

One Sunday in Picardy

Volume One, Creative Work

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Abstract

“One Sunday in Picardy” is a work of fiction set in northern France during The First World War. Jack, an Australian doctor, returns to see his young fiancée Georgette in a French village on his way to the second Battle of the Somme. After assisting the wounded at the front for two years, he is unable to remember events during one fierce battle for which he was decorated; his thoughts are plagued by images and sensations related to the battlefield. Georgette, now nearly eighteen, finds Jack changed and is uneasy as the likelihood grows of an enemy attack, threatening the *château* which is her family home. To keep up the battalion’s spirits, Solaine, the matriarch of the family, hosts a sports day in the grounds and a grand dinner in the evening for the officers. Jack’s batman Pat, a childhood friend who is interested in Georgette’s sister Élise, goes to check on his brother Tom in the woods near the front. At the same time the body of the ace pilot Manfred von Richthofen, shot down nearby, is secretly brought to the *château* to be washed. The stories of these characters unfold as the bombardment builds up around them.

Declaration

I certify that this work contains no material which has been accepted for the award of any other degree or diploma in any university or other tertiary institution and, to the best of my knowledge and belief, contains no material previously published or written by another person, except where due reference has been made in the text. In addition, I certify that no part of this work will, in the future, be used in a submission in my name for any other degree or diploma in any university or other tertiary institution without the prior approval of the University of Adelaide.

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