

What A Winter

Western Winter – Waseela by Ahonoora

They come out of nowhere and take the world by storm, generation after generation. Think Lady Angela. Unplaced in four starts as a 2yo, winner of one of seven starts at three. Sold and exported to Canada, carrying a foal by Nearco. That was Nearctic, seven-times Canadian champion sire. Nearctic's son Northern Dancer, offered at auction but failing to find a buyer, took it from there. Such bolts of lightning can come from sires as well as broodmares. Take Gondolette, winner of three selling races in four seasons of racing, to become one of the most influential mares in the General Studbook through two sire-sons, and two daughters of modest racing ability, Dolabella and Serenissima, who both turned out to be producers of note. Our focus is on Serenissima.

A daughter of 2000 Guineas and Derby winner Minoru, Serenissima won twice in two seasons of racing. At stud she bred eight winners of some forty races, including Gold Cup winner (and sire) Bosworth and the filly Selene. The latter was on the small side and hadn't been entered for the Classics. She won 16 races from 22 starts in two seasons of racing, and was widely regarded as the best 3yo filly in England. At stud, Selene established a dynasty. Her Derby-winning son Hyperion was many times champion sire in England. Two other sons, full brothers Pharamond and Sickie, made their mark as sires in America, while a fourth son, Hunter's Moon did the same in South America.

In terms of our theory of kin-breeding (duplication of female-line ancestors whose pedigrees show great commonality) Selene and her descendants make for text-book examples.

Selene is very closely kinbred (2x1) and is also closely inbred (3x4 to the mare Pilgrimage). Her legacy features prominently in the pedigree build-up of our subject stallion What A Winter, where Selene's daughter New Moon is the significant bottom-line ancestor.

Unraced, New Moon is by Solario's son Solfo, who died after just one season at stud. Closely kinbred (3x2 Volcanic x Serenissima) New Moon is dam of What A Winter's 6th dam Hazy Moon. Like her dam New Moon, this daughter of Umidwar never raced, but the kin-breeding foundation was strengthened further. Hazy Moon is kinbred 2x1 Uganda x New Moon, and 3x4x4x3 Blanche x Silent Lady x Volcanic x Serenissima.

The next link in the chain is Hazy Moon's daughter Haytime, by Alycidon, who added

further to the close kin-breeding build-up: 2x1 Aurora x Hazy Moon, 2x2 Aurora x New Moon, and 4x3x3 Selene x Rose Red x Selene. Remarkably, for the third generation in succession the strong kin-breeding remained untested, as Haytime, like her dam and grandam, never raced. That was about to change.

Haytime's first foal, from the first crop of sprinter Galivanter, was the filly Haymaking, Rated 155 as a 3yo, she won six races from 1000-2000m, including the Coronation Stakes and Nassau Stakes. Like her female line ancestors, Haymaking was solidly kinbred, 4x3 Katuja x New Moon, backed up with 4x5x6x6x5 Katuja x Blanche x Silent Lady x Volcanic x Serenissima.

The next generation was extended through Haymaking's third foal Hayloft, by highclass Tudor Melody (rated 129), a successful sire. Hayloft was closely kinbred, 3x4x3 Fairly Hot x Aurora x Hazy Moon, and 3x4x4 Fairly Hot x Aurora x New Moon. She won 3 races as a 2yo, all over 1000m (rated Timeform 111), and stayed a mile as a 3yo.

The theory of kin-breeding dictates that a high percentage of topclass racehorses are out of mares who are kinbred, have grandams who are kinbred, and show kin-breeding behind it through their female line's Significant Ancestors.

Hayloft fitted the bill. She came to the party with Irish 2000 Guineas winner Wassl (rated 125), a son of Mill Reef who provided further kin-breeding, 5x6x5x6x6 Quick Thought x Selene x Infra Red x Rose Red x Selene.

Hayloft also was the dam of Wassl's Sister (by Derby winner Troy), a maiden who in turn bred 3-time winner Waseela (the dam of What A Winter) from a mating to Ahonoora. Wassl's Sister was kinbred 6x6 Tetrill x Selene, and 7x6x6 Lake Van x Rose Red x Selene.

For the notebook, Lake Van (who is very close kin to Serenissima) is known in South Africa as fourth dam of sire Sweet Song (by Tudor Melody). Sweet Song and Hayloft (also by Tudor Melody) are very close kin.

What A Winter's dam Waseela was next, her sire Ahonoora making for kin-breeding 6x6 Silver Larch x New Moon and 7x6 Silver Tip x New Moon.

To get What A Winter, Waseela visited champion sire Western Winter.

Western Winter's dam Chilly Hostess is by Vice Regent out of Impressive Lady. Vice Regent is kinbred 3x4x5x5x6 Lady Angela x Composure x Golden Feast x Most Beautiful x Bellamia. Impressive Lady is kinbred 4x4x3x4x5 Picture x Lavendula x Lady Angela x Sceptical x Golden Feast. The key is Golden Feast, dam of Nandi who is doubled in the pedigree of Chilly Hostess.

Western Winter's sire Gone West is kinbred 4x3 Miss Dogwood x Mixed Marriage (dam of Tamerett). Mixed Marriage, who may be the key to Western Winter's pedigree, is close kin to all of Lady Angela, Composure, Sceptical, Most Beautiful, Picture, Lavendula – and above all Golden Feast, who ties it all together.

Satisfying to find, in this context, that What A Winter is kinbred through Western Winter's Significant Ancestor Golden Feast, who is kin to all of Silver Tip (from Ahonoora), Lake Van (from Troy), Katuja (from Galivanter), Rose Red (from Alycidon), Selene, and Serenissima. Solid foundations make great structures.

