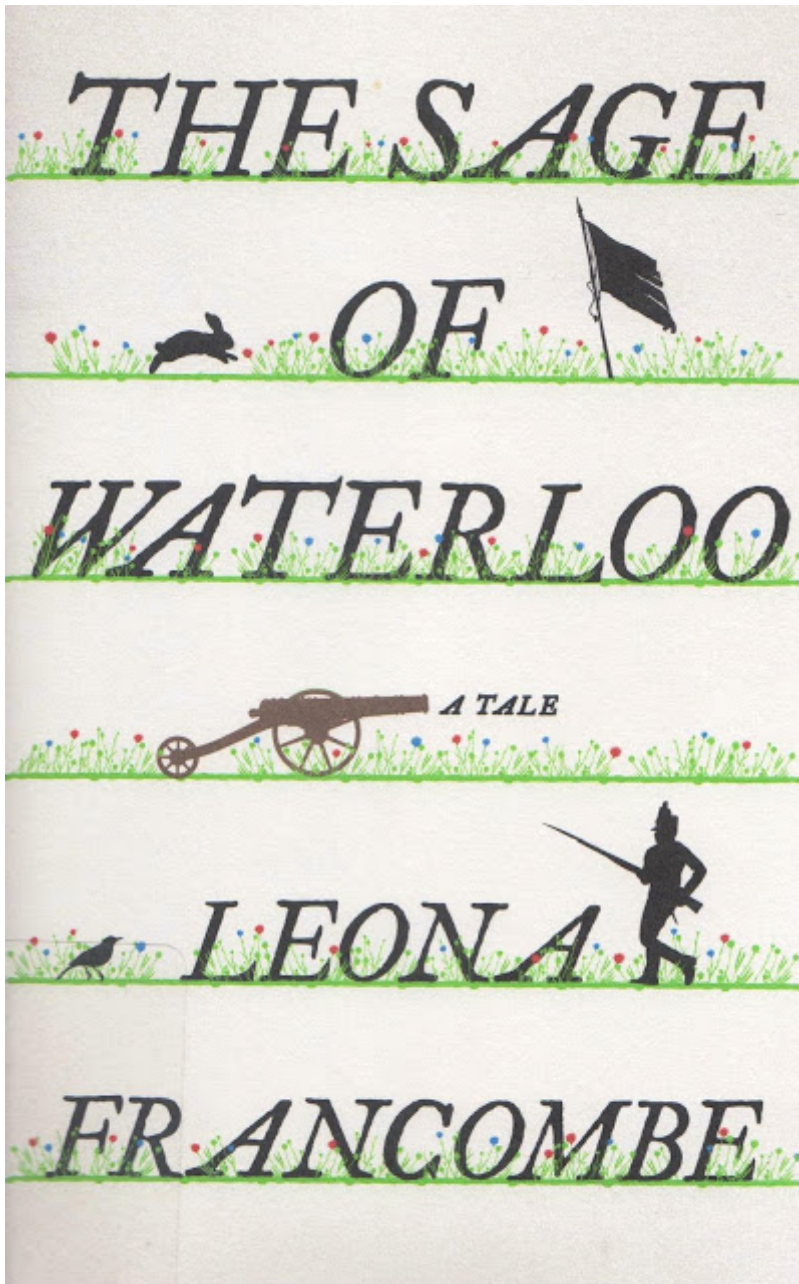


Erik's Choice

Mobile Musings on Culture & the State of the World

Thursday, April 07, 2016

'The Sage of Waterloo: A Tale' by Leona Francombe (2015)



I finished reading a quietly poetic, subtly philosophical and imaginative novel of life and war, past and present told from the perspective of the Hougemont bunnies. Leona Francombe's *The Sage of Waterloo: A Tale* (New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 2015) empathizes and

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'Network' (1976)

Network (1976). Paddy Chayefsky, screenplay; Sidney Lumet, director.

Starring Faye Dunaway, William Holden, Peter Finch and Robert Duval...



Philadelphia Museum of Art: Paint the Revolution

Philadelphia Museum of Art: the approach. Paint the Revolution: Mexican Modernism, 1910-1950. November 27, 2016. Philadelphia Museum ...



Mystic Chords of Memory

"The mystic chords of memory, stretching from every battle-field, and patriot grave, to every living heart and hearthstone, all ove...



