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978-0-521-29787-5 - Deadly Words: Witchcraft in the Bocage
Jeanne Favret-Saada
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Witchcraft in the Bocage

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Translated by Catherine Cullen

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TRANSLATOR'S NOTE

This book has long quotations of peasant dialogues in the regional dialect. In agreement with the author, I have chosen to translate these into standard English and not into some rural English dialect. It seemed preferable to give up some of the local flavour rather than instil an arbitrarily-chosen one.

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This book owes much to the Laboratoire d'ethnologie et de sociologie comparative of the Centre national de la Recherche scientifique which accepted me and allowed me to follow my own line, which might have led nowhere. Let it be thanked here for its extreme patience.

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Sa grande inquiétude était de savoir si réellement il avait assisté à la bataille et dans le cas du oui, s'il pouvait dire s'être battu, lui qui n'avait marché à l'attaque d'aucune batterie ni d'aucune colonne ennemie.

Stendhal
La Chartreuse de Parme

His great anxiety was to know whether he had really been part of the battle at all; and if so, whether he could say he had fought in it, since he had not marched to the attack of any battery nor of any enemy column.