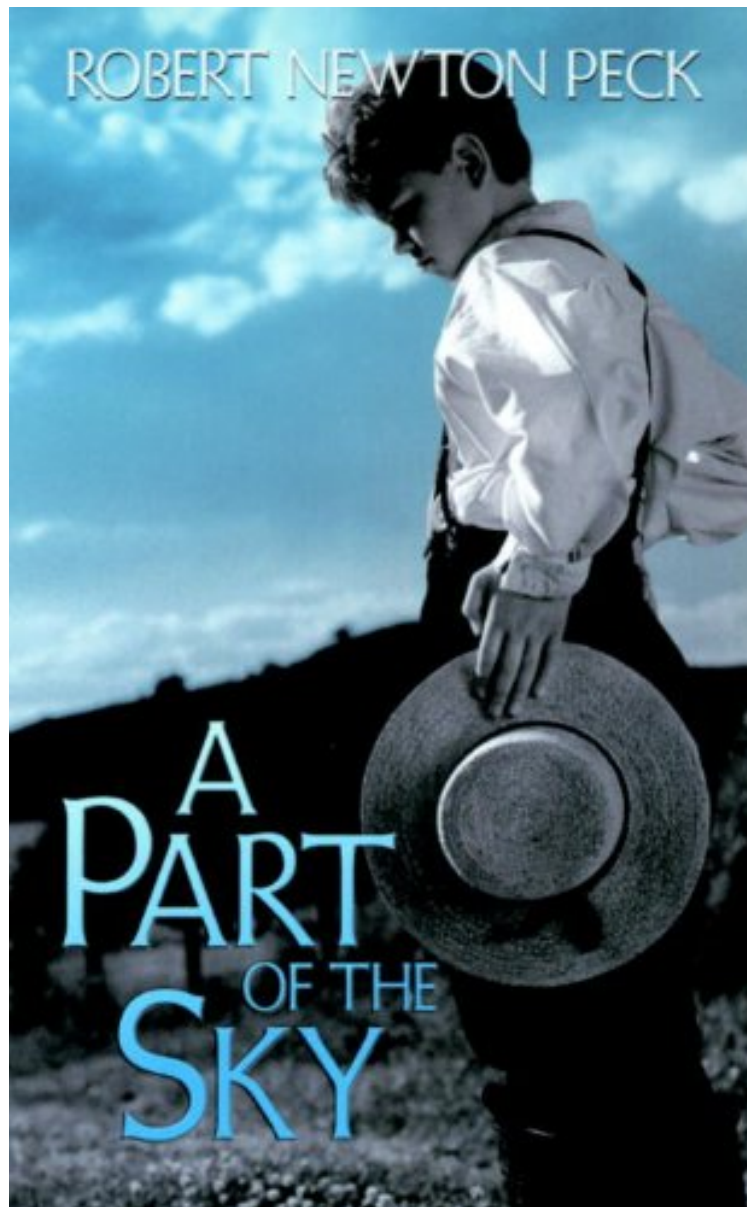


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## A Part of the Sky

*Von Robert Newton Peck*

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**Von Robert Newton Peck : A Part of the Sky** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Part of the Sky:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Peck does it again!Von Ein KundeR.N. Peck's sequel to A Day No Pigs Would Die is just as touching as ADNPWD. I

highly recommend it!

**Kurzbeschreibung**In celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the publication of Robert Newton Peck's bestselling classic, *A Day No Pigs Would Die*, here is the eagerly anticipated sequel. This must for schools, libraries, and summer reading lists is now available for the first time in paperback. Times are difficult during the Great Depression, and thirteen-year-old Rob Peck must struggle to keep his family together after the death of his father. Disaster after disaster strikes and the family is forced to sell their farm. Relying solely on their strong Shaker faith and close family ties, the Pecks finally prevail and young Rob learns that true wealth extends beyond money and that real values are priceless. From the Paperback edition. From Booklist Gr. 5-7. Peck's stirring autobiographical novel, *A Day No Pigs Would Die* (1976), is a classic story of the bond between a Shaker boy and his father during hard times in Vermont. Unfortunately, this sequel reads like a sermon. Now that Rob's father is dead, the 13-year-old boy must take on the working of the small farm and the protection of his mother and elderly aunt. He must become "a man," as he often says. Lots of people agree ("To grow up is to stand up. Manly"). His kindly neighbors tell him that "manhood is doing what has to be done"; so do his wise teacher, his friend, and his saucy sweetheart. The Shaker idiom, so restrained in the first book, is self-consciously indulged here, more sentimental than strong. Everything is reverential and uplifting. Every character is noble, except for the villainous banker, of course, who's the opposite. Avi's *The Barn* is a far stronger historical novel about an uncertain farm boy thrust into early adulthood. However, Peck does create some fine poetic moments when the universals are rooted in the particulars of daily work. The book ends with a plainspoken account of how the mortgage is foreclosed and Rob and his family must leave the place they have worked and loved. Hazel Rochman From Kirkus sThe sequel to *A Day No Pigs Would Die* (1972) once again follows the young Robert Peck on his path to adulthood, but the strengths of the first novel--plain people, simple language, and old-fashioned Shaker values--are virtually parodied in this latest. The hero bears the author's name, and the action takes place in a small town in Peck's native Vermont. Told from 13-year-old Rob's perspective, the narrative begins with his father's death, which leaves him in charge of the land, his mother, his aunt, and \$12-a-month mortgage payments that are almost impossible to scrape together even this early in the Depression. Next, their faithful, old cow goes dry and gets sold for dog meat. Then, their hard-working ox keels over. Finally, the worst drought to hit the area in years kicks in, and even the family's blister-raising efforts to haul water by hand from the creek can't save the crops. In addition to working his own land and going to school as often as he can, Rob helps out on a neighbor's farm and in a feed store until neither can afford to pay him any longer. When winter sets in and Rob is reduced to doing odd jobs for food and making a meal out of cracked corn intended for chickens, he remembers that "manhood is doing what has to be done" and sells the farm. In the three plumbing-less rooms above the feed store that the owner offers in exchange for work, Rob and his family are, of course, happy. Rob comes of age again. We haven't waited long enough for this book. (First printing of 35,000) -- Copyright 1994, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.