



# Colors of the Wind

THE STORY OF BLIND ARTIST AND CHAMPION RUNNER  
*George Mendoza*

J.L. POWERS  
PAINTINGS BY GEORGE MENDOZA

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THE STORY OF BLIND ARTIST  
AND CHAMPION RUNNER

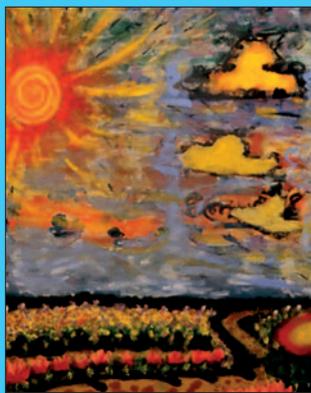
*George Mendoza*

by J.L. Powers  
paintings by George Mendoza  
drawings by Hayley Morgan-Sanders

*Purple House Press*    Kentucky

Titles of the paintings featured in this book

- |                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| 1. Roadrunner Dreams          | 11. Kaleidoscope Eyes                    |
| 2. Light Flowers              | 12. Rainbow Sun                          |
| 3. Blind Man Touching the Sun | 13. God's Heart                          |
| 4. Flaming Rose               | 14. Butterfly Eyes                       |
| 5. Last Rays of the Sun       | 15. Bleeding Clouds                      |
| 6. Visionary Eye              | 16. Purple Moon                          |
| 7. Land of Enchantment        | 17. Wise Tree                            |
| 8. Colors of the Wind         | 18. Red Mesa                             |
| 9. Black Magic Eye            | Front cover: In Memory<br>of Ray Charles |
| 10. Blazing Tree              | Back cover: Wise Tree                    |



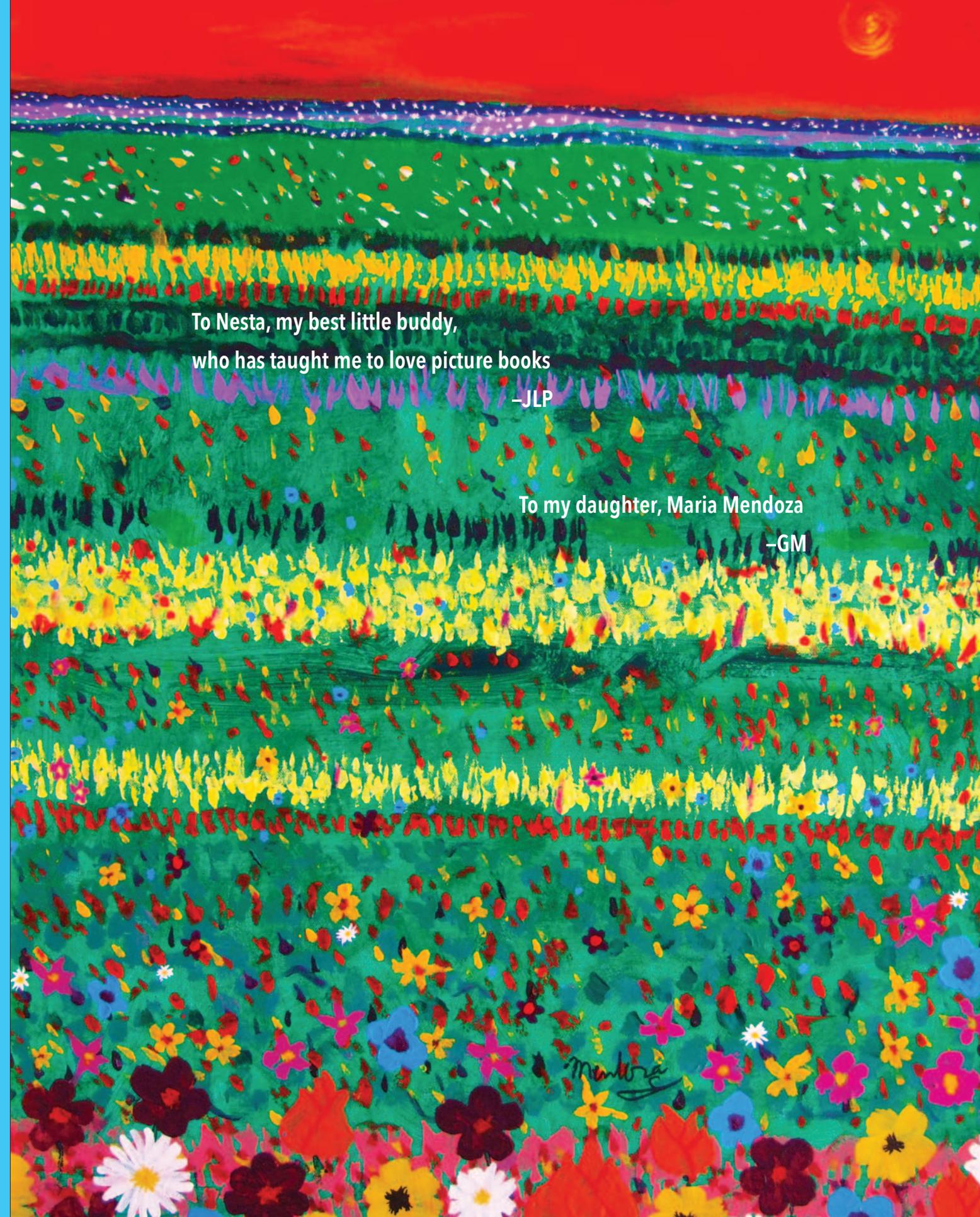
A tribute to paintings we love, but had no space to include.

