

To the National City Clerk and Honorable Mayor,

Thank you again for the recognition I received on March 3rd for my work in our community. I am truly grateful and honored.

With that encouragement, I would like to respectfully request that October 15th be proclaimed “Mona Liza Santos: Heritage and Heart Day” here in National City.

The purpose of this day would be simple and meaningful — to celebrate identity, culture, emotional intelligence, and self-worth in our children. Through partnerships with local schools and libraries, I hope to use this day to promote kindness, confidence, and pride in who we are.

I have included draft “Whereas” statements below for your consideration. I would be honored to work with your office to make this a meaningful annual observance for our city beginning October 2026.

Thank you for your continued support of families, literacy, and youth development in National City.

With appreciation,
Mona Liza Santos

Proposed Proclamation Language

To: Office of the City Clerk & Honorable Mayor of National City

From: Mona Liza Santos, Author and Community Advocate

Date: March 3, 2026

Subject: Request for Proclamation – October 15th, 2026 (annually)

Purpose

To build upon the recognition received from the City of National City on March 3, 2026, I respectfully request the establishment of October 15th as “Mona Liza Santos: Heritage and Heart Day.”

This day would encourage families, schools, and libraries to celebrate cultural identity, emotional awareness, kindness, and confidence in our youth.

Proposed “Whereas” Statements

- WHEREAS, Mona Liza Santos is a Filipina-American author of more than 40 children’s books, including the award-winning title *Mama, I Love You*, and is a proud resident of National City; and
- WHEREAS, her books focus on emotional intelligence, courage, kindness, and self-acceptance, helping children better understand their feelings and believe in themselves; and
- WHEREAS, her work promotes the message that every child’s heritage and individuality are strengths to be embraced; and
- WHEREAS, on March 3, 2026, the City of National City recognized Mona Liza Santos for her cultural and educational contributions to the community; and
- WHEREAS, establishing October 15th as “Heritage and Heart Day” would encourage local families, schools, and libraries to promote empathy, inclusion, and self-worth among children;

NOW, THEREFORE, October 15th may be recognized as “Mona Liza Santos: Heritage and Heart Day” in the City of National City.

