



Stones Under the Scythe

????? ???, Vera Kaczmarskyj (Translator)

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Olha Mak, author of several novels for adolescents and young adults, wrote "Stones Under the Scythe" to help shatter a conspiracy of silence and deliberate denial about one of the most terrible tragedies to befall any nation, a catastrophe caused by the workings of a group of fanatical "creators of a new breed of men." The characters in the novel are composites of individuals and the narrative is based on real events the author witnessed as a university student. The story of 15 yearold Andriy recreates the fate of millions of Ukrainian children who either perished or barely escaped death in the years of a man-made famine, the "Holodomor," that took the life of every fourth Ukrainian. However, Olha Mak's novel is not a somber story of horrible events. Her characters bear witness to the truth that the human spirit cannot be fully subdued. But this is a truth that needs frequent reminders, for everyone at some point comes to feel vanquished by the brutality that confronts them.

Stones Under the Scythe Details

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From Reader Review Stones Under the Scythe for online ebook

Kat Karpenko says

I started reading this book because I am doing research on my next novel about Ukraine during this period but was soon caught up in the story. Mak writes with authority from her own experiences as a student in Ukraine during the Holodomor (Stalin's orchestrated famine which killed millions). Her hero is a fifteen-year-old orphaned boy who is struggling to survive in the capital of the Ukraine that is being inundated with other victims of starvation tactics. I learned not only the truths of the situation he faced but finished with the message that humans can survive by caring for one another and by stoutly standing against tyranny. It is a tale well told and by adding faces to this tragedy, much more interesting than a history book.

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Ksenia (vaenn) says

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