that he might throw an outdoor feast for his favorites. Are the sudden reports of a ghostly knight haunting the square merely rumors? Can the king be dissuaded from his course of action?

95) A prominent figure comes to the Musketeers for help. His ward and niece was recently kidnapped by Barbary corsairs. The pirates are an independent outfit, and thus not bound by the treaty with France. He cannot afford to pay the astronomical ransom, and asks the heroes to travel to the Barbary Coast, locate the girl, and rescue her before anything ungodly happens to her. In an unexpected twist, the girl has actually joined the pirate captain's harem. She is treated like royalty, and has absolutely no desire to return home, where her uncle has arranged a marriage to a brute of a man.

96) Murders in Paris are hardly big news. What makes the recent spate unusual is that every victim is someone one of the characters has had dealings with shortly before their demise. As word spreads, people are already making excuses to avoid dealing with the hero. Whether the murders are pure coincidence or deliberate targeting, unless the killer is caught soon, there's a very good chance more of the hero's friends and acquaintances, not to mention innocent Parisians, will end up dead.

97) While returning from a mission in rural France, the Musketeers are approached by a young woman in obvious distress. She claims she saw her husband in the deep woods the other day. In response to the characters' bemused looks, she adds that he died of illness four months ago, and was buried in the churchyard. Assuming they can convince the local priest to perform an exhumation, they discover the grave is empty—as are many other

graves. In league with a black magician, a local nobleman has been "recruiting" animated corpses to work on his lands as a means of cutting costs.

98) An urgent request for off-duty Musketeers to come to Nevers is paid great attention by M. de Tréville. In need is a very learned man and friar by the name of Mersenne who is being plagued by threats and demands from an anonymous source. Mersenne denies that he needs help, but it is obvious he is under stress. His students reveal that thugs visit regularly to enforce a request that the friar devise a mathematical code no one can break. They cannot, and Mersenne will not, reveal the source of the demand, nor the reasons for his desire to refuse it. How can the Musketeers fulfill their Captain's orders, and respect the peaceful wishes of a man of the cloth at the same time? Is this a personal, or political plot?

99) A fellow Musketeer, frequently broke between paydays, is renowned for being familiar with the Parisian Undercity, its denizens, and cuisine. He is found, raving like a madman and beaten within an inch of his life, cowering in an alley seeking to escape his attackers. He claims beggars are doing more than eating rat... "They are eating the nobles... to become them!"

100) Word reaches M. de Tréville of a military communique sent from a remote fort high in the Pyrenees. The garrison commander, a man the captain knows well, has reported a string of murders, resulting in a near-total loss of morale. Strangely, his message does not say someone is killing his men—it says *something* is killing them. The characters are sent to investigate the crimes, bring the perpetrator to justice, and restore morale.

101) Soldiers have begun deserting in large numbers. The few that have been recaptured all tell the same story—they were lead to desert by the words of a Musketeer. The company's honor is at stake, and M. de Tréville orders the heroes to track down the demagogue and discover his true identity. Is a demon behind the plot to weaken France's armies? Has a Spanish agent begun sowing seeds of dissension? Or is a black magician versed in the Art of homomancy causing men to forsake their oath to the King?