

SUNDEE FINEST

By Charles Apple | THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

For 19 years, Sundee Frazier has built a reputation for writing about issues facing multiracial and multicultural people and children and finding acceptance from a world that can still be skeptical at times.

Her latest children's book, released this week, is set in 1950s Spokane and pulls from her own family history.

Critics are saying this could very well be her finest work yet.

COURTESY PHOTO

JAN. 28, 2002

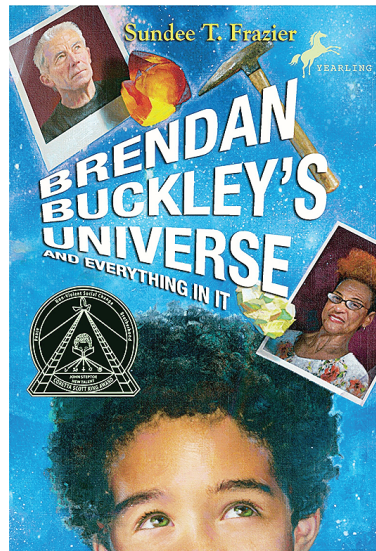
Check All That Apply: Finding Wholeness as a Multiracial Person

"Written especially to mixed race people, this book gives insight into the experiences that form who we are and the opportunity to connect with the experiences of others like us."

— Sundee Frazier.com

"Considering that the number of interracial marriages has swelled from 310,000 in 1970 to 1.3 million in 1994, there is an ever-enlarging audience for Frazier's thoughtful reflections."

— Publishers Weekly



SEPT. 9, 2008

Brendan Buckley's Universe and Everything in It

Ten-year-old Brendan loves asking questions and then finding the answers. But when he reaches out to his grandfather — whose skin is a different color than his own — he realizes there are parts of life that can't be explained by science alone.

Winner of the Coretta Scott King/John Steptoe New Talent Author Award

"Brendan is an appealing character with a sense of honor ... A good, accessible selection to inspire discussion of racism and prejudice."

— Kirkus Reviews

JUNE 14, 2011

The Other Half of My Heart

Twins Minni and Keira made news when they were born: Keira was born Black like Mama, but Minni was born white like Daddy. Now, at age 11, the twins spend 10 days in the South with their grandmother and discover just how tight their bond actually is.

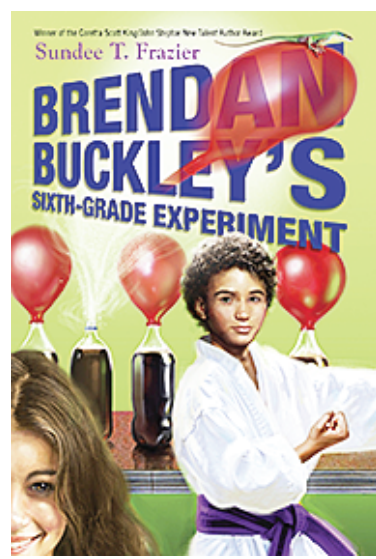
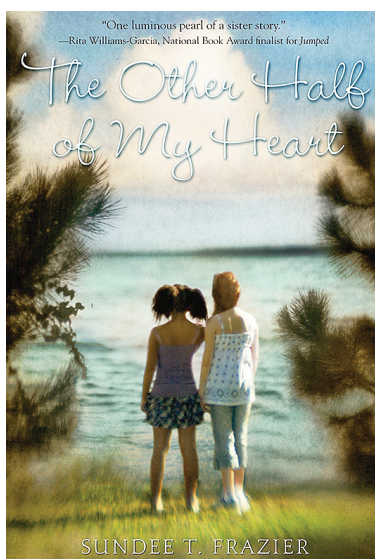
Named a Best Children's Book of the Year by New York's Bank Street College of Education.

"A novel with a great deal of heart indeed ..."

— Booklist

"An outstanding achievement"

— Kirkus Reviews



JAN. 8, 2013

Brendan Buckley's Sixth-Grade Experiment

Brendan enters middle school, where he pitches an ambitious science project, meets a girl whose eyes seem to sparkle when she's with him and learns more than he would have ever thought about his grandparents, his dad, his best friend and, um, fresh cow manure.

"The complexity of the characters and strength of Brendan's family sets the book apart, as does Brendan's biracial identity. This has solid boy appeal — it brims with details about martial arts, lizards, and fresh manure."

