

Take your bow centre stage, noble Catherine, worthy champion of Montsalvy.

There are two noteworthy and joyous aspects to this seventh and final book in the 'Catherine' saga. The first, of course is the fact that this is the unabridged English translation of a book originally published in 1979, a full 42 years ago. No explanation has ever been given as to why this concluding book, which had a hugely faithful multitudinal global following, was subsequently 'cancelled.' The second and real highlight for me is the lack of the presence of Arnaud de Montsalvy except in very small doses, to remind us of his existence.

The adventure continues apace and Catherine's circuitous route back to Montsalvy offers us the experience of sharing the highs and lows of her experiences and that of her two constant companions. We revisit a family member and are brought face to face with a saintly conundrum; a revered Flemish painter and a couple of rulers, a King and a Duke as she makes her way home. Other faces from the past cross her path one of which results in Catherine suffering the worst fate a woman can be subjected to and its consequent fruit, the decision she makes is taken out of her hands despite the violation; fate, however intervenes in a kinder if no less painful outcome. Then after a happy partial reunion comes her greatest ever challenge, the challenge that secures her future and the title of Dame de Montsalvy in perpetuity.

There are also two disappointing aspects to this book, that there is no epilogue (rounding everything off) is a bit of a disappointment on a personal level. The conclusion of this book is more than satisfactory, but as we had already had an ending of sorts at the end of book 5 where the series should have finished (before being resurrected for two more chapters) and we know that the author had not been commissioned to write anything further it would have been the icing on the cake to have had a glimpse of the futures of the children; were there more to come? Sara, the faithful squires and how their lives turned out and whether or not Jan van Eyck made a final visit to his muse and did Uncle Matthieu ever get to meet his noble great niece and nephew? The other disappointment was the lack of evidence that this book had been proof-read. Unless it had and the wrong version was sent to the printers? I am fully aware that the sanctity of the content (especially the newly added information) needed to be preserved, especially in these days of instant global 'sharing'; but as the book had already been translated into every language under the sun, except, English it does all seem a little excessive. Each to their own of course!

## ERRATA / INCONSISTENCIES / LAZY USE OF FRENCH WORDS / SYNTAX & IDIOMATIC ERRORS.

### Chapter 1

A sigh of relief deflated the young woman's chest. Three days ... so Arnaud had no longer been there when ... (p23)

The young woman/Catherine exhaled a deep sigh of relief. Three days ... so Arnaud had already left before ...

But she refused the all-too-easy absolution.

Catherine would not accept the simplistic version of the facts.

This chapter also includes two uses of the word 'Hell' as part of Catherine's dialogue (see pps 29) "She was dying to tell this troublesome fellow to go to hell" this is not in the true spirit of any of the previous books.

### Chapter 2

Out of decency ... but also by command, because Philippe the Good had wanted to have with him the one, who, for him, was not the wife of a condemned man, but the being he loved most in the world at that time so that he could love her as it pleased him. (p32)

Out of decency and respect because Philippe the Good wanted to have her, this woman whom he loved above all others, and did not see as the wife of a condemned man, by his side

But the Lady of Montsalvy had not even time to dismount (p 35)

The Lady of Montsalvy/Catherine hadn't even had the opportunity to dismount when a man ....

blonde woman of about 25\* years stood on the threshold. (p44)

blonde woman of about twenty-five stood on the threshold.

25\* - it is rare to see the numerical 25 in ages, dates or referring to numbers in a novel and additional notes will show that there are inconsistencies throughout which will be highlighted. By writing the full number 'twenty-five' negates the use of 'years' or 'years of age' making the dialogue flow instead of becoming stilted.

### Chapter 3

In Chapter 2 we are introduced to a new character **Symonne Morel-Sauvegrain** (p45) her name then appears in inconsistent formats from Chapter 3 onwards

- Symonne Sauvegrain (p51)
- Symonne Morel (p91)
- Symonne Sauvegrain (p111)
- Symonne Morel (p114)
- Morel-Sauvegrain residence (p115)
- Dame Symonne Morel (p144)
- Catherine inquired about Morel's lodgings (p145)
- Symonne Morel (p148)
- Morel-Sauvegrain (p152)]
- Dame Morel-Sauvegrain (p156)

then to the henhouse, where he had had to endure the already known sufferings. (p52)

then to the henhouse where he had been forced to endure the aforementioned callous treatment.

#### Chapter 4

'as-yet-unspecified' (p67)

'as yet unspecified' or simply 'unspecified' there is NO requirement for the use of hyphens

On regaining the Morel-Sauvegrain residence, she saw that Gauthier had also finally returned. (p80)

On returning to the Morel-Sauvegrain residence, Catherine saw that Gauthier had also returned at last.

