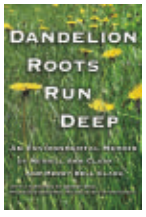
easy or comfortable. There can be no far-reaching change without awareness first. We can no longer hide from the truth. As we repair ourselves, we are also repairing other dark corners of the world."

TRAVEL, HISTORY, AND GENERATIONAL STORIES

Dandelion Roots Run Deep



Merry Bell Clark and Merrill Ann Clark
ASIN B0D47VR695
Author statement: "The story starts in 1944 and follows the lives of three generations of tenacious Midwestern women. My mother started this book approximately 20 years ago, before she developed Alzheimer's. It incorporates some of her mother's writing. I finished it after my mother stopped writing. After growing up and watching my mother fight one battle after another, I knew I would have to finish the story for her if she could not. She saw a connection between her own upbringing and the organic farm that she started with my father, and I saw the roots of tenacity underpinning everything, including the reasons I was able to survive cancer."

Leap Year Torn Apart

Alex Khayutin
ISBN 978-1-06-886614-2
Author statement: "*Leap Year Torn Apart* is a bilingual, English/Russian rhymed biographical tale recounting the tragic fate of a

Russian-Jewish family devastated by events in Stalin's final years, during the early 1950s. This book began with the birth of my daughter, who is named after my late mother. This was the emotional catalyst for me to leave my daughter—and future generations—a lasting account of the tragedy that befell our family. It was important to highlight my parents' determination, resilience, and especially my mother's unwavering commitment to preserving her cultural and ethnic identity."

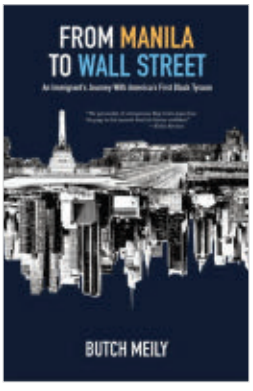
News Was Our Game: Dispatches from the Frontlines of History

Jack V. Fox and Linda Frakes
ASIN B0F8HSFY61
Author statement: "My father was a globetrotting journalist who covered some of the 20th century's biggest news stories, including the spellbinding trials of Charles Manson and Patty Hearst, the tragic assassinations of Jack and Robert Kennedy, the dramatic missions of the first astronauts, the doomed Bay of Pigs invasion, and many others. Long after his death, I discovered an unfinished memoir among his papers, a compelling portrait of his experiences. His great-niece (and BookLife editor), Matia Madrona Query, helped me assemble this book, which features newspaper clippings of his stories as they first appeared."

Q&A SPONSORED

BookLife Talks with Butch Meily

Meily's memoir, which BookLife Reviews called "more than a tale of business acumen" and "a moving dual portrait of ambition and friendship in the pressure cooker of 1980s corporate America," follows his journey from Filipino immigrant to PR specialist for Reginald Lewis, the first Black American to become majority shareholder of a billion-dollar company.



Why or how do you think *From Manila to Wall Street* is particularly relevant now?
The book tells two stories about outsiders trying to make it in American society. One is a Black American; the other is a Filipino immigrant. Fate threw us together. That's something that I believe. And the result was one of the great adventures of my life. I believe that the book will inspire everyone who's ever had a dream and wanted to make it big in the U.S. And I have seen that inspiration in the audiences I have spoken to in my first book tour. A largely Black audience in Philadelphia, a crowd of diplomats, former State Department and US AID representatives in Washington, various groups of financial executives, and Filipino Americans in New York. Very different audiences but the book and my talk seemed to resonate with each group.

Do you find any similarities between your work as a PR specialist in the 80s to and your current work as the head of a disaster foundation?
The two careers are in very different areas. However, I have managed to use the skills I developed as a PR person in my current job to increase the visibility of our foundation and our work. Being able to communicate is key to everything that I do. The ability to counsel high-level executives is a skill that I developed as a PR practitioner, and I have found that very useful in my current role.

For more, visit **booklife.com/meily**