# Saplings

children's book publishing
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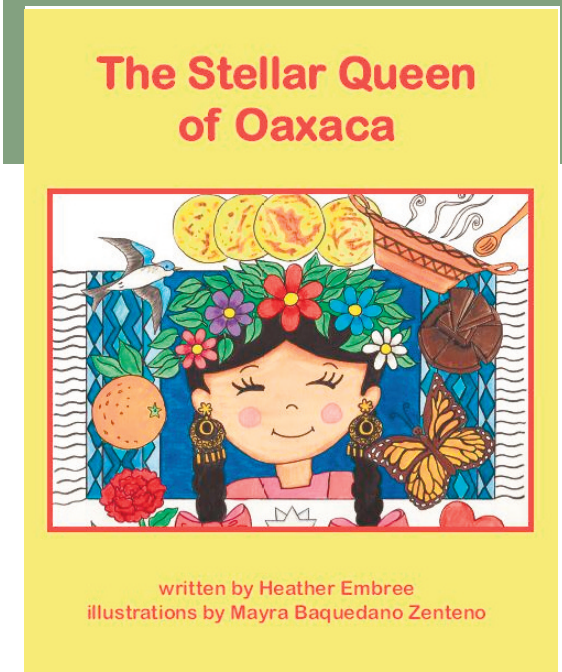


## The Stellar Queen of Oaxaca

### Written by Heather Embree
### Illustrated by Maya Baquedano Zentano

This story is about an extra-special Queen who is visually impaired and inspires the community to close their eyes and open their hearts. It's based on a friend the author met while travelling in Mexico who is a single mother, determined to learn English through braille and the kindness of others. The story is illustrated by a former school teacher from Mexico who is now living in Canada.

## About the Author

Heather Embree wrote *The Stellar Queen of Oaxaca* to celebrate the beauty of her friend, Reyna, who she met while living and volunteering in Mexico.

This is Heather's first children's book, and she hopes it will create cross-cultural relationships and raise awareness about the situation of children and those with disabilities who live close to the streets in Mexico.

Heather lives in Guelph, Canada with her dog, and is an editor, holistic practitioner and soul coach. For more information about her, visit: www.blossomingheart.ca.

## About the Illustrator

Mayra Baquedano Zenteno was born in Mexico where she worked as a preschool teacher before moving to Canada. She has always enjoyed working with children, and hopes that her illustrations in *The Stellar Queen of Oaxaca* will share the beauty of Reyna's story as well as the magic of her beloved Mexico with them. Mayra currently lives in Guelph, Ontario and enjoys painting, cooking and crafting.

The hope for this book is that it will raise awareness about the beautiful culture of Mexico, the courage and determination of Reyna and all those who walk with different abilities in the world, and to honour and support youth living close to or on the streets of Mexico.

Fifty percent of the proceeds of the book sales will go towards funding Reyna's daughter's education and Oaxaca Grassroots Streetchildren. Oaxaca Streetchildren Grassroots is a bi-national non-profit organization devoted to improving the lives of marginalized youth of diverse backgrounds in Oaxaca City, Mexico by giving them access to an education.

OAXACA
STREETCHILDREN
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**For more information about this organization, please visit www.oaxacastreetchildrengrassroots.com.**