

BOOG READER 10

**HUNT FOR
THE UNICORN**

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BOOG LITERATURE
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\$3

*The tapestries began to breathe, expanding, contracting,
shifting. It was as if, when the conservators removed the
backing, the tapestries had woken up.*

The creature
appears at night,
on the sidewalk outside
the house—a cat,
luminously white
with red sockets
behind pink eyes,
elephantine ears,
asphyxiatingly
triangulated head.

It might have stepped out of
The Unicorn Tapestries,
magical creature or medieval
European's exotic fantasy.

cat o' nine—
tail flicks and flails

Hunt for the Unicorn © Lauren Russell 2013

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In South Carolina a fourteen-year-old black
boy named George, all of 95 pounds in 1944
executed
for the murder of two white girls
on an alleged confession and no other evidence

Evidence from the Inquisition trial
of María González, 1511-1513:

Their reverences ordered a jar of water poured into her
nose and mouth, which was started, and she said she
affirmed everything she had said. . . . The order was given
to pour another jar of water. She said, "I speak the truth, I
have spoken the truth, I have already spoken the truth, I
speak the truth, what I have said is true, I am telling the
truth, I do not tell any lies, I have not lied, I have spoken
the truth, I have spoken the truth." The jar of water was
finished. . . . Their reverences ordered the water continued,
and the cloth placed [over her face]. She said

The unicorn, chased
by hunters and hounds,
is finally impaled
by somebody's spear,
a dog at his back; his
head and neck retract.

A sister of one of the girls:
*Everybody knew that he done it—
even before the trial they knew he done it.
But, I don't think they had too much
of a trial.*

Relaxed in person as judaizers:

Marina de Mercado, the woman called "The Patch-Faced," wife of García de
Paraja, daughter of Ynés Nuñez de Naxera, resident of Granada. Judaizer who denied the
charges, convicted by her witnesses, burned in person. She was a dogmatizer.

María Nuñez, wife of Hernando Gómez, weaver of silks, resident of Granada.
Judaizer who denied the charges, convicted, burned in person. . . .

Beatriz Nuñez, widow of Pedro Alvarez, Portuguese, resident of Granada. Relapsed
judaizer, burned in person. She was penanced the first time in Lisbon. . . .

Lady Ynés Alvarez, wife of Tomás Martínez, constable, judaizer. She went to the
auto with a paper coronet that signified burning, because she denied the charges. Then she
confessed on the scaffolding, and they returned her to the Holy Office without the coronet.
She is the sister of Alonso Sánchez's wife; the Inquisition burned her mother.

The unicorn lives
in placid captivity
in a final tapestry.
Perhaps the afterlife
involves lobotomy,
or maybe he just
got tired of running.

*Some of those in the posse describe
the white men as “talking about a rope
party” after the boy was taken into custody.*

Expenses for burning four heretics, 1323:

For large wood.....	55 sols, 6 deniers.
For vine-branches.....	21 sols, 3 deniers.
For straw.....	2 sols, 6 deniers.
For four stakes.....	10 sols, 9 deniers.
For ropes to tie the convicts.....	4 sols, 7 deniers.
For the executioner, each 20 sols.....	80 sols.
In all.....	8 livres, 14 sols, 7 deniers.

*The threads
twisted
and rotated
restlessly.*

The cat or spirit shudders at my step, on its haunches
tremulously hunkering.

Source Texts

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