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LARKBARROW

A STORY OF EXMOOR

Paddy King-Fretts

REPRINT

Set on Exmoor during World War II, and written by a man of Exmoor, *Larkbarrow* tells how events during those turbulent and uncertain years changed forever the lives of two innocent young people. It is a romance of violence and passion based on events and places of that time.

Becky Carter, a young girl, lives at Larkbarrow, a lonely farm high in the Exmoor hills close to the Doone Valley. Suddenly she and her family are forced out of their home, making way for the guns of the army as they prepare for D-Day. Sam Hawkins from nearby Exford has been courting her but a soldier, Mike Daley arrives.

When he too, goes off to the wars Becky is left carrying his child. Believed to have been killed in action, he returns unexpectedly but badly wounded. However, by then, Rose Hatton, a beautiful and well-connected young war widow has arrived also.

The story ends in the first spring after the war exactly where it began – at Larkbarrow.

Born in 1941, **Paddy King-Fretts** grew up high on Exmoor where, as a boy, he roamed the wild countryside alone on his pony, falling in love with the mystery and romance of the moors. It is a love story that has endured and now, after more than forty years as a soldier and traveller, he has come home to North Devon where he writes.



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