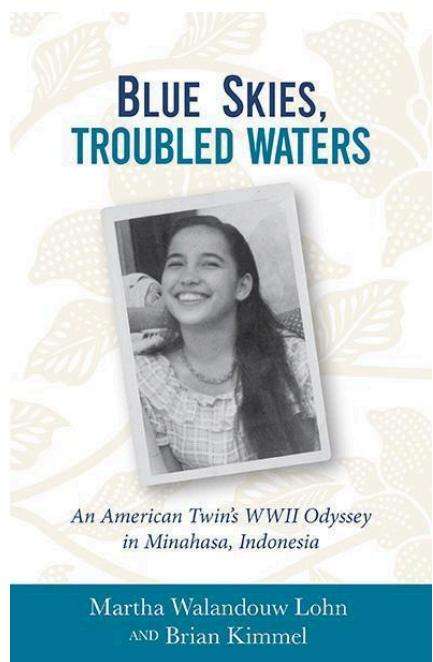


Blue Skies, Troubled Waters Book Fact Sheet



Date: February, 2025
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
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PRINT: \$19.95 EPUB: \$9.99
Pages: 294 Size: 5.5 x 8.5
Publication Date: April 26, 2025

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

Hook

Courage battles despair in this story as seen through the eyes of an American twin girl deported to Indonesia with her family at the start of WWII. Not long after settling in their new home, Japan's forces invade, and the family is imprisoned as civilian prisoners of war.

Cover

Blue Skies, Troubled Waters, tells the remarkable true story of twin sisters Ath and Kath, born in Elizabeth, New Jersey, in 1933, whose family is uprooted and deported to the jungles of Indonesia due to their father's undocumented status. Their new life is quickly shattered when, in 1942, Japan invades, and the family is imprisoned as civilian prisoners of war.

Through the eyes of these young girls, we witness a tale of resilience, hope, and the strength of family amidst the chaos of World War II. The twins' journey mirrors the courage of a village united against unimaginable hardship, revealing how bonds of love and community can endure even the most harrowing of times.

Co-authored by her grandson, this memoir blends personal narrative with newly uncovered historical records, maps, and photographs, bringing to life a forgotten chapter of history and the enduring spirit of 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.

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 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

Advance Praise

"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**

"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***

"Sparkling with energetic, visual prose, this page-turner invites us into a child's direct experience of World War II in what is now Indonesia (then a Dutch colony)... Today's readers will benefit from this history as we face into our own generation's world-wide struggles with immigration, deportation, violent warfare, racial hatred, oppressive governments, and changing weather patterns. There is much for us to learn from this touching and remarkable gift from the heart." —**Louise Dunlap, elder, teacher, and author of *Inherited Silence: Listening to the Land, Healing the Colonizer Mind***

"If I had to use one word to describe *Blue Skies, Troubled Waters*, it would be Love." —**Martha Cinader, Host, *Listen & Be Heard***

"...A 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**

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,
info@briankimmel.com & Susannah Greenberg, Public Relations, (646) 801-7477,
publicity@bookbuzz.com.