Comment va Marianne? Conte philosophique et républicain

How is France? A Philosophical and Republican Tale (François Bourin, 2012)

Convalescing, Marianne (an emblem of France) is resting in La Fontaine, a mountain village in the Alps. She is wondering what made her sick. Does her state reflect that of the Republic? She calls in her emissaries, who are animals, and asks them to travel the country polling the inhabitants. Upon their return, they describe France as they've seen it. In the spring, they are visited by former philosophers reincarnated as cats. Together they prepare a vegetarian feast for Bastille Day, when they will sing a new version of La Marseillaise (the French national anthem).

Between Voltaire and Lewis Carroll, Corine Pelluchon tells an offbeat tale about contemporary France that is at once funny and tender, incisive and generous.