

PRESS RELEASE

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**Between Two Worlds**

A Young Girl's Story of Growing Up in Postwar Japan and America

In *Keiko's Journey*, Kay Hirai taps into painful childhood memories to share her experience of overcoming violence, isolation, and family secrets in postwar Japan. Told from her unique point of view, Kay's compelling history sheds light on turbulent times in Japan, a time when a defeated population had to deal with the aftermath of losing the war and recovering after the atomic bombs.

To add to the confusion of the times, Kay's mother had family in the US (and yes, they were sent to internment camps during the war). Then after the war, Kay's mother took a job as a translator and secretary for an American Army Colonel. Called a traitor and treated as an outsider by people she once called friends, Kay's only comfort was from her beloved Shiro, a little white dog given to her by an American serviceman.

Through it all, even after moving to America at age 11 and speaking no English, this little girl's ability to cope with difficult situations is inspiring. Then learning more about the woman she becomes is truly remarkable.

It wasn't until Kay returned from a tearful trip to Kokura, Japan, the town where she grew up, that Kay finally felt comfortable talking about her past. Kay recalls, "I realized how selfish I would be if I didn't make the effort to share my story."

*Keiko's Journey* takes us to the past but it is really a contemporary story relevant to millions of immigrants, migrants and refugees, young

and old. These groups live in two worlds yet feel as though they don't belong anywhere.

**About the Author:** Kay Hirai is a successful entrepreneur and owner of Studio 904 on Mercer Island, WA. She has written one other book, "Yumi's Life Lessons" a collection of stories taught to her by her beloved Jack Russell Terrier, Yumi. She regularly hosts charity events at her salon and now lives on Mercer Island with her husband and dog.

To request a review copy or to schedule an interview with the author, please contact Elizabeth St.Andre, [standre4@gmail.com](mailto:standre4@gmail.com), (206) 954.8165.

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