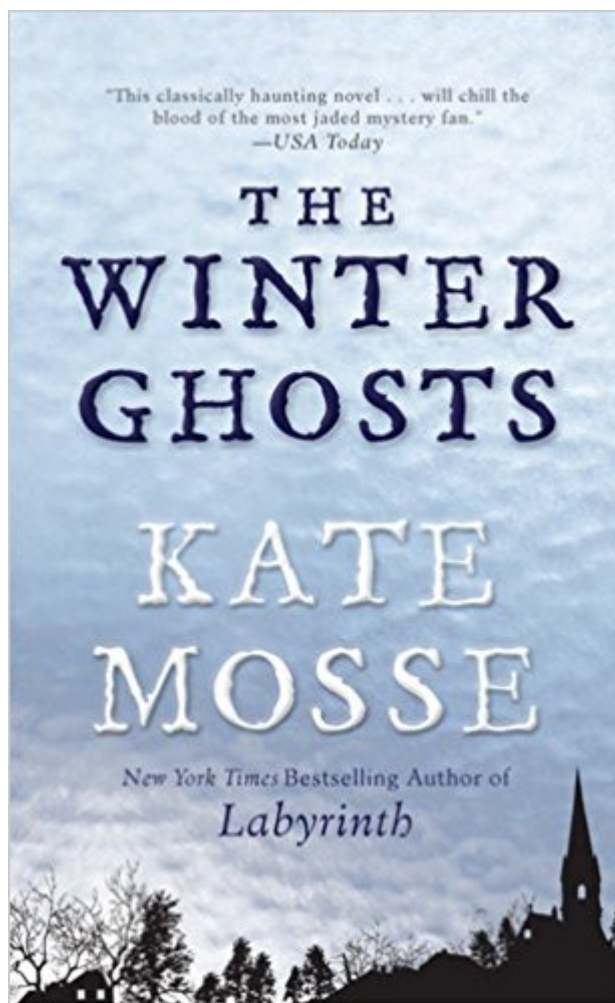


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The Winter Ghosts



Synopsis

From the New York Times bestselling author of *Sepulchre* and *Labyrinth*-a compelling story of love, ghosts and remembrance. A World War I robbed England and France of an entire generation of friends, lovers and futures. In Freddie Watson's case, the battlefields took his beloved brother and, at times, his peace of mind. In the winter of 1928, still seeking some kind of resolution, Freddie is travelling through the beautiful but forbidding French Pyrenees. During a snowstorm, his car spins off the mountain road. Freezing and dazed, he stumbles through the woods, emerging in a tiny village, where he finds an inn to wait out the blizzard. There he meets Fabrissa, a lovely young woman also mourning a lost generation. Over the course of one night, Fabrissa and Freddie share their stories. By the time dawn breaks, Freddie will have unearthed a tragic mystery that goes back through the centuries, and discovered his own role in the life of this old remote town. By turns thrilling, poignant, and haunting, this is a story of two lives touched by war and transformed by courage.

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Customer Reviews

In Mosse's wisp of a new novel (after *Sepulchre*), Freddie Watson is a stilted young man who has not gotten over older brother George's disappearance on the Western Front during WWI. It is now 10 years since the Armistice, and Freddie, after a stay in a mental institution, has come to the French Pyrenees to find peace. While motoring through a snowstorm, he crashes his car and ends up in the small village of Nulle, where he meets a beautiful young woman named Fabrissa. In the course of an evening, Fabrissa tells Freddie a story of persecution, resistance, and death, hinting at

