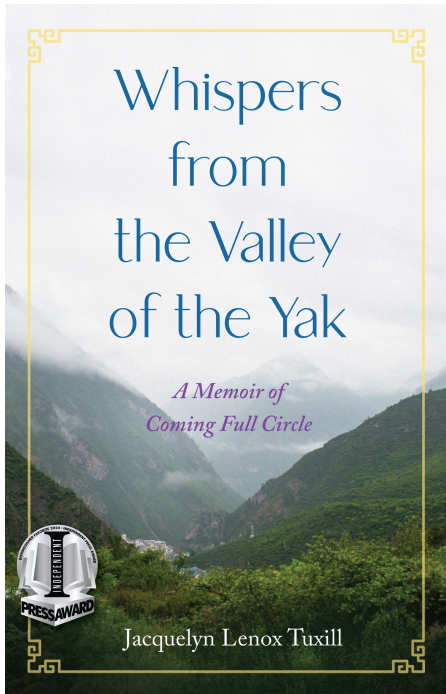


PRESS KIT



Whispers from the Valley of the Yak A Memoir of Coming Full Circle

Jacquelyn Lenox Tuxill

Whispers from the Valley of the Yak weaves an intergenerational story about the power of forgiveness and being true to oneself. When Jackie returns to her Chinese birthplace with her aging American parents, profound questions arise about love and family. These questions set Jackie on a quest to understand her troubled childhood and what she wants from life. Living in Alaska for five years, she discovers an affinity for the mountains and begins three decades of environmental work. Later, Jackie returns with her adult children, retracing her parents' 1932 footsteps into Tibet and making peace with her past.

In February 2024 the book was named a 2024 Independent Press Distinguished Favorite in the category of Memoir.

Jacquelyn Lenox Tuxill

Jackie's life has been anything but ordinary from the very beginning. Born in 1942 to medical missionary parents in Chengdu, China, she was a toddler when her family fled the escalating war between China and Japan, flying "over the Hump" of the Himalaya Mountains to India. In Mumbai they waited six months for passage home to the United States.

Following a childhood in West Virginia, Jackie lived in Alaska for five life-changing years, gaining a love of mountainous landscapes and outdoor adventure. Her passion for the environment led to a thirty-five-year career, based mostly in New England. For the past decade she has focused on writing and editing.

Jackie is a cum laude graduate of Muskingum College (now University) in Ohio and completed masters level coursework at the University of New Hampshire. *Whispers from the Valley of the Yak* is her first book.



Title: Whispers from the Valley of the Yak: A Memoir of Coming Full Circle | Author: Jacquelyn Lenox Tuxill

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Advance Praise for *Whispers from the Valley of the Yak*

“*Whispers from the Valley of the Yak* is a gorgeous portrayal of what can happen when a person follows their curiosity and deepest personal truth. Jacquelyn Tuxill takes the reader into magical landscapes of both place and heart with the insight of a woman who has lived a rich life worth reflecting on. This book is a guide for anyone who must explore the meaning of their parents’ lives and the effect those lives have on the following generations. *Whispers* is a gift!

~ Cami Ostman, founder and director of The Narrative Project

“When we journey to new lands to find new insights into who we are and how we fit in, we are no longer on journeys but on pilgrimages. Jacquelyn Tuxill’s memoir, *Whispers from the Valley of the Yak*, takes us to the remote ranges of eastern Tibet to learn about her parents’ explorations nearly a century ago, and in finding them, she finds herself.”

~ Rick Ridgeway, author of *Life Lived Wild* and *Below Another Sky*

“In her memoir, Jacquelyn Tuxill recounts a memorable story of the 1932 journey her medical missionary parents made to the Minya Konka, the highest mountain in western China. Tuxill retraces their route with her adult children seventy-five years later, bringing that part of her story full circle. This deeply personal autobiography will draw you in and cause you to reflect upon your own journey with family, career, and relationships with the natural world... a wonderful book, brave in its candidness.”

~ Jed Williamson, President Emeritus, Sterling College; Past President, American Alpine Club

“From a box of letters written from 1930s China by her medical missionary parents, Jacquelyn Tuxill follows land and emotions to find her authentic self. Both painful and joyful, *Whispers from the Valley of the Yak* shares Tuxill’s fascinating journey of perseverance.”

~ Sas Carey, author of *Marrying Mongolia, A Memoir*

“In *Whispers from the Valley of the Yak*, Jacquelyn Tuxill breaks away from a confining childhood with parents committed to their medical work... Her vivid descriptions of panoramas in Alaska and China mirror the wild beauty she ultimately finds within herself. This memoir will take readers on a journey they won’t want to end.”

~ Louella Bryant, author of *Sheltering Angel*

“This gripping memoir combines a story of familial struggles and reconciliation with the grandeur amid high mountains. Her climactic journeys to her birthplace of Chengdu, with her parents and later her grown children, rewarded the author with a vantage-point from which to understand and affirm her personal history... fine travel writing.”

~ John Elder, author of *Reading the Mountains of Home*

“*Whispers from the Valley of the Yak* is a story about landscapes. From her birthplace in China to her connection with Denali, North America’s tallest peak, Tuxill navigates her early years as a mom in the shadow of her rocky relationship with her own mother. Ultimately, Tuxill explores how she came to terms with the unexpected landscape of her heart. A wonderfully rendered story.”

~ Kaylene Johnson-Sullivan, author of *Our Perfect Wild*

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“Jacquelyn Tuxill’s deeply moving, profound memoir embraces family, place, redemption, and beauty. While plumbing the depth of family struggle, she explores how the essential contributions of unique places and powerful memories offer opportunities for rebirth and discovery. In *Whispers from the Valley of the Yak*, Tuxill welcomes readers into her journey as she celebrates her family and rejoices in our shared humanity.”

~ Jeffrey P. Roberts, author of *Salted and Cured*

“Jacquelyn Tuxill’s adventurous, curious spirit shines forth in this memoir of self-discovery. With honesty and empathy, she details the inner journey that allowed her to forgive her flawed yet remarkable parents and rediscover the land of her birth, China, through their eyes.... Tuxill guides us from the wilds of Alaska to the mountains of Tibet and into her own treasure trove of memory, delivering a bold tale of journeys within and without.”

~ Susan Ritz, author of *A Dream to Die For*

“In her autobiography, Jacquelyn Tuxill shares her deep-seated passion for wild mountain landscapes, first gained in the national campaign to protect lands in Alaska. Returning to China, her birthplace, she discovers the soaring mountains, raging rivers, and deep gorges of the Tibetan Plateau’s eastern rim and vows both places will remain in her heart forever...flowing, beautiful language shapes the inspiring chapters of her life.”

~ Charles Clusen, chair, Alaska Coalition 1977-1981; chair, Protect the Adirondacks

LINKS & CONTACT

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SUGGESTED QUESTIONS

What is the meaning behind your book title?

What did you learn while writing this book?

What surprised you the most about writing this book?