

I A Mystery



A DARK SONG OF BLOOD

BEN PASTOR

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PREPARE FOR WAR because this historical novel set in Rome and Northern Italy in 1943 brings it to your door.

Martin Bora is an aristocratic German officer in the Wehrmacht with a conscience. His job is to solve murders that could reflect badly on the Nazi regime with political repercussions, which I found ironic in the midst of all the barbaric actions of the SS. The first murder is a beautiful, young secretary who has fallen to her death from her bedroom window. Later, an eighty-year-old Catholic Cardinal and a Roman socialite are also murdered. Wild parties, opera performances, slaughters, spies, traitors and the problem of daily securing food in the midst of bombings complicate this extremely well written mystery.

Real people like Field Marshal Kesselring and a future pope have a role as well as the Catholic Church. I do not think I have ever identified with a German protagonist before Bora. His character is wonderful. How difficult, yet how intelligent, he is. He has lines in the sand he does not cross.

If you liked *THE BOOK THIEF*, you will find its match in *A DARK SONG OF BLOOD*. It is the third in a series. The first was *LIAR MOON*, the second *LUMEN* all taking place during the war.

Carolyn Lanier

