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Mr. Mendoza's Paintbrush

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Luis Alberto Urrea
Artwork by Christopher Cardinale

Color Masking and Compositing
Anthony Cardinale

Design
Anne M. Giangiulio

Cinco Puntos Press
WHEN I REMEMBER MY VILLAGE,
I REMEMBER THE COLOR GREEN.
A green that is rich, perhaps too rich, and almost bubbling with humidity and the smell of mangoes.

I remember heat, the sweet sweat of young girls that collected on my upper lip as we kissed behind the dance stand in the town square.
IT HAPPENED ON JUNE FIFTH OF THAT YEAR.

THAT NIGHT, AT MIDNIGHT, THE RAINS CAME.

BY MORNING, THE PAINT HAD WASHED AWAY.
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— C.C.
LUIS ALBERTO URREA is the author of the widely acclaimed novel *The Hummingbird’s Daughter* and a 2005 Pulitzer Prize finalist for nonfiction for *The Devil’s Highway*. Inducted into the Latino Literature Hall of Fame, Luis was born in Tijuana, Mexico to a Mexican father and an American mother.

CHRISTOPHER CARDINALE is a cartoonist and community muralist with a social justice message. He has painted large-scale murals opposing war and corporate globalization and promoting community values and social-economic justice in New York, Italy, Greece and Mexico. He lives in Brooklyn. His website is christophercardinale.com.