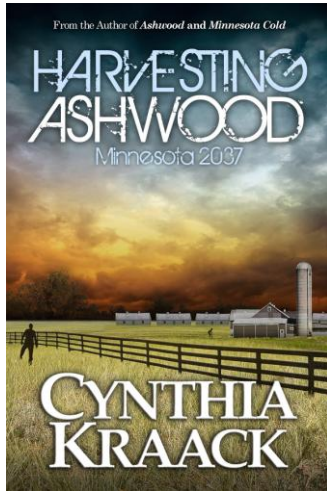




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HARVESTING ASHWOOD: MINNESOTA 2037 Cynthia Kraack

*Speculative Fiction Thriller
Takes Readers on a Riveting Journey
into the Future*

“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*



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Minneapolis, MN: April 26, 2012 — Ten years after the second great depression, Americans struggle to recover from the country's recovery activities in *Harvesting Ashwood: Minnesota 2037*, the third speculative fiction novel by prize-winning author Cynthia Kraack. As colossal-size government, necessary during the chaos of international financial collapse, is reluctant to downsize its power and activities as business re-asserts its claim to sharing direction of the U.S. economy. How do quasi-governmental units established to feed, shelter and educate citizens navigate the developing power struggle of an ever-changing order? *Harvesting Ashwood: Minnesota 2037* builds on the tradition of *Ashwood* by challenging today's status quo within the twists and turns of a spellbinding thriller.

Kraack explores social issues from today's culture in a different future. From the basic right of people to daily food to the complex relationship the United States has with its children, the *Ashwood* series pushes readers to question the trade-offs made by politicians under the pressure of military expansion or international diplomacy.

Harvesting Ashwood: Minnesota 2037 follows Anne Hartford, owner and general manager of a former government agricultural installation named *Ashwood*, through challenges that threaten the continued profitability of raising crops for both the public and private markets, the illogical infringement of the military on her operation, and policy that could destroy her family. Trained to be an elementary teacher in the early twenty-first century, she creates a safe haven for many children sucked into government-assigned training even while worrying about a tenuous hold on her own sons and daughter.



Cynthia Kraack's first speculative fiction work, *Minnesota Cold*, won the 2009 Northeastern Minnesota Book Award for Fiction. 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.

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/>

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