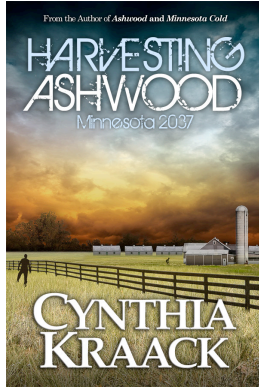




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LEAVING ASHWOOD by Cynthia Kraack

Minneapolis, MN: **June 1, 2014** — Decades after a global depression, a new world has emerged where there is no war, less hunger, and more opportunity to work than anyone can remember. So what isn't right about the picture?

Leaving Ashwood, the final book in the speculative fiction Ashwood trilogy by award-winning author Cynthia Kraack, explores the question 'if mega multinational corporations ruled the world would life be all that bad?' Have shareholders' votes replaced the importance of citizens' votes?

Anne Hartford, CEO of Hartford Enterprises, has built a significant agribusiness out of the ruins of an early 21st century global depression with hopes that financial security will assure her family certain freedoms. But a world where a small number of multinational corporations have banded together to create controlled markets has placed tight constraints on individuals' opportunity to choose a career or lifestyle. Can one female business leader call to action a government no longer connected to its citizens?

Stepping outside her position of authority poses threats to everything Anne values. Mind-controlling research, invasive technology and the world of corporate power are difficult armies to battle when the cost of losing is catastrophic. *Leaving Ashwood* is not a decision simply made.

Cynthia Kraack is the author of the Ashwood trilogy released by North Star Press of St. Cloud Minnesota which includes *Ashwood* (2010), *Harvesting Ashwood: Minnesota 2037* (2012) and *Leaving Ashwood* (2014). Her first novel, *Minnesota Cold*, won the 2009 Northeastern Minnesota Book Award for Fiction and *Harvesting Ashwood* was nominated for a Minnesota Book Award. She is a graduate of Marquette University's College of Journalism and holds a Master's in Labor Economics and Educational Psychology from the University of Minnesota as well as a Masters in Creative Writing from the University of Southern Maine. She has spent years in corporate management, consulting and freelance writing.



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Praise for *HARVESTING ASHWOOD*:

“Big Brother goes stark raving mad in *HARVESTING ASHWOOD*, Cynthia Kraack’s engrossing drama about family love versus an unfeeling bureaucracy. The author paints a dystopian future that’s scary as hell. It makes Ayn Rand’s *Anthem* and Jack London’s *The Iron Heel* look like a day at the beach.”

—**David Housewright, Edgar Award winning author of *Curse of the Jade Lily***

“Cynthia Kraack’s dynamic dystopian novel *HARVESTING ASHWOOD* is both timely and timeless. Kraack skillfully mixes contemporary concerns like ecological depletion, ‘surrogate’ parenting and economic meltdown with classic storytelling savvy. And this fast-paced tale never loses its emotional center in one woman’s heart. With Anne Hartford, Kraack gives us a vivid and resilient heroine for our troubled times and beyond.”

—**Elizabeth Searle, author of *Girl Held In Home* and *Celebrities In Disgrace***

“Richly imaginative and generously plotted, a tale of human hope and perseverance set in a bleak but too possible future America. Kraack’s vision of rural Minnesota under the thumb of a desperately inept bureaucracy feels a little too real—frighteningly detailed—as if she’s already been there. An absorbing, engaging nightmare.”

—**Michael Kimball, author of *Undone*, *Mouth to Mouth*, and *Green Girls***

WATCH the book trailer at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KpDsuQz3LR0>

READ Cynthia Kraack’s blog at: <http://cynthiakraack.com/blog-book-reviews/>

WATCH an interview with Kraack: <http://www.mrmedia.com/?p=1110>

LISTEN to several interviews at: <http://cynthiakraack.com/media/>

North Star Press of St. Cloud, Inc.

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