Abraham’s Pictures

a novel

(This novel is part A of a two part PhD)

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Declaration

I certify that except where due acknowledgement has been made, the work is that of
the author alone; the work has not been submitted previously, in whole or in part, to
qualify for any other academic award; the content of the thesis is the result of work
which has been carried out since the official commencement date of the approved
research program; and, any editorial work, paid or unpaid, carried out by a third party
is acknowledged.

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The passage from Yevgeni Viokurov’s poem, ‘I’ve had advice from everyone I know...’ on page 77 is translated by Irina Zhelezrova and taken from: Fifty Soviet Poets, compiled by Vladimir Ognev and Dorian Rottenberg, Progress Publishers, Moscow 1969, page 113.
Whatever it grants to vision and whatever its manner, a photograph is always invisible; it is not it that we see.

Roland Barthes, *Camera Lucida*
King Vidor/Paramount Pictures, 1956. Just like Alyosha, Natasha Rostova, a young noblewoman from Leo Tolstoy’s War and Peace, proved herself more popular than the two other most important characters of that epic novel (Pierre Bezukhov and Andrei Bolkonsky), according to Google. This is hardly surprising – neither Pierre nor Andrei were played by Audrey Hepburn (in the 1956 Hollywood movie).