

# The Bonapartic clone

The story of the world's first posthumous clone.

In June 2011 Napoléon I's grave in the Invalids in Paris is opened. The hope is to get an end of argument on what he died from. What can be directly told about how the dead man looked comes as a surprise to many persons. He turns out to be two decimetres (eight inches) shorter than many people thought! But the corpse is too decomposed to be of any use. Other than reconstructing his physical appearance, that is. Fortunately, his stomach and heart has been intentionally preserved in alcohol. They lay in a can in the Napoléon's innermost coffin. The stomach is carefully examined with modern pathological methods. It shows no signs of cancer whatsoever. At the same time 16 tissue samples are taken from the dead man's heart. Four of them are tested to see if they contain any poisons. The results fit exactly the poisoning theory. Almost everyone who understands the arguments is convinced about it. The twelve other tissue samples are stored at the Pasteur Institute in Paris. The dead man is reburied and is allowed to rest in peace for the foreseeable future.

Ten years after Napoléon's grave is opened six of the tissue samples are stolen. The French police consider it a crime of low priority. Shortly afterwards a strange kidnapping is committed. The Italian on maternity leave Paola Dolfi is abducted and anaesthetised. She wakes up a few hours later in a park in her home city of Milan. It later turns out that her left ovary is missing. The police don't take Paola seriously when she first reports the crime. It is too similar to a type of cock-and-bull story which was once widespread. When they realise it is real it is already too late. The very most of the evidence has already been destroyed. The crime becomes consequentially unsolved at least for this time.

Neither the French nor the Italian police know that there is a connection between the two crimes. Paola belongs to the same female-line haplogroup as Napoléon did. The intention is to try to clone him in order to test if it works. The people behind are an organisation of Canadian anti-intellectualists. They call themselves the Québequise Rogue. The cloning attempt is made on their commission at an out-of-the-way place in Quebec. All is done under the cover of cloning apes. In other ways the project is very secretive. The plan is to clone five other dead men if the attempt succeeds. The method works better than expected. In Mars 2022 a little boy is born from an artificial womb. He is given the name Léon Bonaparte. He is taken care of by the Québequise Rogue which never tells him which his parents are. The first eight years of his life he is kept hidden from the authorities. He is rarely allowed to get outdoors and never allowed to meet a stranger. The fact is that cloning of whole humans is forbidden in Canada. For a start two women take care of Léon. They are named Monique Martin and Annette Forgeron. Out of them it is only Monique who really cares about him. Unfortunately, she dies from a traffic accident shortly before he turns three. Christine Marron takes over her job. She does not care about Léon more than Annette does.

In July 2030 the cloning project is revealed. Léon ends up with temporary foster parents where he stays for half a year. They are Swedes named Lena (the author) and David Jonsson. It is them which first tell him which his parents are. Napoléon is then considered his father and Paola his mother. Paola and her family don't want anything with Léon to

do. Instead he is taken care of by Daniel and Mary Radcliffe. They live in Lincoln in Britain where Léon spends the rest of his upbringing. As soon as he has learned enough English he can start school there. He then goes to a special school adjusted for dyslectics. It is not until then he gets the chance of learning to read and write. Daniel and Mary also have two biological children. They are two sons named Luke and Dave. The younger brother Dave suffers from childhood obesity. His treatment inclines the whole family to eat less. When Léon has lived with Daniel and Mary for two years they get the right to adopt him. He then changes his surname from Bonaparte to Radcliffe.

At the age of 14 Léon is invited to Jean-Christophe Bonaparte's 50th birthday party. Léon wonders if they have anything in common other than the decent on the father's side. But he accepts the invitation. The encounter with the Bonaparte family becomes a pleasant surprise to him. Jean-Christophe and his family teats him as a distant relative they have not met before. Which in one sense he is.

As an 18-year-old Léon gets an offer to be photographed dressed up as Napoléon. He accepts it just for fun. (He is mentally not fully mature either.) The clothes were originally made for Ian Holm for the TV series "Napoléon and love". Léon is less than an inch shorter than Ian was. He has a fully comparable build. Hands and feet are also of comparable size. Until now Léon have had different short and a little longer hairstyles. A few days before the photos will be taken he lets his hair to be cut to resemble the hairstyle Napoléon had the last 20 years of his life. The hairstyle is reconstructed using old photos of Lena's now dead father. He happened to have virtually the same hairstyle as Napoléon then had. The clothes don't fit perfectly but the small discrepancies he can bear. In contrast the hat made for Ian is far too small for Léon. So he is bare-headed on all photos. During the photographing he refuses to imitate Napoléon's posture. He asserts that there should be some clever way of seeing that he is not the cloned person. Afterwards he lets his hair grow out again. A couple of years later it reaches his shoulders. Léon then chooses a hairstyle fitting his present hair length. This one he keeps until he starts to grow bald. He then changes to a little shorter hairstyle fitting his growing baldness. This one he keeps for the rest of his life.