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purplehousepress.com

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Title: Colors of the wind : the story of blind artist and champion runner George Mendoza / by J.L. Powers ; paintings by George Mendoza ; drawings by Hayley Morgan-Sanders.  
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Summary: "George Mendoza started going blind at age 15 from a degenerative eye disease, losing his central vision and seeing objects that weren't there. He triumphed over his blindness by setting the world record in the mile for blind runners, and later competing in both the 1980 and 1984 Olympics for the Disabled. Now a full-time artist, Mendoza's collection of paintings, also titled Colors of the Wind, is a National Smithsonian Affiliates traveling exhibit."— Provided by publisher.  
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To Nesta, my best little buddy,  
who has taught me to love picture books

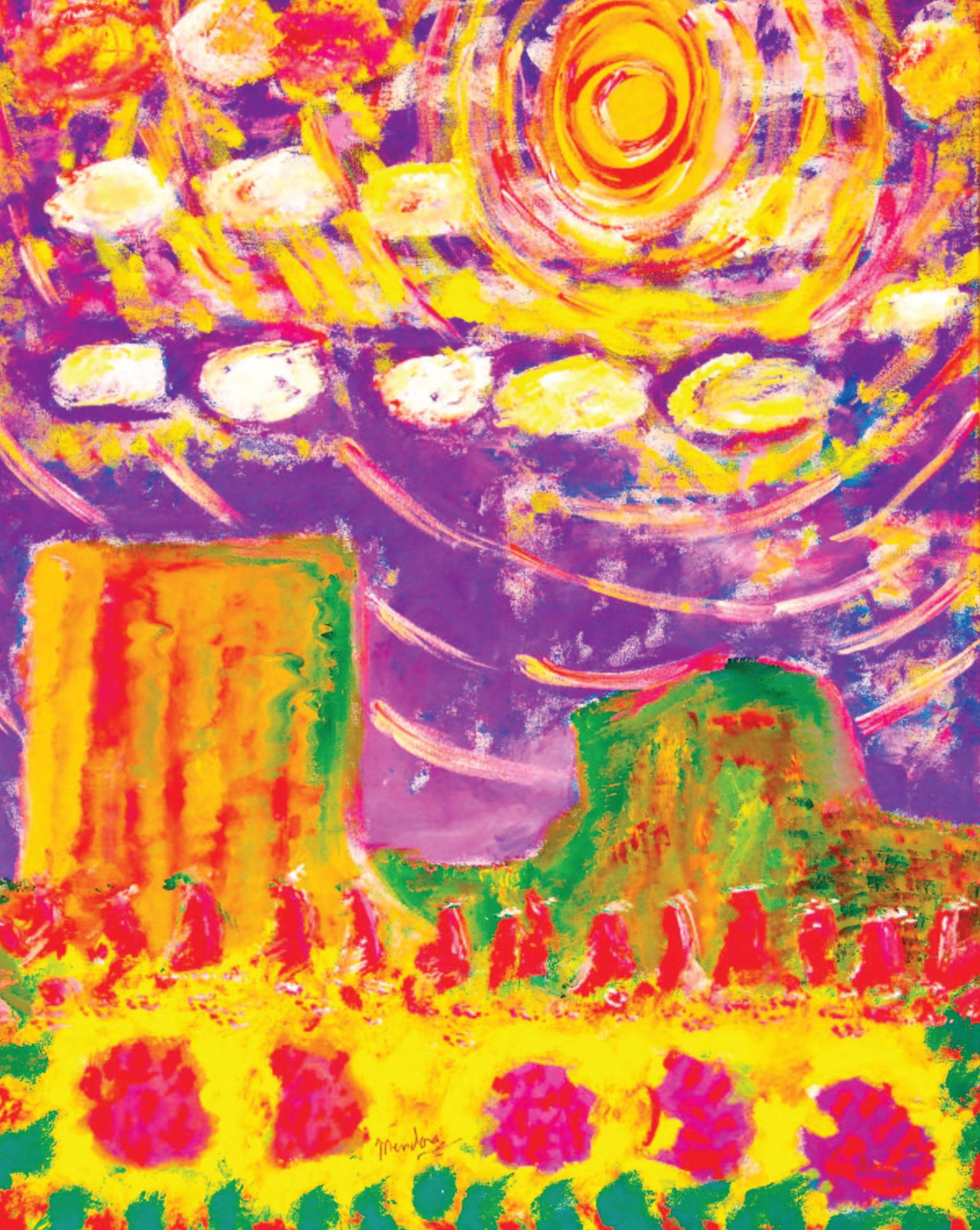
—JLP

To my daughter, Maria Mendoza

—GM

George *never* stayed still.  
When I grow up, he thought,  
I will be a basketball player.





George and his mother moved to New Mexico  
where the sun always shines.

The sun helped George's headaches  
but he was still clumsy.

Whenever he tripped over something  
that everybody else could see,  
he yelled at himself.





*El Santuario de Chimayo chapel*

George's best friend died in a motorcycle accident.  
The thought that he might die scared George.  
He started to wonder, *Why am I even here?*  
*What's my purpose in life?*

Sitting in a chapel one day, he saw something different  
than the usual squiggles or brilliant colors floating in the air.  
He saw himself, bathed in light, running.  
He was running into the light.