Where from Here

Mares with pedigrees carrying multiples of Selene and descendants should be high on the list for What A Winter. There is no shortage of this in the South African mare population.

One notable source is Fort Wood, who has shown an affinity for Selene, evident in many of his best offspring, including Horse Chestnut, Dynasty, Celtic Grove, Elusive Fort, Fort Defiance.

Horse Chestnut's 3rd dam Antalya is by Acropolis (who links to Imitation and Khaled in Fort Wood's female line - the Hyperion connection). Acropolis is out of Hyperion-mare Aurora, also dam of Alycidon, Borealis, etc.

Antalya has Hyperion 3x4, her grandam Sanlinea is by Precipitation (Hurry On) out of a Hyperion mare. The Hurry On & Selene combo also appears in Hunter's Moon, found in the female line of Elusive Fort. The latter is a descendant of the famous Argentine E-family, where Selene reigns supreme.

Female Line build-up

6th dam

Hazy Moon (89%) (by Umidwar 92%)
kinbred 2x1 *Uganda x *New Moon 91%
kinbred 4x3 *Silent Lady x *Serenissima 96%

5th dam

Haytime (93%) (by Alycidon 88%)
kinbred 2x1 *Aurora x *Hazy Moon 94%
kinbred 2x2 *Aurora x *New Moon 96%
kinbred 4x3x3 Selene x *Rose Red x *Selene 90%

4th dam

Haymaking (85%) (by Galivanter 86%)
kinbred 4x3 *Katuja x *New Moon 91%
kinbred 4x5x6x5 *Katuja x Blanche x Silent Lady x Volcanic x
*Serenissima 92-96%

3rd dam

Hayloft (89%) (by Tudor Melody 93%)
kinbred 3x4x3 *Fairly Hot x Aurora x *Hazy Moon 91-94%
kinbred 3x4x4 *Fairly Hot x Aurora x *New Moon 93-96%
NB = 90% Mixed Marriage

2nd dam

Wassi's Sister (87%) (by Troy 88%)
kinbred 6x6 *Tetrill x *Selene 92%
kinbred 7x6x6 *Lake Van x Rose Red x *Selene 90-96%

1st dam

Waseela (84%) (by Ahonoora 85%)
kinbred 6x6 *Silver Larch x *New Moon 89%
kinbred 7x6 *Silver Tip x *New Moon 89%

What A Winter (80%) (by Western Winter 80%)
kinbred 8x9 *Golden Feast x *Serenissima 90%



SELENE - dam of Hyperion, Pharamond, Sickle

Dynasty's dam is by Commodore Blake, who has Hyperion 4x4x5 (Hornbeam, Libra, Barley Corn - the latter 3x3 to Selene's dam), while Dynasty's 3rd dam is by Abernant (by Hyperion's son Owen Tudor). Abernant is interesting, as he's damsire of Golden Thatch (whose sire Thatch is a son of Forli and full brother to Special in Sadler's Wells).

Celtic Grove's dam is by Welsh Saint (3x4 Hyperion, one through Owen Tudor, the other through Aureole who is equivalent to Acropolis) and gets another Owen Tudor from her dam.

Fort Defiance' dam is by Home Guard (son of Forli) out of Miss Lily, whose sire Regent Street is 3x4 Hyperion (Gulf Stream and Owen Tudor) and whose dam Lily is out of a mare by Hyperion's son Herald.

Royal Chalice, Foveros and Harry Hotspur can be found close up in some of Fort Wood's good runners, all carry Owen Tudor.

A look at some other Selene carriers.

Selene is dam of Hyperion, Pharamond (sire of Menow, who got Tom Fool and is damsire of Red God), Sickle (grandsire of Polynesian, 2nd damsire of Damascus, etc), Hunter's Moon, All Moonshine (dam of Mossborough and 3rd dam of Sir Tristram).

Mentioned earlier was Sweet Song, the son of Tudor Melody.

Western Winter's sire Gone West has the significant ancestor Mixed Marriage, by Owen Tudor's son Tudor Minstrel (kinbred 3x1 Serenissima x Sansonnet).

Note 2012 Cape Guineas winner Capetown Noir, who is by Western Winter out of Fort Wood mare Akinfeet, who has interesting Spaniard's Mount in the bottom-line.

PICK OF THE BUNCH

*Suitable mares for
What A Winter could include*

1. Fort Wood & sons Horse Chestnut, Dynasty, Elusive Fort, Fort Defiance - and their female lines, notably the Argentine E-family and Miss Lily/Lily
2. Sources of Aurora - as in Acropolis, Alycidon, Borealis (Counter Action, Right Approach, Kahal, Tara's Halls, Count duBois)
3. Sources of Owen Tudor (Mixed Marriage, Tudor Minstrel, Tudor Melody, Sweet Song, Abernant, Golden Thatch, Royal Chalice, Harry Hotspur, Foveros, London News, National Emblem, etc)
4. Sources of Forli (Home Guard, Golden Thatch, Special/Sadler's Wells/Nureyev)
5. Sources of Pharamond (Menow as in Tom Fool/Buckpasser - widespread, but notably Al Mufti, Northern Guest, National Assembly, AP Indy/Seattle Slew, Seeking The Gold)
6. Sources of Sickle (Damascus - with Buckpasser in Captain Al, with Borealis in Counter Action; Rollins/Jet Master; Mecca Road)
7. Sources of All Moonshine (Mossborough - notably Saumarez, Kabool, Spectrum, Casey Tibbs)
8. Sources of Swaps/Khaled, Pretense (Fort Wood), Flower Bowl (Jallad, Badger Land/Badger's Drift, Parade Leader, Danehill, Caesour)

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