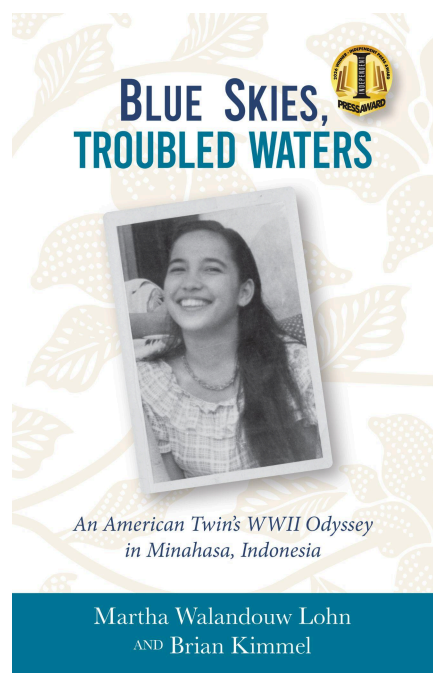


Blue Skies, Troubled Waters Book Fact Sheet



Date: February, 2026

Title: *Blue Skies, Troubled Waters: An American Twin's WWII Odyssey in Minahasa, Indonesia*

Author: Martha Walandouw Lohn and Brian Kimmel

Publisher Imprint: Together Mapalus Press

Author Hometown: Manado, Indonesia; Seattle, WA; Lake Stevens, WA; Elizabeth, NJ

ISBN: 9798218286767 Perfect Bound 9798218537548 EPUB

BISAC CODE: BIO006000—Historical memoir

BISAC CODE: BIO026000—memoirs

BISAC CODE: BIO002020—Asian and Asian American

BISAC CODE: BIO006000—Biography & Autobiography / Historical

BISAC CODE: HIS048000—History / Asia / Southeast Asia

BISAC CODE: HIS071000—History / Asian American & Pacific

PRINT: \$19.95 EPUB: \$9.99

Pages: 294 Size: 5.5 x 8.5

Publication Date: April 29, 2025

Available on Ingram or direct from info@briankimmel.com.

Hook

An Independent Press Award-winning hybrid memoir of an American twin girl deported to Indonesia at the start of WWII and her survival of Japan's military occupation of her island home.

Cover

Blending vivid history with deeply personal memory, *Blue Skies, Troubled Waters* speaks to those interested in historical memoir, Asian-American history, and World War II civilian experiences.

In the 1930s, twin sisters Ath and Kath enjoy a carefree childhood in New Jersey until their family is deported to the jungles of Indonesia. Life in their new homeland is already a world apart when the Japanese invasion of 1941 changes everything. At just eight years old, the twins and their family are captured and imprisoned as civilian prisoners of war.

Told through the innocent yet unbreakable voices of two children—and co-authored by Ath's grandson—this memoir immerses readers in a forgotten chapter of the Pacific war, revealing courage, endurance, and the unwavering bonds of family. Richly illustrated with family photographs, maps, and newly unearthed historical documents, *Blue Skies, Troubled Waters* is an intimate story of sisterhood and a testament to the hope and humanity that can endure even in harrowing times. Readers of *Unbroken* and *When Broken Glass Floats* will be drawn to this powerful true story of family, resilience, and survival.

Selling Points

WWII memoir in Indonesia, woman's story of family and war, author and family live in the Pacific Northwest, family history and narratives-Asian-American, First Indonesians in the Tri-State Area.

About the Author

Brian Kimmel is a second generation multi-heritage Indonesian American, and third grandchild to Pacific Northwest author, Martha Walandouw Lohn. He co-authored Lohn's award-winning memoir, *Blue Skies, Troubled Waters: An American Twin's Odyssey in WWII Minahasa, Indonesia*, and edited the first Indonesian language version. As a child, Kimmel's earliest memories revolved around the melodies that filled his home, handed down from generations of musicians, singers, and storytellers. A poet, memoirist, lyricist, composer, musician, scholar-practitioner, and Buddhist teacher ordained by Nobel Peace Prize nominee, Thích Nhất Hạnh, Kimmel guest lectures and recitals internationally. He incorporates into his offerings, decades of engagement with deep songs and light-hearted banter. He has published articles with *The Lion's Roar*, *The Mindfulness Bell*, *Under 35 Project*, *Buddhism & Culture*, and chapters in *Transcending: Trans Buddhist Voices*, *One Buddha is Not Enough*, and *Dancing with The Dharma: Essays on Movement and Dance in Western Buddhism*. He lives with his spouse in Seattle, home to the Coast Salish, and works as a mental health counselor, supervisor, and educator for the Brian Kimmel Guidance Center.

Author Website: briankimmel.com

Praise

"Uncovering overlooked Asian WWII stories—and their modern echoes..." **Northwest Asian Weekly**

"A compelling tale of lost innocence and survival updated for a new generation." **Kirkus Reviews**

"...a rare, first-hand account of the civilian experience of the Pacific War, a story of profound resilience, and a testament to the enduring bonds of family." **Booklife Reviews for Publishers Weekly**

"...eye-opening historical memoir." **Clarion Reviews**

"An unique perspective on a pivotal moment in history through the eyes of those who lived it, resulting in a history-rich narrative that will appeal to fans of World War II literature and Asian-American narratives alike." **James Weiskittel for IndieReader**

"Beyond the harrowing details of wartime, the book is a testament to the strength of family and community." **Falcon Review for Printed Word Reviews**

"In today's climate, where refugees and immigrants around the world are once again facing persecution and displacement, this story feels more relevant than ever." **Ellen Laura, author of One Minute Healing Experience**

"Ath and her family's story remain relevant to our times, demonstrating how our stories intertwine across the world, and how the tremors of history continue to shape lives today." **Jeddie Sophronius, author of Interrogation Records**

Bookstores, libraries and retailers can order through Ingram or direct from info@briankimmel.com.

To schedule an interview or for review copies **CONTACT:** Brian Kimmel (425) 272-5585,

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