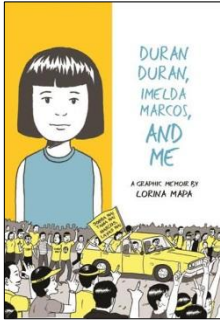


Spotlight on Books



In Lorina Mapa's comic book memoir, *Duran Duran, Imelda Marcos, and Me*, a long time Canadian citizen who immigrated from the Philippines years ago, has just been called back for the unexpected death of her father.

As we all know, and as such is often the case during these emotional shocks, it leads to a flood of memories, depression, and introspection.

Recounting her life in the Philippines, Mapa begins by sharing a succinct history of president Ferdinand Marco's corruption and ultimate downfall in the 70s and early 80s. (For what it's worth, I didn't find it overly difficult to compare Imelda's depiction to Ivanka or Melania Trump.) Mapa also presents a fascinating look at class, gender, and religion in the Philippines.

Largely though, all the above details are just the socio-political background and it never fails to amaze me when writers from countries which have gone through such upheaval nevertheless capture the contrasting mundanities of everyday life, the stuff that's familiar even to a white guy from outport Newfoundland. In this case, it's largely Mapa's preoccupation with 80s pop music. Eventually this helps pull her through her troubled emotional state.

The artwork is pretty simple and I wasn't surprised to see a reference to *Tintin* in the background of one panel, but this ultimately will help many readers empathize. Mostly in black in white, the use of yellow for one particular sequence is purposeful and more engaging.

If you're a fan of comics and graphic novels, check out a sampling of Yellowknife Public Library's collection this weekend at Ptarmicon. Be sure to bring your library card!

John Mutford, Library Manager

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