#### Chapter 5

There were spectators even on the roofs of the few houses and the walls of the Carmes Mill, and of course on the stone steps used for horse-mounting in front of the of the Hôtel of the Abbots.(p85)

There were spectators. even on the roofs of the few houses, the walls of the Carmes Mill, and of course on the stone steps used by riders for mounting their horses. – This sentence needs restructuring and simplifying with the original title of the 'Hotel of the Abbots' inserting. This is not a Hotel in the sense of public accommodation, but rather a religious house of some sort 'Abbot's Hotel' is not an appropriate translation.

and then retired to her room to do a little toilette before dinner time. | (p92)

and then retired to her room to freshen up before dinner. 'Toilette' could be used in this context but it is not a natural way of speaking and should be preceded with the word 'perform/performing' NEVER 'doing'. It is a much more user-friendly expression in this instance rather than a lazy use of the word 'toilette' which is far too close to the crudeness of the word 'toilet'. Finally the construction of the sentence does not need 'time' adding after dinner.

'But I'll wager that Dame Catherine, once she's done her toilette, will have little trouble getting an audience.' (p123)

'But I'll wager/bet that Dame Catherine, once she's freshened up (or performed her toilette), will have little trouble securing an audience.'

#### Chapter 6

had lasted only 48 hours (p111)

had only lasted forty-eight hours

As she had refused even any nourishment, simply hoping that growing weakness would gently lead her to the death that had rejected her, Symone left the house one evening without saying a word and returned with an elderly woman whose face, under her embroidered headdress and beautiful grey hair, confidently wore the most serene and compassionate of expressions. (p112)

Catherine/She had refused all nourishment in the hope of hastening the death which had so far eluded her since her ordeal at the hands of her attackers. The severity of this decision prompted Symone to leave her house one evening with a specific purpose in mind. On her return Symone/she was accompanied by an older, grey-haired woman whose serenity and compassion shone through beneath her elaborate beautifully embroidered headdress.

the horror and the shameful she had suffered in the mill (p115)

the horror and shame she had suffered in the mill. NO need for over-embellishment to made the statement more impactful.

Until then, we will be only unreliable guardians (p120)

Until then we will only be unreliable guardians

from the mysterious refuge where she had been for so long hidden, (p120)

from the mysterious refuge where she had been hidden for so long,

who had handed Joan of Arc over to the English, and it was hard to understand what she who claimed to be the Maid could have wanted with her (p121)

who had handed Joan of Arc over to the English, and it was hard to understand what the woman masquerading as the Maid could have wanted with her

Toque (p124)

Explanation/translation : Cylindrical hairstyle without edges. "A fur hat."

Agraffe (p124)

Explanation/translation : clip or safety pin

Hennin (p124)

Explanation/translation : a conical or heart-shaped hat, sometimes extremely high, with a flowing veil or piece of starched linen about the crown, worn by women in the 15th century.

'Why should I do so?' (p133)

'Why should I?'

But Gautier, who had not the same motivations, suppressed a little grimace. (p134)

But Gautier, who didn't have similar expectations, suppressed his discontent.

So he contented himself with a smile and kept his not-at-all-cheerful reflections to himself. (p134)

So he contented himself with a smile and kept his cheerless reflections to himself. The use of hyphenated words is grammatically incorrect and has no place in this type of novel.

Only there, she understood now, would the all-too-heavy memories become lighter and perhaps fly away in the harsh wind of the mountains. (p135)

She understood now that her onerous and painful memories might be dispersed in the harsher mountainous conditions. (Note re: hyphenation as above)

## Chapter 7

I am afraid to use them so soon after her ordeal – of which nothing has been kept from you. (p141)

I am afraid to use them so soon after her ordeal. (If this conversation is taking place then there is an assumption that Van Eyck is fully aware of the facts leading to Catherine's ordeal and there is no need for the very clumsy reinforcement referring to them).

That Catherine felt remorse for treating so cruelly the friend who had devoted himself to her (p144)

**That Catherine felt remorseful for treating her devoted friend so cruelly.**

**Inconsistent numerical references (pages 142 – 187)**

About eighty leagues (p142)

When they left Arlon, 48 hours later (p142)

You'll give me two days, won't you? (p143)

But I am no longer 20 (p144)

The Duke came here on 13 December (p145)

A woman of about 40 years of age (p176) **(years of age not necessary)**

31 March (p187)

**Spelling**

Catherine inquired about Morel's lodgings (p145)

**Catherine enquired about Morel's lodgings**

It had been so long ago she had seen him. (p146)

**It had been so long since she had last seen him.**

A murmur glided over the crowd (p148)

**A unified murmur escaped from the crowd**

Chapter 8

So it was really you (p151)

**So it really was you**

In the narrow, almost intimate gallery (p151)

