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Harvesting Ashwood

Cynthia Kraack

ISBN-13: 978-0-87839-607-8

6x9 inches, 258 pages, trade paperback

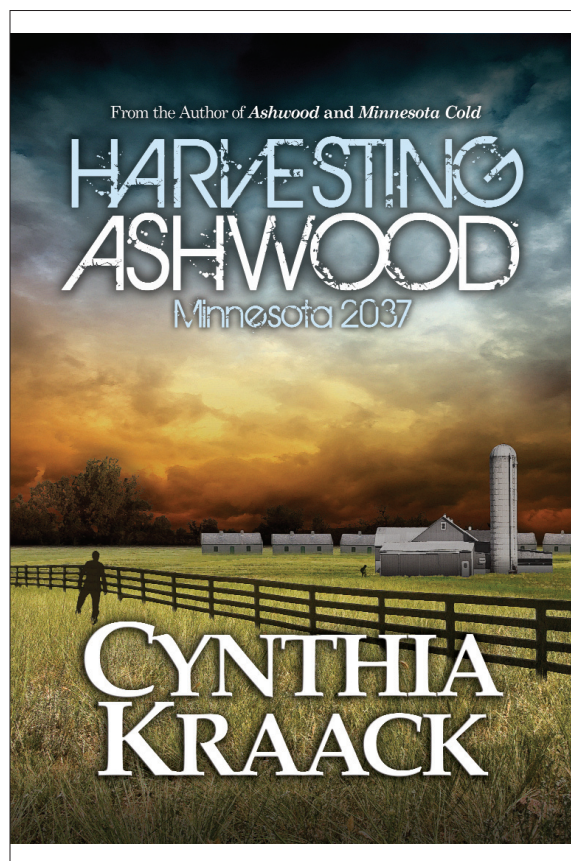
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In the decade following the horrible depression of the 2020s, hard work and determination have brought a sense of security to Anne Hartford and her extended family. Finally, no one on the estate experiences hunger, everyone has a warm bed and the children receive a good education. The residents of the U.S. metropolitan areas may not fare as well. A nation that so recently experienced hunger and deprivation could be devastated again, if rumors of government trading of precious agricultural commodities prove to be true.

A diminished population has caused government, private industry and the military to compete for labor. In looking at the rich fields of the Ashwood estate, Anne Hartford's greatest concern is finding people who can harvest the crops in 2037, now that government-assigned labor is no longer available. Suddenly, Anne's husband is abducted while on a Department of Energy trip to South American. A strange bureaucrat arrives at Ashwood, allegedly to manage media interests. Dual scandals rock her family as well as the country, posing troubling questions about the rights of children, the role of big government and the self-determination of individuals.

Harvesting Ashwood: Minnesota 2037 is a provocative story told in the speculative fiction tradition of George Orwell.

BISAC: FIC028020
Release Date: June 1, 2012



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