

The love between Dmytro, an impoverished aristocrat turned farmer, and Khrystina, daughter of a wealthy landowner, carries their family through the horrors of the twentieth century that befell the Ukraine.

***Wretched Land* by Mila Komarnisky, Chapter 12, Excerpt 2
Ukrainian famine 1932-33 (Holodomor)**

It was only one more day until Dmytro would return home, but there was no food left in the Verbitsky house, and Khrystina and the children had not eaten for three days. Despite their small daily ration, Khrystina had insisted on feeding children every day, and when, several days before, she saw the hunger in their eyes, she boiled an extra potato, they drank potato water but it would not diminish the hunger. It just seemed to burn in their empty stomachs, as if they had swallowed hot coals.

The children were weak from malnutrition. They did not play; they only spoke in feeble voices about the food Khrystina had served before the famine, especially on Christmas and on Easter holidays.

Even though Khrystina heated the house once a day, the children felt cold and lay in bed dressed in warm clothes. Finally, they stopped asking for food and only complained about the pain in their stomachs. Their cries split Khrystina's heart. When Ganna threw up a greenish, viscous looking liquid, Khrystina could not wait any longer. For the first time in her life, she had to go into the village and beg for food. She was heart-broken. She dressed in the only clothes that she had left, the ones she used to work in the barn. She put her felt boots and galoshes on her bare feet, took the baby, and went out into the street.

The day was cold and windy. The gale blew piles of snow in the yard and in the street. She walked along the quiet, empty street as snow crunched under her feet. All the dogs and cats had disappeared from the yards as well as their own dog, Tobik, and cat, Murka. The children missed them very much. They had called to them every day but they did not come home. Probably someone had caught the animals and had eaten them.

One of the book's reviews at <http://tinyurl.com/43pnt8e>

Wretched Land is available from the Savant Books and Publications Bookstore at

<https://www.createspace.com/3578979>

At the Amazon.com bookstore <http://tinyurl.com/3rh9ae2>

At the Amazon.ca <http://tinyurl.com/3bha4jq>

At the Amazon.co.uk <http://tinyurl.com/69ro3ps>

Sincerely,

Mila Komarnisky

Author of *Wretched Land* (2011)

The press release at <http://prlog.org/11432786>

The author's website: www.lovehealthwealth.com

The book trailer on YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dXvKdseXsBk>