**Either:**

**In the narrow intimate gallery or in the ultimate narrow gallery**

and held her at arm's length, the better to be able to look at her (p151)

**holding her so that he, in turn, could scrutinise the woman he had adored in the past..**

to spend a little of it on ... an old friend (154)

**to spend a little of it with ... an old friend**

It was destined that Catherine should fall from one amazement to another that night. (p160)

**Catherine was destined to witness one surprise after another this very night.**

My best wine of Beaune. The one of which I am most proud. (p160)

**My finest Beaune wine and the one which holds pride of place and gives me the greatest pleasure.**

and Catherine discovered, not without displeasure (p160)

and Catherine discovered, with pleasure (no need for the double negative)

including his decision soon to restore King Rene's freedom (p160)

including his decision to free King Rene in the not too distant future.

a little lost in the mists of the overly generously wine (p160)

overcome by the unduly generous servings of Philippe's cherished wine

Chapter 9

ever-changing (p171) – No hyphen required

gold-coloured (p171) – No hyphen required

the mottling of pink roof tiles (p171)

the pink mottled roof tiles

The wind rose howling and carried the still-fresh snow in its swirls, obscuring (p171)

The howling wind rose and carried the swirling freshly fallen snow, obscuring

well-nourished mouth (p171) – remove well-nourished as this is not an appropriate description, simply 'around the corners of his mouth' is sufficient

However this had been a debacle (p172)

However this had proved to be a great disaster.

by order of Duke Philippe had now to admit a fourth member (p172)

by order of Duke Philippe now had to admit a fourth member

A veritable dialogue of the deaf (?) had followed (p173)

Even I am unable to make sense of this sentence unless DEAF is a misspelling of DEAL?  
Referring to the paragraph about privileges?????

to make a pilgrimage (p173)

to undertake a pilgrimage

that he himself had suggested (p174)

that he personally had suggested

the witch of Montsalvy (p177)

Montsalvy's (resident) witch

Where she dined happily between Gauthier and Berenger (p179)

Where she dined happily sitting between Gauthier and Berenger / or / Where she dined happily with Gauthier and Berenger

that I have there an old friend, Sara (p181)

that I have an old friend there, Sara

Will you tell me from where you got these nonsensical ideas? (p182)

Can you tell me where these assumptions originate from?

so modestly ample (p182)

this is surplus to requirement and does not read well, simply : 'grant us the favour of taking off your cap to show us your hair.'

Realising that she was cornered, Catherine tried at least to parley (p182)

Realising that she had been out-manoeuvred, Catherine attempted to parley.

Her own voice sounded even icier, as she, losing patience, replied (p183)

Her voice taking on a frostier tone as she lost patience responded

you who knows everything (p183)

you who know everything

and that the Duke will be immediately informed (p183)

and that the Duke will be informed immediately

First, though, please be so good as to provide us immediately with a safe-conduct that will allow us to leave your so fine and so hospitable city (p184)

Adding with a touch of irony 'but first of all, please provide us with safe conduct passes to enable us to leave your fine and hospitable city immediately.'

proof of indifference (p185)

If anything, this is the exact opposite of 'indifference' and should perhaps read 'esteem' or 'respect' either will do in this context.

she no longer felt any revolt whatsoever (p185)

she no longer felt disaffected

Chapter 10

and consequently in large numbers stayed away (p187)

and as a consequence stayed away in large numbers

But the enthusiastic, colourfully-embellished report that a revenge-thirsty Berenger gave her (p187)

But the enthusiastic and richly exaggerated report that Berenger, thirsting for revenge, gave her

where once were spent days full of magic (p187)

full of magical memories of days spent there.

high lancet-shaped windows of which were so beautifully reflected in the calm water of the adjoining canal (p187)

high lancet windows beautifully reflected in the still waters of the canal

so foolishly replicated (p187)

foolishly reproduced

faience (p187)

Explanation/translation : glazed ceramic ware, in particular decorated tin-glazed earthenware of the type which includes delftware and maiolica:

Credenza (pgs187, 191,194)

Explanation/translation : A piece of furniture comprising a central cupboard flanked by symmetrical quadrant glass display cabinets, usually made of burnished and polished wood and decorated with marquetry. The top would often be made of marble, or another decorative stone, or of inlaid wood. If playback doesn't begin shortly, try restarting your device.

But she saw none of her former servants again, and above all, above all, Sara was no longer there, not even she, Sara who was so well-versed in running the whole household. (p187)

But Catherine didn't see any of the former servants with whom she had previously shared her life here, most notably Sara who had always been so adept in managing the household.

Well-looked-after (p188) – no hyphens required

They could open only the windows but the air that came in was so cold that they had quickly to close them again (p188)

They were only permitted to open the windows, but the air that came in was so cold that they had to close them again very quickly.

