

Wretched Land by Mila Komarnisky, Chapter 18, Excerpt 3

After the German soldier's attempt to rape Catherine, Khrystina told Ganna to soil her face with ashes, put an old kerchief on her head, dress in an old fashion way, and bend over as an old woman would do. The Germans did not pay attention to such women. Khrystina tried to save Ganna from the Germans, as well as from Germany.

However, one summer day Fedir brought the Germans into Dmytro's house and told them that there was a boy and a girl of working age. The Germans took Leonid and Ganna with them. Khrystina cried and begged them to leave the children but they did not pay any attention to her lamenting. Fedir smiled looking at Dmytro who was trying to comfort Khrystina. "They are going to be all right in Germany. Don't cry, they will be back."

"I won't see them again," Khrystina said continuing to sob.

"I would take you too, if you were younger," Fedir said to Dmytro laughing.

Dmytro looked straight into his eyes and said, "One day you'll pay for what you've done to your own people."

"You won't see that day. The Germans are here to stay, for good," Fedir said and shoved Leonid and Ganna forward. "Let's go. You'll see Germany, and you'll love it."

As wars rage and famine threatens the livelihood of their children, Dmytro and Khrystina show resolve and teach their children of compassion in the face of adversity.

Author's website: www.komarnisky.com

Book trailer on YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MJk8YEF0aHI>