



Maps and Shadows: A Novel

By Krysia Jopek

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This stunning new novel is drawn from a little known chapter of World War II history - the brutal Soviet deportations of 1.5 million Polish civilians to forced labor camps in Siberia shortly after the Soviets occupied eastern Poland at the beginning of the war. Beautifully written, lyrical and poetic, Maps and Shadows explores the impacts of this shattering experience on a family from four points of view.

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Editorial Review

From the Publisher

This stunning new novel is drawn from a little known chapter of World War II history -- the brutal Soviet deportations of 1.5 million Polish civilians to forced labor camps in Siberia shortly after the Soviets occupied eastern Poland at the beginning of the war.

Beautifully written, lyrical and poetic, the author explores the impacts of this shattering experience on a family from four points of view. The adolescent son and daughter, and the mother and father, each take turns chapter by chapter in telling their story.

Slowly, delicately, the threads are woven together -- the father Andrzej's secret shame at not being able to protect his family; the son Henryk's need to grow up quickly; the daughter Helcia's descent into nightmares, seeking comfort in broken bits of poetry consigned to scraps torn from a precious salvaged dictionary; the mother Zofia's instant aging, her hidden fears and worry.

Their odyssey spans the map from Poland to Siberia, on divergent paths to Persia, Palestine and Italy, to Uzbekistan and Africa, before finally converge in England amidst shadows that will never vanish.

About the Author

Krysia Jopek was born in 1967 in Hartford, Connecticut. She holds three degrees, a BA and MA in English from the University of Connecticut and a M.Phil in English from CUNY Graduate Center. She studied in London her sophomore year of college and attended Semester at Sea in Fall of 1998 before teaching English at CUNY from 1991-2001.

The combination of her travels, education and teaching experience informs her worldview with a global dimension.

She has published poems in various literary journals, including *Columbia Poetry Review*, *Prairie Schooner*, *The Wallace Stevens Journal*, *Phoebe*, *Murmur*, *Windhover* and *Artists & Influence*, as well as reviews of poetry in *The American Book Review*, and a review of literary criticism in *The Wallace Stevens Journal*.

Krysia Jopek lives in Connecticut with her two dogs.

Users Review

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