



From the Bookshelf

Bryce Harlow: Mr. Integrity

by Bob Burke, '70 B.A.,
and Ralph G. Thompson,
'56 B.B.A., '61 J.D.

Foreword by Henry Kissinger
Oklahoma Heritage Association
324 pages. \$24.95 hardback
Available in local bookstores or
through the Oklahoma Heritage Book
Center, 1-888-501-2059.

Many Oklahomans of his day were—and certainly most Oklahomans of this day are—totally unaware of the significant role played by Bryce Harlow at the highest levels of U.S. government. For this reason alone, the Burke-Thompson biography is a public service; fortunately, it is also an interesting read.

A member of a distinguished Oklahoma publishing family, Harlow spent most of his life in Washington, D.C., where he became a valued adviser to presidents and others whose decisions shaped the life of a nation. For much of that time he cycled between an executive career with Procter and

Gamble and an office down the hall from Presidents Eisenhower and Nixon, a phone call away from President Ford, cabinet members and congressional leaders.

His stature within the inner circles of Washington power politics belied his 5-foot, 4-inch frame. His keen intelligence, broad knowledge, quick wit and unquestioned integrity made him a man esteemed by both parties, often called upon to negotiate the way through political minefields.

Attorney and biographer Burke and U.S. District Judge Thompson interviewed a wide array of notable public figures in researching this book. They came away with a moving portrait of a man who eschewed the limelight but never failed to answer the call of public service. —CJB

My Mother's Daughter

by Judith Henry Wall,
'59 B.S., '77 M.A.

Simon & Schuster
432 pages. \$24 hardback
Available in bookstores.

Occasionally you read a book whose characters stick with you long after you turn the last page. And you turn that last page reluctantly, regretful that the story has ended. Such is the case with *My Mother's Daughter*.

Wall transports her readers to Columbus, a small Texas town trying to recover its innocence in the years following World War II. The author then populates Columbus with three generations of strong, willful women and the men they loved and unleashes a wave of personal and historic events that leave them twisting in the winds of love and hate, devotion and betrayal, fulfillment and bitter disappointment.

Central to Wall's story is the convoluted relationship between the Mayfield sisters, Martha Claire and Justine, seen largely through the eyes of Martha Claire's adopted daughter, Cissie. Fleshing out Cissie's world are the golden-girl cousin, the wise and caring grandmother, the loving but weak father, the flawed brother.

All the elements of the formula family saga are present here. What saves *My Mother's Daughter* from the

ordinary—in addition to the author's skill as writer and storyteller—is her obvious affection for these people and the town that draws them together. She cares, and the reader does, too.

While the characters and plot are fiction, Columbus, Texas, is a real town. Wall held a book signing there in May and could not shake the feeling that she should visit the local cemetery to place flowers on the graves of the Mayfields and Stewarts who should be buried there.

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The author of *My Mother's Daughter* is no stranger to *Sooner Magazine* readers. A veteran University media information specialist, Judith Wall has authored this magazine's articles on science, technology and health-related issues since 1993. She is better known, however, as a novelist.

Wall authored a dozen category romances under the name Anne Henry before breaking into the mainstream market with Viking's *Love and Duty* (1988), *Handsome Women* (1990) and *Blood Sisters* (1992), all Book-of-the-Month Club selections. *Mother Love* (Bantam 1995) became the television movie "A Family Divided," starring Faye Dunaway; Bantam also published *Death Eligible* (1996). Simon & Schuster published *If Love Were All* (1998, Book-of-the-Month Club) and *My Mother's Daughter* (2000), a Literary Guild and Reader's Digest Condensed Books selection. —CJB