Naturally, the hostage was not allowed to receive visits. (p188)

Naturally, the hostage was not allowed to receive visitors.

which so obviously pleased his wife (p188)

which obviously met with his wife's approval.

As for Catherine, she had to receive every morning and every evening, the head of her personal guard, who had to make sure she was still there. (p188)

As for Catherine, it was necessary for her to receive the Head of her Personal Guard each morning and evening for him to check her continuing presence.

if she desired to give it; although she never did desire. (p188)

if she desired to give it which, of course she never did.

was slowly taking on the soothing aspect of deliverance (p189)

was slowly becoming a reassuring inevitability.

Quasimodo Monday (p189)

This is a Roman Catholic tradition and is unknown to most English (non-Catholic) readers so should have a note of explanation provided particularly with reference to 'The Hunchback of Notre Dame' which is a well known classic novel :

<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/41133/quasimodo-sunday-how-the-hunchback-got-his-name>

Monseigneur Claude Frolo finds the child on "Quasimodo Sunday" and "called him Quasimodo; whether it was that he chose thereby to commemorate the day when he had found him, or that he meant to mark by that name how incomplete and imperfectly molded the poor little creature was," Hugo wrote.



Quasimodo is the Latin name for the Sunday following Easter. It is drawn from the first words of the entrance antiphon for the day, which is the chant sung as the priest approaches the altar for Mass. The entrance antiphon (also called the Introit) for Quasimodo Sunday begins with: "Like newborn infants," or, in Latin, "quasi modo geniti infantes."

Numerical references : (p191)

11 February

11 March

wearing a mask on top of her face (p194)

wearing a mask (on top of her face is surplus to requirement as masks are usually only worn on faces... and is grammatically unsound)

the folds of which hid her thinness (p194)

the folds of which disguised her unhealthily slender appearance

Numerical references: (p198 - 201)

today is the ninth of April

on the night of the eighteenth

around 11 o'clock

on the evening of the fifteenth

Do you have also news from Lille? (p201)

Do you have any news from Lille?

all-too-quiet (no hyphens necessary) (p203)

Perhaps it was the all too quiet city that worried him; it was like one of those great calms that come before a storm (p203)

Perhaps it was the quiet of the city that unnerved him; like the calm that comes before a storm.

Tocsin (p203) = Alarm/Warning Bell

there poured out over the city a raging tocsin, at the call of which doors and windows crashed open with a noise like thunder (p203)

responding to the toll of the warning bell, windows and doors flew open.

but it was all the same Saint-Remy, under a new guise (p204)

but it was the same Saint-Remy, sporting a new disguise

the shoemaker impudently spat almost at the young woman's feet (p205)

the shoemaker spat in the direction of the young woman's feet/the shoemaker spat in close proximity to the young woman's feet – the use of 'almost' is incorrect in this instance

Who knows if they will not come to kill us before the hour of rendezvous? (p206)

Who knows if they won't come back to kill us before the appointed time?

in which joined the shrill voices of the women (p206)

the guards were joined by the shrill voices of their women companions in their beer-fuelled salutes

Numerical reference:

Shortly before 11 o'clock (p207)

Armed with a candle, the flame of which he shielded with his hand, Gauthier (p207)

Shielding the flame of a candle with his hand, Gauthier

Chapter 11

who hooted a song (p211)

who raucously sang a song

This led into a fairly wide tunnel, in the middle of which one could just make out a flight of steps, the lowest of which descended into the water. The glow of a still-invisible light-source illuminated it dimly. (p212) (no hyphens are required)

This led into a tunnel where a flight up steps was visible thanks to a dim light, from an unknown source, its lowest step lapped by the river/canal water.

I was very much afraid (p212)

I was afraid – (the insertion of 'very much' is a modern affectation).

but here she would be just as much in danger (p213)

but she would be in just as much danger here

the beguinje sisters are excellent at caring for the sick (p213)

the Beguine\* Sisters are well-known for caring for the sick

in this instance the Sisters should be identified by their nomenclature and be written in capitals to acknowledge this and a short historical note of explanation ought also be added e.g. a member of a Roman Catholic lay sisterhood founded in Liège in the 13th century.

Let out a short, false-sounding laugh (p215)

Let out a short, forced laugh (as usual no need for hyphenation above)

and the third surely wanted to shove a choke-pear deep down her gullet to stifle her desperate screams (p 216)

and the third attempted to force down a choke-pear\*/Pear of Anguish\*, a medieval form of torture designed for women, to stifle her desperate screams. \* a historical note should be provided to explain the nature of the item described

her shoulders and head wrapped in a snow-white faille the large taffeta headdress of the beguines (page 216)

her head and shoulders covered in the distinctive large headdress, of a light, ribbed snow-white material, worn by the Beguines.

beguine community (218)

Beguine community – (all references to the Beguine must carry the capital B)

so tranquil return to life (p218)

peaceful return to well-being

For Dame Ursule and Dame Berthe, who took care of you, I take, of course full responsibility, (p219)

Of course I take full responsibility for Dames Ursule and Berthe who took care of you.

