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CHARLOTTE THE ASSASSIN

A Thesis
presented in partial fulfillment of requirements
for the degree of Master of Fine Arts
in the Department of English
The University of Mississippi

by

MARY THERESA GLENNON BERMAN

May 2019

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ABSTRACT

The novel takes place during the federalist revolt of 1793, during the French Revolution. It involves murder, witches, and female friendships and romantic relationships.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank my advisor, Tom Franklin, for his care, support, and thoughtful feedback over several drafts; my committee members, Lindy Brady and Matt Bondurant; all the MFA faculty and visiting writers who supported and trained me in workshop, namely Kiese Laymon, Catherine Lacey, Chris Offutt, and Melissa Ginsburg; and all of the graduate students in the English department, creative and critical alike. Thanks also to my parents for supporting my creative endeavors, and the University of Mississippi for funding my degree.

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Juliette clutches the sheaf of papers in her hand. “I want to make my talisman.”

“Not this again.” Back to the fire. It shrunk a little when Aline shifted her focus to her youngest daughter, and she struggles visibly to build it back up. “I’ve told you. I will forge you your talisman when you’ve learned to behave. Go make yourself useful. Wash that filthy dress, perhaps.” Never mind that if Juliette wants to wash it she’ll have to take it off.

“I’m supposed to have it now,” says Juliette. She starts to shuffle forward, catches herself doing it, and tries to shift her gait into a confident stride with her head held high. Unfortunately Juliette’s never done anything confidently in her life, and based on her mother’s continued disinterest she suspects she isn’t very successful. She thrusts the papers over the pentacle edge, at her mother. Their edges singe red and start to curl. “See?”

VITA

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