

Hope and Redemption Create Brotherhood in Stephen Hauge's *Dark Against the Sky: A Climbing Boy's Story*

Dark Against the Sky is the story of a band of climbing boys (young chimney sweeps) in London in 1834.



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Canoga Park, California Apr 29, 2025 (Issuewire.com) - [***Dark Against the Sky: A Climbing Boy's Story***](#) is a poignant historical novel that immerses readers in the gritty world of young chimney sweeps in London during 1834. Through the eyes of the protagonist, Tommy, the story explores themes of hardship, friendship, and personal growth against a backdrop of societal challenges. The narrative

centers around Tommy, a young climbing boy who faces the grim realities of life as a chimney sweep. In a time when child labor was rampant, Tommy and his companions navigate the dangers posed by their callous master sweeps, who exploit their youth for profit. This relentless struggle for survival is marked by daily challenges, including the physical toll of their work and the emotional separation from their families.

The narrative's darker elements are balanced by the warmth of friendship and the shared experiences of the band of brothers. Their interactions serve as a testament to the human spirit's resilience in the face of adversity. Tommy's growth throughout the story is marked by his developing understanding of loyalty, sacrifice, and hope, ultimately leading to a sense of redemption.

The illustrations by Cathleen Daniels complement Hauge's storytelling beautifully, bringing the historical context to life. These visual elements add depth and emotion, urging readers to immerse themselves in the world of the climbing boys.

Dark Against the Sky: A Climbing Boy's Story is more than a tale of hardship; it's a celebration of resilience, friendship, and the indomitable human spirit. Stephen Hauge's compelling narrative, paired with Cathleen Daniels' evocative illustrations, creates a rich tapestry that will engage readers of all ages, inviting them to reflect on the importance of compassion and connection in overcoming life's challenges. This book is a significant addition to the genre of historical fiction, illuminating an often-overlooked aspect of history while inspiring hope and courage.

Steve Hauge became interested in climbing boys in a history course at Williams College. His concern led to this deeply researched story, which provides a window into the lives of these lads amid the street life of London. Hauge is also the author of a CD-ROM on Robert Louis Stevenson and the *Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*. A teacher for 12 years, he lives in New Jersey.

Cathleen Daniels has been illustrating since 1990. While her illustrations are mostly digital, she also works in watercolor, mixed media, and acrylic. Her clients include Simon & Schuster, Barnes & Noble, PlayStation, Sega Genesis, Marvel Comics, and DC Comics.

Grab a copy of *Dark Against the Sky: A Climbing Boy's Story* in bookstores, online outlets like [Amazon](#) and [Barnes & Noble](#).

[Dark Against the Sky: A Climbing Boy's Story](#)

Written by Stephen Hauge, Cathleen Daniels (Illustrator)

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