But now the problem had found its own solution (p221)

But now that problem had found its own solution.

because it brought the hope that freedom was near. (p222)

because it brought the hope that freedom was close/near by.

Date format :

On the evening of 21 May (p223)

That Wednesday of Whitsun (p225)

That Whitsun Wednesday

One heard only whispered words, and saw only worried or insolent faces, such as those of a troop of butchers, their cleavers in their belts, marched with an air of defiance behind their banners to meet the master they so fervently resisted (p 225)

She was aware of the whisperings of the crowd and observed worried and insolent faces, particularly those of the butchers, their cleavers secure in their belts, marching defiantly behind their heraldic Guild banners to confront their reviled master. (it is incorrect to switch the narrative from first person to anonymity).

Under his festive chaperon (p225)

Under his festive cap (Chaperon or chapeau? Lazy translation.)

At the far end of the street, one could already make out, under the Banner of Burgundy, a throng shimmering like mercury: (p226)

On the far side on the street, beneath the Burgundian banner, the shimmering mass of the Duke's personal guard was clearly visible. They, in turn were followed by a colourful and lavish group of knights.

they just had time enough to crouch down on the steps (p226)

they had just enough time to crouch down on the steps

while from outside the soldiers of Burgundy (p231)

while from the exterior Burgundian Soldiers

Do you know what this day will cost me?' (p232)

Do you know what this day has cost me?

but to spare the so-deeply-wounded pride (p233)

but to spare the wounded pride

soft but too calm voice (p233)

soft but overly calm voice

never give them back! (p234)

never give back to them!

without limitation (p235)

without reservation/unconditionally

without a backward look (p236)

without a backward glance

when he was happy, as at this moment (p239)

when he was happy.

The Medieval French, sonorous and musical, and above all Berenger's singing, lent Bernard de Ventadour's famous chanson a cheerfulness with which its rather melancholy lyrics were not quite in keeping but the page loved this song and delivered it enthusiastically to the echoes of his native mountains. (p239)

Berenger loved this powerful medieval 'chanson'/song/ballad by Bernard de Ventadour, lending a lighter note to its melancholy lyrics which he delivered enthusiastically sending the notes echoing through his native mountains and surroundings.

the Connetable de Richemont was still busy establishing order around Paris, where the garrisons of Saint-Denis, Vincennes and Lagny were mutinying and preparing to pillage more thoroughly than the English themselves (p240-1)

Constable de Richemont was in the process of subduing the Parisian garrisons of Saint-Denis, Vincennes and Lagny who were preparing to mutiny and pillage more rapaciously than the English.

from the south a veritable army (p241)

from the south an army

toll station was sited (p242)

toll station was situated

began to run toward the now-visible town (p 243)

ran towards the town

We hardly know him any more, in the town! Worse than a wolf, he's become (p248)

We hardly know him any more. He's become worse than a predatory wolf.

but that would be throwing you into the wolf's jaws, as it is so nearby (p251)

but that would be tantamount to throwing you into the wolf's lair

Gauberte Cairou pulled her 180 pounds out of the scented hay, shook herself down and detached from her belt a bag she had fastened there. 251)

The use of 180 lbs to describe her capacious weight is very modern American and not medieval French – this should be translated in a manner suggesting her weight e.g. 'heaving her not inconsiderable frame' and 'detached a bag from her belt.'

I will never forget what you do for me (p251)

I will never forget what you have done for me

As for his bitch, she would have her bottom rubbed with a good handful of nettles to teach her lesson (p252)

As for his bitch (this is not a word often used in these books,) she should receive a good scrubbing with a hefty bunch of nettles to teach her a lesson.

After a brief cleansing (p252)

After freshening up

powerful Citadel of Calvinet (p253)

powerful Calvinet Citadel

three golden chess-rooks (p 253) x 2

and three golden castles in the shape of rooks in chess.

still-fearsome (p253)

as usual no need for the hyphen : 'displaying an imposing/overwhelming muscular presence

It's smile that day was its lowered drawbridge (p253)

Today. Roquemaurel welcomed visitors, its drawbridge lowered, two bareheaded soldiers playing dice in the cool shade and further along in the meadow, a group of laundresses were going about their business; skirts rolled up and scattering the grass with the fruits of their labour.

