

Winner: 2011 Benjamin Franklin SILVER AWARD for HISTORICAL FICTION

# “HAUNTING, WELL RESEARCHED.”

— HISTORICAL NOVELS REVIEW



**“ABSOLUTELY FASCINATING...  
VERY VIVID.**

**An extremely eye-opening look  
at a not so familiar aspect  
of World War II's history.”**

— *Back to Books*

**“Recommended to those  
who like their historical fiction  
autobiographical and real.”**

— *Historical Novels Review*



AQUILA  
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## **MAPS AND SHADOWS A Novel**

By Krysia Jopek

***Four voices. Four lives. Four paths. One family.***

Vivacious Helcia, fifteen years old, with flowing molasses-colored hair, loves poetry and history. Cocky Henryk, at twelve, is already testing the limits of manhood.

Their father, Andrzej, veteran of an earlier war to defend their Polish homeland, proudly built the family farm from the ground up. Zofia, their mother, sings as she works in the home she loves, gazing out the kitchen window to admire their land, their crops, their thriving children.

**February 1940:**

A pounding Russian fist on the door in the middle of a frozen night—and they will never see their land again.

Swept into a World War II odyssey that spans the map from Poland to Siberia, on divergent paths to Persia, Palestine and Italy, to Uzbekistan and Africa, converging in England and finally settling in America, the family endures...and ultimately triumphs.

This stunning debut novel from poet Krysia Jopek takes a fresh stylistic approach to storytelling, fusing a minimalist narrative with lush lyricism.

Jopek draws on a little known chapter of World War II—the Soviet deportations of 1.5 million innocent 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 one family.

**“Jopek shows how very talented she is.”**

— *The Nightreader*

Category: Fiction

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160 pages • 6" x 9" • 12 black and white illustrations • 8 original poems •

Bibliography • Reading Group Guide

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**“Gripping. An incredible story.”**

— *Rose City Reader*



## **AUTHOR BIO**

**KRYSIA JOPEK** received her B.A. and M.A. in English from the University of Connecticut, and her M. Phil. in English from City University of New York Graduate Center. She studied in London, England for a year, and taught English literature and writing at City College of New York for ten years. Most recently, Jopek has been teaching at Westfield State University in Massachusetts.

Jopek’s poetry has been published 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*.

*Maps and Shadows* is her first novel. Jopek drew from the history of her own family’s deportation from Poland, as well as extensive independent research. She brings her rich literary and poetic background, and a worldview of global dimension, to illuminate this lost piece of history with lyricism and grace.

Jopek lives in Windsor, Connecticut, very near her family whose story inspired *Maps and Shadows*.

**“Fascinating in style and content.”**

— *The Black Sheep Dances*

**“Vividly depicted. Beautifully written,  
filled with haunting imagery.”**

— *Jew Wishes*



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