— Booklist

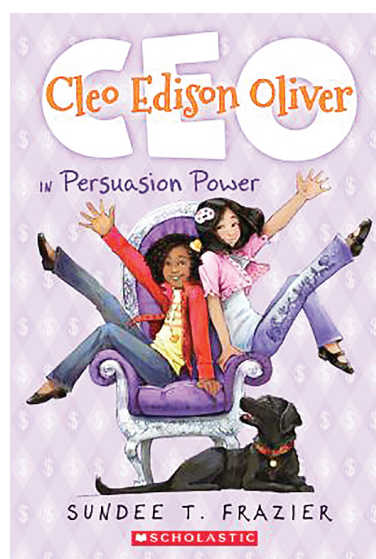
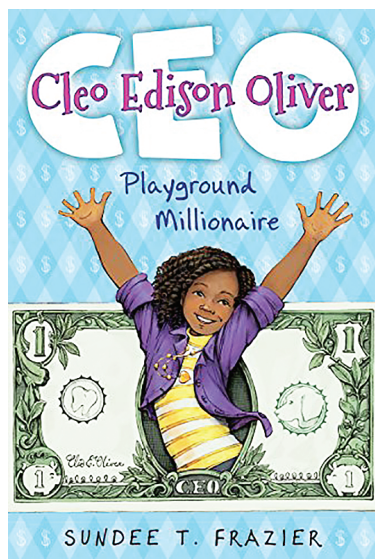
JAN. 26, 2016

Cleo Edison Oliver, Playground Millionaire

Cleo's genius idea for making money — using a Nerf gun to knock out her friends' loose baby teeth, for a cut of the tooth fairy's dough — runs into trouble when a mean classmate begins making fun of her for being adopted.

"Frazier offers a rare, clear-eyed view of adoption, understanding that even the best are founded on loss as well as love and that assimilating this bittersweet, difficult truth is a lifelong journey."

— Kirkus Reviews



JAN. 31, 2017

Cleo Edison Oliver in Persuasion Power

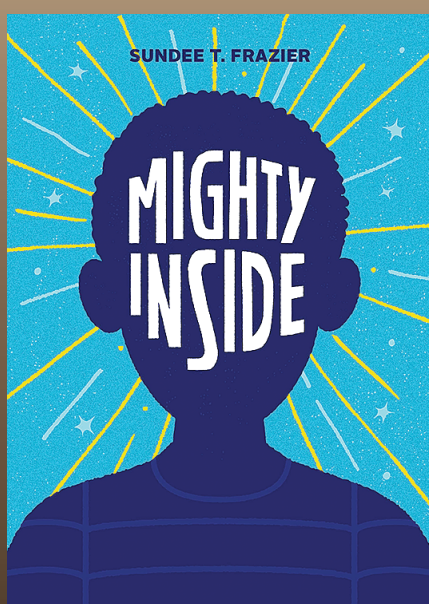
Cleo asks her customers to help make a video for her latest business venture — personalized hair barrettes — but ends up alienating most of them. She tries to repair the damage while also wondering if her birth parents would ever want to meet her.

"This energetic, realistic story focuses on family, school, church, and friends in a diverse community. Cleo herself is a bundle of go-getter enthusiasm; her winning spirit shines, no matter how many mistakes she makes."

— Booklist

OCT. 12, 2021
Mighty Inside

Melvin longs for a strong, smooth voice so he can stand up to the schoolyard bully and impress the girl who's caught his eye. But he has a stutter, which is only getting worse as he prepares to begin high school. Encouraged by a new, fast-talking, saxophone-playing friend, Melvin learns he can express himself with music and can take chances from time to time. Which is important to know, as he becomes increasingly aware of the racism he finds lurking everywhere and as he comes to realize: It's time for him to speak up.



"A well-constructed and movingly told story of a thoughtful black boy making his place in his family and in 1950s America"

— Publishers Weekly

"There were many moments where I thought to myself, wow, she nailed that, too. It's so finely observed."

— Jerome Ellis



Sundee Frazier will talk about the book and about growing up in Spokane in a conversation with NAACP President Kiantha Duncan on Tuesday, as part of the Northwest Passages Book Club.

Details and tickets: spokesman.com/northwest-passages/