Chapter 13

was busy relieving Catherine's hair of the dust of the road (p255)

was vigorously brushing the dust out of Catherine's hair.

savage jealousy (p255)

savage jealousy

One cried only when one was sad or had hurt oneself. (p255)

The little boy/Michel was bewildered/puzzled as he thought people only cried if they were sad or had hurt themselves.

for the thousandth or two thousandth time (p256)

odd interpretation of numbers why give it a specific span – easier just to explain the frequency by making it neutral especially as 'two thousandth time' would never be used. 'for the endless time'

And I have to finish with your toilette (p256)

And I must complete/refresh your appearance.

It won't be long before the water signal before supper ..... (p256)

It won't be long now before the horn summons us to refresh ourselves before supper

bearing on her outstretched arms a just-ironed robe (p257)

carrying a freshly ironed robe

silk that looked as fresh as garden lettuce (p257)

this is a nonsensical translation that would not resonate with English-speakers/readers better to use something more relevant or dismiss out of hand – ‘silk of such a vibrant hue that it was reminiscent of early budding spring leaves’

a wardrobe from which she had moreover found a way to save the jewels and some of the robes when fleeing from Montsalvy (p257)

including robes and jewels which she had safely secured whilst fleeing from Montsalvy

Now she was bringing in one of the said robes (p257)

As she brought in the robe and laid it carefully on the bed. (We already know the item had been freshly ironed reinforcement seems surplus to requirement).

who had become the concubine first of Berault’s eldest son, Jean, and then, when Jean had left to fight in some war I don’t know where, of Berault himself (p258)

who, had first become Jean Berault’s whore and then after he had left to fight in some war or other, aligned herself to his father.

must find them some other lodgings than our lady’s rooms. (p258)

must find them some lodgings other than our lady’s rooms.

I think he felt like doing so for a moment (p258)

I think he really intended to but thought better of it when I looked him in the eye and reminded him

They are calling us for the hand washing (p259)

They are calling for us to freshen up before supper

and began to descend the stairs for the supper (p259)

and went down the stairs to attend the meal/repast/feast

for it boasted not a single piece of Arras tapestry, nor the smallest golden goblet set with precious stones (p259)

as there were no Arras hangings decorating the walls or jewel encrusted goblets to enhance and decorate the tableware.

unproductiveness (p260)

barrenness (if referring to an agricultural environment as in this instance)

genista (p260)

more familiar here as ‘broom’ (the symbol of the Plantagenet dynasty 1154 to 1485)

high seat of carved chestnut wood (p 260)

high seat of carved chestnut : grammatically the addition of ‘wood’ is irrelevant, bad grammar as chestnut is obviously a tree and cannot be mistaken for anything other than being a tree)

to lead her to her seat at the table. He was now lord of the chateau, and said seat was to the right of the seigneurial armchair. (p261)

to guide her to her seat, which, as befitted a guest of stature, was to the right of the seigneurial throne.

And after the chaplain had invoked (p261)

After the chaplain had invoked – no need for the 'And'

bucket of chestnut soup (p261)

cauldron/tureen/pot/bowl/vessel of chestnut soup

decided to use his mouth for something other than devouring food (p261)

decided it was time to apprise Catherine of all the actions he had been inspired to take as a result of her arrival at Roquemaurel.

had followed his words not without surprise (p261)

had followed his narrative with a measure of surprise

seemed crushing to her (p264)

seemed to be crushing her

known to his friends by the nickname Cadet Bernard (p264)

known to his friends as Cadet Bernard (no need to reinforce that this is a nickname as in actual fact it would more accurately be described as a nom de guerre)

And by the time Sunday arrived (p264)

By the time Sunday arrived (And is surplus to requirement)

NB – this whole sentence needs re-writing into something like this:

'By the time Sunday had arrived, all those invited by Renaud de Roquemaurel, were present with the exception of the two most senior delegates namely the Bailiff and Dame de la Salle. Catherine, in the meantime, had, following her own consultations with Sara, Gauthier, Josse and Dame Mathilde, come to a decision she intended to announce/proclaim to the assembled dignitaries and military in the great Roquemaurel Hall.'

you can likewise count on our faithful friendship (p2650)

in turn you can be assured of our continuing and faithful allegiance

of those so different faces (p265)

of those assembled and individual faces

you are not minded to return home by force of our arms? (p2655)

does this mean you don't wish to return to Montsalvy under the protection of our military strength?

Numerical inconsistency : man of 35 (p265)

distant cousinship (p265)

distant kinship!

had always been foreign to (p265)

had always been lacking in

which they have so recently savaged (p266)

which they have recently savaged

the latter named sighed (p266)

the latter sighed

I don't want to set the son against the father (p266)

I don't want to set son against father

her letter absolutely must reach Abbot Bernard (p268)

her letter must reach Abbot Bernard

like a leaden weight (p269)

like a lead weight

Sisyphian task \*

This requires a note\* of explanation – a familiar/equivalent English term would be 'Herculean.'