Mary: Icon

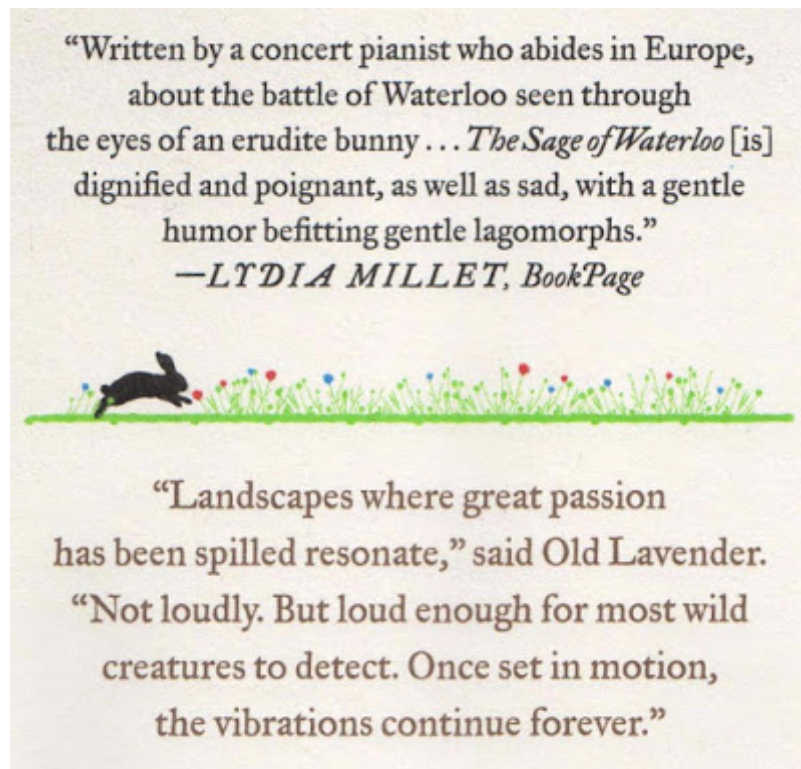
Mary: Icon. I love Marian art, the stranger the better. This would

sympathizes with her rabbits, yes, but she also muses about people and horses, birds and landscapes, architecture and moonlight. I found it refreshing and engaging.

Besides her rabbit characters -- Old Lavender, William, Spode, Caillou, Boomerang, and others -- Francombe makes a compelling case for women writing about war. More, please.

"The 'glory' of war is often manufactured afterwards by male writers, after all, and not by the women, who are invariably left behind to pick up the pieces of their broken men, but who can read entire human stories in the torn sleeve or bloody hat in which men can only comprehend victory or defeat" (pages 197-198).

In describing some of the aftermath of the Battle of Waterloo (June 18, 1815), Francombe notes that 10,000 horses died. I wondered. Doing a little extra research, I came across this same figure, and another account that claims, given that wounded horses were almost invariably "put out of their misery," a total of 20,000 horses died as a result of the battle. (See [here](#)).



The Battle of Waterloo was so cataclysmic that no one seems to be able to figure out how many human beings perished as a result of it, let alone horses and bunnies.

Paul O'Keeffe is helpful in setting the scale via

be the case even if I wasn't Catholic -- in fact, one of the powe...



The Electronic Envelope

In working at a library with people whose ages range across a span of sixty plus years and whose experiences derive from multiple cultura...



Mystic Chords of Memory: Scholey Pitcher and Yoko Akiba

They never knew each other, but they were connected. Scholey Pitcher was a publisher at Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill; Yoko Akiba was a ...



Jim Jarmusch: 'Gimme Danger' (2016)

I remember being at a mid-1990s house party for teachers and artists in Newport News, Virginia. It was during my first full-time gig as ...



Ireland: Signs and Wonders of Galway

Signs and Wonders of Galway, Ireland, in the rain, June 2016. Tattoos, wash & blow/dry, menswear. DA PAULINO'S RISTORANTE ITA...



Barry Jenkins: 'Moonlight' (2016)

Barry Jenkins, Moonlight (2016), based on Tarell Alvin McCraney's In Moonlight Black

Waterloo: The Aftermath (N.Y.: The Overlook Press, 2015), page 50:

" . . . the actual fighting was confined to a front just two miles long. This meant that for little more than ten hours, some 200,000 men, 60,000 horses and 537 guns [artillery pieces] were in action on a piece of land measuring five square miles . . .

See also Bernard Cornwell's **Waterloo: The History of Four Days, Three Armies, and Three Battles** (Harper, 2014), page 324:

"As night fell on 18 June [1815] there were probably around 12,000 [human] corpses on the battlefield and between thirty and forty thousand wounded men, all within three square miles. Many of the wounded were to die in subsequent days."

Any way you dice it, Waterloo was brutal -- as Belgian bunnies know so well.

Today's Rune: **Warrior**.

Posted by Erik Donald France at **9:15 AM**



Labels: **2015, Architecture, Ecology, Gender Issues, Linguistics and Semiotics, Novels, Philosophy and Religion, Pied Pipers, Poésie, War and Revolution, Waterloo**

3 COMMENTS:



Charles Gramlich said...

I love animal narrated tales. Or should that be "tails"

April 08, 2016



the walking man said...

If Tolstoy had gone further in his War and Peace i think he would have found a way to chronicle a battle that was mirrored more than once during the American Civil war.

April 10, 2016



jodi said...

Erik-I am a dunce that has learned about Waterloo from ABBA!

April 18, 2016

Post a Comment

LINKS TO THIS POST

Boys Look Blue (2003). Set mostly in Florida (...)



Café retrouvé: Patti Smith's 'M Train' (2015)

Patti Smith, M Train .

New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2015. A writer's life: Patti Smith's Peregrine Pilgrimage Coffee Dr...

Labels

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