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WRITER RESCUES NAPOLEON AND BRINGS HIM TO AMERICA

Historical fiction writer Shannon Selin announces the release of her debut novel, *Napoleon in America*. The book imagines what might have happened if Napoleon Bonaparte had escaped from St. Helena and wound up in the United States in 1821.

Selin got the idea for the book while dining at Napoleon House in New Orleans. According to the legend behind the building, pirates from Jean Laffite's gang were plotting to rescue Napoleon from St. Helena – where he was exiled after his defeat at the Battle of Waterloo in 1815 – and bring him to New Orleans. On the day they planned to sail, they learned that Napoleon had died. Selin has them succeed in the quest to bring the former French Emperor to the young republic.

“There were lots of opportunities for Napoleon to make mischief,” says Selin. “The United States was still weak in comparison with the European powers. It was sandwiched between Mexico, chaotically emerging from Spanish rule, and Canada, still a British colony. Napoleon landing on US soil was President Monroe's worst nightmare.” With settings on both sides of the Atlantic, and a cast of characters ranging from the Duke of Wellington to Alamo defender Jim Bowie, Selin consulted over 300 sources to make the book “a plausible whopper.”

Kirkus Reviews calls *Napoleon in America* “evocative and immersive.... A thorough, sweeping novel with seamless transitions from the real to the imagined.”

A Wikipedia-based study recently ranked Napoleon as the second most significant figure in history. As next year marks the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo, *Napoleon in America* offers a timely look at what might have been, had the pirates sailed earlier.

Shannon Selin lives in Vancouver, Canada, where she is working on the next novel in her Napoleon series. Find out more at shannonselin.com.

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Napoleon in America is available from Amazon, Barnes & Noble and other online retailers, or can be ordered from your independent bookstore.

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