\*denoting or relating to a task that can never be completed.  
"the pursuit of perfection is a Sisyphian task"

seize this presumed-errant wife (p270)

capture his headstrong/errant wife

there could be no other recourse for her than the convent (p270)

there would be no other solution for her other than to enter a convent

that her son (p270)

that their son

murderous (p270)

merciless

fetch a candle there (p270)

fetch a candle

beneficent (p270)

benevolent/compassionate

if the sky did not send rain (p2760)

if it didn't rain soon

that fury raged inside him (P271)

that he was furious

at his place too (p271)

at his place as well



brickbats (p272)

how is this word intended to be used as something physical like the pitch, oil and arrows that are mentioned? The word usually refers to insults which is verbal not physical

she still loves that abominable person (p273)

she still loves that abominable wretch

put her immortal soul in peril of damnation (p274)

put her immortal soul in peril

The plague is in Montsalvy (p274)

The plague has come to Montsalvy

Chapter 14

Collapsed in Catherine's arms (p275)

Collapsing into Catherine's arms

with so heavy a burden (p275)

with such a heavy burden

staring at their weeping mother without lifting a finger\* (p275)

staring at their weeping mother without stirring/moving a muscle (\* what would they be lifting their fingers for, these are children rammed into a confined space they are unable to do anything to help her which 'lifting a finger' implies).

Perhaps the rain we have for so long been waiting for will finally come... (p276)

Perhaps the rain we have been awaiting for so long will finally come...

but he may already be dead by now (p278)

but he may be dead by now

Merlons (give explanation)\*

\*Crenels are rectangular gaps or indentations which occur at regular intervals along the parapet, usually measuring 2-3 ft wide. Merlons are the solid widths between the crenels, usually measuring 4-5 ft wide and 3-7 ft high.

and tell Sara to drop down to me all the medicine she has (p279)

and ask Sara to send down all the medicines she has prepared

and throw you into a monastery cell for adultery\* (279)

\*monastery is for monks (men) this should read convent which is for nuns (women) – nearly the exact same wording is used on p272 'and lock her up for life in a convent' – sloppy translation style

as well as that which she would discover when she forced Brother Anthime to open the door of her home prematurely transformed into tomb (p289)

and what she might find when Brother Anthime allowed her to enter the cherished home, temporarily transformed into a place of carnage.

all-too-perceptive black gaze (p289)

intuitive/penetrating gaze

but they did nevertheless take care to close the gates (p281)

but they did take the precaution to secure the gates

He unfastened from his belt a hunting horn (p281)

He unfastened the hunting horn that he had attached to his belt

The waiting seemed endless to her. For Josse likewise; and after a few minutes of impatience, he was about repeat his horn signal. (p281)

The wait seemed endless to both Catherine and Josse who was impatient to sound the horn again.

Suddenly, though, a torch appeared on the battlements, illuminating a rapidly-approaching figure that came to a halt above the gates. (p281)

Suddenly the glow of a torch appeared on the battlements illuminating the swiftly approaching figure of Brother Anthime.

I have thirty monks in the abbey, and for each one, I am accountable to God ... (p282)

I have thirty monks in the abbey and am accountable to God for each one their souls.

would not have erected this mountain of terror (p282)

would not have built this monstrous pyre

Dame Comtesse\* (p282)

\*Why the change this appellation? (lazy translation)

Catherine saw again the cloister (p283)

Catherine again saw the cloister

Horehound\*

\*Horehound is from the mint genus which will be more familiar to English-language readers

The circle was completed. (p 283)

The circle was complete.

Brother Anthime gave a thin smile that (p284)

Brother Anthime gave a thin smile which

could not help but wonder (p284)

couldn't help wondering

than she had previously imagined (p284)

to the one she had previously imagined

mask an ambition (p284)

conceal an ambition

behind the voluntarily-walled in party (p284)

behind them – (voluntarily-walled in party is ungrammatical and surplus to requirement, the reader is well aware that the party was not forced into entering therefore (ergo) they entered voluntarily)\*\*

the remains of a meal, over which had spilled the contents of a barrel of wine, a thin trickle of which still dripped from the open bung-hole (p284)

the remains of a meal drenched in wine which was still trickling from the unsecured barrel.