At the age of 24 Léon becomes one of the funders of International Clone's Association. It is a club for clones and their close family members. The organisation is many times accused for promoting cloning. However, it does not, the intention of the club is to promote better treatment of clones. Something frequently really needed.

Except for being noticeably taller Léon is as adult physically nearly identical with the historical Napoléon. He shares some personality traits with him but has definitely a unique personality. He refers to Napoléon as his "biological father". Léon is virtually bilingual. However, his limited linguistic ability can only handle one accent. The result is him speaking French with a clear British accent. Otherwise his French is an almost perfect mix of Canadian and republic French. When he becomes angry he swears in Franglais. Léon is not as aggressive as Napoléon was. Trough systematic training in his teens Léon learned to handle his anger. Thanks to this he is not particularly prone to using violence. In close relationships he is rather demanding. He has some egoistic tendencies. But they are not so strong that he things about friendship only in terms of usefulness. At one hand Léon has a bit hard to trust strangers. On the other hand he is not hard to convince that someone can be trusted. It is enough to just practically show that you are in fact kind and nice. Furthermore, he has better sympathy than what Napoléon had.

As opposed to Napoléon Léon is not addicted tobacco in any form. He drinks even less alcohol than Napoléon did. On the opposite he often drinks coffee with milk. Fortunately, Léon has no allergy. He has some near-sightedness but refuses to use glasses. The fact is they make his already small eyes look even smaller. Instead he uses contact lenses. Exercising regularly he can't avoid. In addition his motor ability is not noticeably impaired. Napoléon's genius he is nowhere near, however, he is in fact smart. It is mostly his dyslexia and early lack of education which to some extent creates problems. With considerable effort he eventually succeed in qualify as a businessman. Léon is a quite successful one thanks to his combination of egoism and intelligence. Consequentially, he manages to live a rather good life on it until he retires. Afterwards he lives on governmental pension together with money personally saved.

Léon use to say he only has one advantage of being a clone. It is knowing in advance that he can develop baldness between the age of 30 and 35. So before he turns 30 he starts with preventive treatment. It consists of a cream which is recurrently smeared into the user's scalp. It makes the shin less sensible to the effect of testosterone. The treatment can't prevent baldness but delays the development of it. The result is that he starts growing bald about 15 years later than Napoléon. This is to say Léon starts to grow bald when he is 48 years old. It is virtually at the same time as he reaches middle age. This age is considered completely normal for people born 2020-2030. Léon ages as such no faster than people which are not clones.

For many years Léon has to search to find someone suitable to marry. Not that he has any bigger problem to hang up girls. It is true, he does not look particularly good by 21st century standards. But as the world's first posthumous clone he has some attraction on girls only due to his fame. The problem is instead to find a partner which works together with him. Either the girls have problem to take in that he is a unique individual. Or they are not capable of satisfying his relatively high sex drive. (They don't accept to have sex often enough to him.) Eventually he manages to find Valerie Parker who was born in 2029. She has about as high sex drive as Léon has. She also accepts him as the unique individual he inevitably is. They marry in August 2060. In July the following year they first child is born. He gets the name Daniel for his adoptive grandfather. Valerie and Léon get the daughter Ellen in September 2062. Their third and youngest child is born in February 2064. They give him the name Thomas. All three have come into existence the natural way. Léon has no illegitimate child. He never has unprotected sexual inter course with anyone but Valerie. He says he does not want his children to grow up with a lone mother. When he has married Valerie he is never unfaithful to her. He intentionally arranges to not be away from her longer than he can resist.

Léon decides to retire when he is 70 years old. Until then he has rarely been ill but now his health begins to give way. He gradually starts to suffer from ailments of ageing. Eventually he dies a natural death in October 2104. Valerie survives him with a rather even nine years. Clones does suffer from a somewhat heightened risk of falling victim to hate crime, it is true. However, in this case no-one has any motif for wanting to kill him. Which is lucky, it is.