Calmly clouded Tuesday.
The chateau is closed.
Nothing glitters.
We walk up the steps
The water usually falls down.
We circle the circular pool.
We picnic illegally with our forbidden charcuterie
Behind a hedge, and hide the package there
From tonight's rain and tomorrow's glitter.
I do not feel like Empress Someone slumming.
I do not feel like a maid on holiday.
I do not feel like Alice or like Chloe.
Content, we amble,
Pausing above a huge tiered lawn gone almost to meadow,
Beside a shallow canal which any other day
Might have looked cosmic.
Its two straight lines leading half a mile to nowhere,
Contained by two straight lines of poplars
Also leading nowhere—
Or everywhere, perhaps, when the sun is out.
We sit between the poplars and a bank
Watching the gray-brown surface reflect nothing,
Receive no shadows,
Allow the few brown carp pacing its length
To be seen whenever we can see them.
Halfway between Arcturus and a ditch,
Nothing vast and nothing vile,
Just a kilometer of quiet water by which to sit.
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Un de Sceaux took his customary early lead and shook off the challenge of Vibrato Valtat approaching the second last. He jumped the last two lengths clear of God’s Own before drawing away in the closing stages to win by six lengths. After the race, Mullins said “He’s not a typical racehorse and I don’t think he’s any pedigree, either, which is extraordinary. After leading from the start he shook off a challenge from Sire de Grugy approaching the last fence and drew away on the flat to win by five lengths. Mullins commented “He just settled into his own rhythm and he jumped in his own time... However he met stiff opposition from the Colin Tizzard trained Fox Norton and suffered his first defeat of the campaign finishing second by almost 2 lengths.
trip after his brilliant win in the Ryanair at the Festival while Fox Norton was impressive at Aintree on his last start. By HARRIET FULLER. 24th April 2017, 2:20 pm. Updated: 24th April 2017, 2:20 pm. **UN DE SCEAUX and Fox Norton lock horns in what should be a thrilling renewal of the BoyleSports Champion Chase at the Punchestown Festival on Tuesday.**

The Willie Mullins’ Un De Sceaux is three from three this season and looked better than ever when dominating his rivals in the Ryanair Chase at Cheltenham last month. He said: “I had a good journey over and apparently as soon as he stepped onto the lorry he knew where he was! He was never comfortable at Aintree and he’s obviously happier going right-handed.”

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