There were almost naked men (p 284)

There were semi-naked/near naked men

lightening\* (p284)

\*lightning – this is a basic spelling error and should not appear in a professional publication!

vomited up everything she had in her stomach (p285)

\*and vomited – (\* it is not necessary to add everything in her stomach, it is surplus to requirement as vomiting normally empties the contents of a stomach)

because of his sideways turned face showed only his wounded cheek (p286)

because only his wounded profile was exposed to view

It stood out whitely against the heavily reddened skin of his face (p286)

It protruded/stood out prominently against the reddish hue of his skin tone.

with his arms spread crosswise\* (p286)

\*this is ambiguous/confusing – either his arms were spread-eagled out or crossed over his chest

to put down the coming mattresses (p287)

to arrange the mattresses

wash anything that could possibly be washed (p287)

wash everything that could be washed

burning her palate (p287)

burning the inside of her mouth

with wild zeal (p287)

with a savage zeal or wild enthusiasm

gird her loins\* (p288)

\*a biblical expression not used in modern parlance and unlikely to appeal to younger generations an acceptable alternative might be something upon the lines of 'she had to target her mindset on the job in hand and nothing else'

first laid him (p288)

first lay him

cheek of the obediently drinking invalid (p288)

fell onto Arnaud's cheek

There was rye and wheat, bacon and hams in the salting tub (p289)

There were sacks of rye and wheat grain in addition to the bacon and hams which were stored in the salting tub.

for which purpose he maintained a hellish fire in the compound (p289)

maintaining a raging fire in the compound

trying to feed him broth into which eggs had been beaten according to Sara's instructions. (p289)

trying to feed him the nourishing broth which had been prepared to Sara's exacting instructions.

Give him something to drink and clean him up (p289)

Giving him something to drink and cleaning him up

Sara look after Arnaud (p290)

Sara to look after Arnaud

stretching the skin almost\* monstrously (p290)

why \*almost? – stretching the skin to its limits

\*Me, my name is Sara ... Me Fatima (p290/1)

\*There is something horribly "Me Tarzan You Jane"/"Tonto/Kimosabe" about this – how about : "What's your name? Mine is Sara she added, pointing a finger at herself." Responding with a visible effort the Moorish girl answered "I'm Fatima" adding "Speak a little bit."

Therefore, she drank her milk (p291)

Meekly, she drank her milk

almost total darkness around her (p291)

near total darkness surrounding her

lightning bolts were flashing down (p291)

lightning bolts were raining down

they were both drenched to the bone (p291)

they were both drenched

oozing from the now-open wound (292)

oozing from the wound

The pain that had driven him to the superhuman effort of standing up, and the bursting of the bubo that had resulted from that, seemed to have exhausted him completely. Added to this was the blood that now flowed, followed by the pus. (292)

He was exhausted from the superhuman effort of standing up which had caused the pustule to burst, release the accumulated pus and blood, and alleviating the unrelenting pain.

she still persistently loved (p292)

she still loved unreservedly

Then she pulled from her pocket the small amber rosary that Dame Beatrice had given her in Bruges, and that she always carried with her, and began to pray quietly (p292)

She pulled the small amber rosary, given to her by Dame Beatrice in Bruges, which she always carried with her, and started praying.

most horrible of deaths (p292)

appalling of deaths

voluntary imprisoned (p293)

voluntarily imprisoned (p293) \*\* - see previous notes regarding this expression – perhaps use 'occupants'

as far as one could judge (p293)

the periods of real sleep from those of simple drowsiness (p293)

periods of natural sleep from semi-consciousness

as far as could be seen

still-contaminated (p293)

contaminated

and more monotonous too (p294)

and more monotonous

peeled vegetables, and, above all, looked after Arnaud (p294)\*

peeling vegetables, and, above all, looking after Arnaud – do not change tenses, basic grammatical error

had been for so long tormented by remorse (p294)

had been tormented by remorse for so long

no other cases had manifested themselves (p295)

the three volunteer prisoners (p295)

the three courageous volunteers

who was bearing his still-considerable weight (p296)

who was struggling to maintain his considerable weight

Bernard, he too almost as pale as a ghost (p296)

Bernard himself almost as pale as a ghost/wraith

rushed toward him (p296)

rushed towards him

too great a pity if any of you should now be afflicted with it (p296)

it would be a great pity if any of you were to be infected as a result

who were so in need of their help (296)

who were in need of their help

reason whatsoever (p297)

reason whatever

with difficulty, struggling out of his cart to hold out his arms to her (p297)

struggling out of his cart, with difficulty, to hold out his arms to her

to white hair (p299)

to old age

I myself have found it beautiful (p300)

I have always found it beautiful

the intensity of which was in any case beginning to subside now (p300)

whose intensity was already subsiding

Idioms:

<https://www.dictionary.com/browse/idiom>

noun

an expression whose meaning is not predictable from the usual meanings of its constituent elements, as kick the bucket or hang one's head, or from the general grammatical rules of a language, as the table round for the round table, and that is not a constituent of a larger expression of like characteristics.

a language, dialect, or style of speaking peculiar to a people.

a construction or expression of one language whose parts correspond to elements in another language but whose total structure or meaning is not matched in the same way in the second language.

the peculiar character or genius of a language.

a distinct style or character, in music, art, etc.: the idiom of Bach.