a long-buried secret. By the next morning, she is gone, leaving Freddie alone to unlock a ghostly mystery hidden for 600 years. This is a staunchly old-fashioned story, taking fully 100 pages to get moving, and by the time things pick up, the gist of the narrative will be obvious to anyone who has ever sat through a Twilight Zone episode. Freddie's obtuseness does little to help along a gruel-thin story. (Feb.) (c) Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Slimmer than either of her previous titles, *Labyrinth* (2006) and *Sepulchre* (2008), Mosse's latest is set in the years after World War I. Devastated by the death of his older brother, George, in the war, Freddie Watson has traveled to France after recovering from a nervous breakdown on his twenty-first birthday. While driving through the French Pyrenees on a snowy afternoon, he loses control of his vehicle and nearly takes a fatal plunge off the mountains. After managing to free himself from the car, Freddie makes his way to the village of Nulle, where he finds lodging and is invited by the kindly hostess to a celebration that evening. When Freddie makes his way to the town gathering, he meets a beautiful young woman named Fabrissa, who urges him to open up about his grief over George's death, and shares her own tragic story. The next morning, Freddie awakens with a fever and an overwhelming desire to find Fabrissa, at any cost. Evocative, atmospheric, and mysterious, Mosse's ghostly tale is the perfect diversion for a chilly winter day. --Kristine Huntley --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I am a huge fan of the classic English ghost story and my favourite contemporary authors of supernatural fiction are such writers as Susan Hill, who work in the tradition of M. R. James. The *Winter Ghosts* belongs to the same tradition and seems to be inspired by Algernon Blackwood's "Ancient Sorceries" as a model. I agree with the reviewers who complained that this book is very slow to get started, but it is a pleasure to read a ghost story based on the classic formula, and it is worth recalling that a good many of Blackwood's stories do not repay rereading. As soon as we reach the fete at the Ostal we meet a group of characters whose names come straight out of Ladurie's *Montaillou* and a reader who is up on medieval heretics knows exactly who our ghosts are going to turn out to have been. That knowledge did not affect my enjoyment, especially as Catharism fascinates me. To summarize, this is a good ghost story but not a great ghost story.

I didn't enjoy this book very much. It is the story of Freddie, a gloomy and grief sodden Englishman who has not recovered from the WWI death of his beloved brother. Freddie travels to France for a

change or scene and to meet up with friends, and has a "ghostly" encounter with the mysterious Fabrissa, who is later to be revealed as a woman who lived centuries before and was left to die along with her fellow villagers after hiding in cave that became their tomb. I had to do independent research after reading the book to learn that Fabrissa and her family, etc were Cathars, Gnostic Christians who were basically annihilated by the Catholic Church in the Middle Ages. The "ghost" story itself was watery weak and the whole atmosphere of this book was gloomy and slow moving. The story had great potential, but just didn't translate well. A very weak novel. I don't think I will be reading anything from this author again.

Sorry, I figured this one out 1/2 way through. However, it was good to follow through to the end because of the historical explanations for book. That made it worth going until the end.

Kate never fails to capture my attention by the end of the first page and keeps it until the end. Loved this *The Winter Ghosts* not only because of the French history and the Cathars but the style of writing that keeps me turning the pages. Thank you Kate!!!

Beautifully written. The descriptions absolutely came to life on the page. This story of ghosts, love and romance, and the supernaturalism of the past leaking into the present (1933) is a fascinating one. Freddie is a charming and sympathetic character, deeply introspective, who stayed with me long after I closed the book. Hidden caves, mysterious images, and Mosse's evocative prose made for a suspenseful read. This is not a scary ghost story, more melancholy and cerebral. I liked this novel far better than Mosse's *Sepulchre*.

perfect for the season i hadn't read this author before i will need to start looking for her books, a fictional story based on history the author gave back ground of the history, story of a very lost young man that did not know he needed to find himself --- read it at a time when it was cold and the winds were howling it just kinda fit... ordered it from a library that was trying to raise money for new books.. I made a good chose.

I really enjoyed the *Labyrinth* and *Sepulchre*. When I saw that Kate Mosse had written another book, I eagerly looked forward to reading it. However, she strayed from the formula which made her previous 2 books so interesting to me. Her previous books had two coexisting story lines, one past and one present, with the main characters connected through history. I found this concept very

intriguing, however, she strays from this in *Winter Ghosts*. I found *Winter Ghosts* a bit slow to read and somewhat boring in parts. I kept reading, thinking that it was going to get better, and it seemed like it would in parts, only to disappoint me again when nothing very interesting would happen. I hope in future books she goes back to her original concept that made *Labyrinth* so interesting.

This book surprised me. I found it in the library on a cruise and couldn't put it down for 3 days. The underlying premise of the book unravels slowly, by the time you realise what is happening, you are hooked. The characters & events are quite interesting although at times, strange. It was made all the more poignant when I found out it was based in part on historical events. It just made the story sad and real. A good read.

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