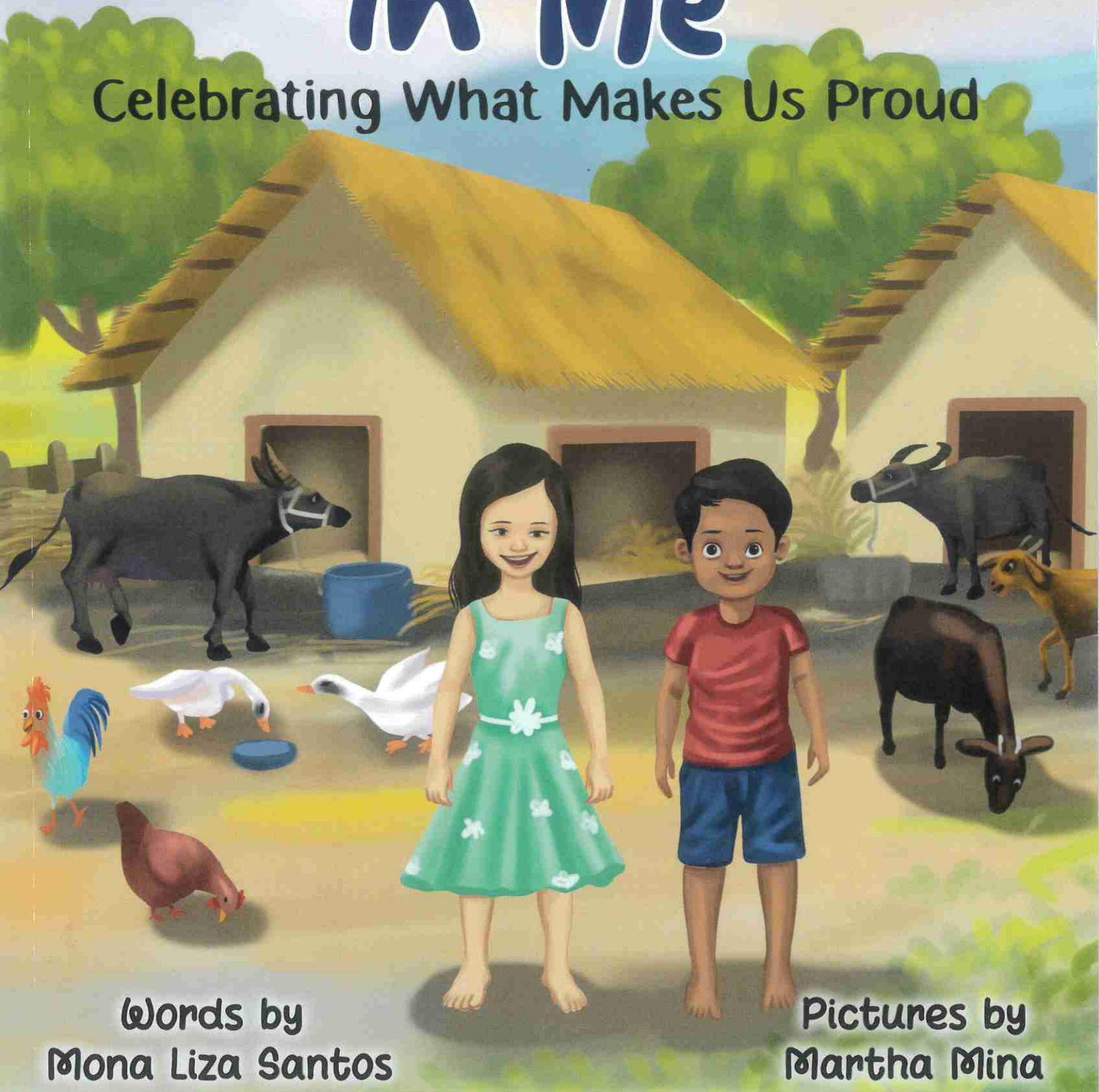
Respectfully submitted,

Mona Liza Santos



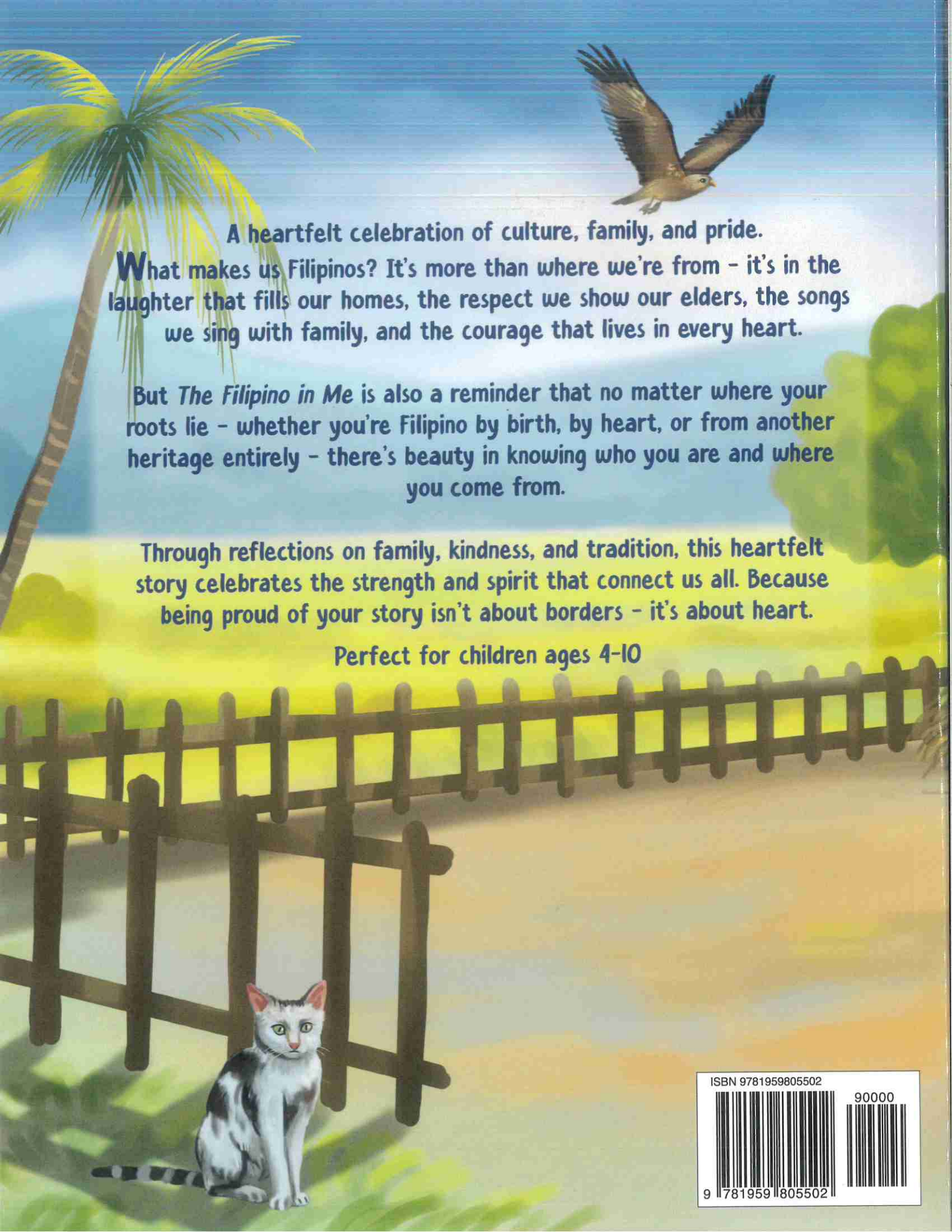
The Filipino in Me

Celebrating What Makes Us Proud



Words by
Mona Liza Santos

Pictures by
Martha Mina



A heartfelt celebration of culture, family, and pride.

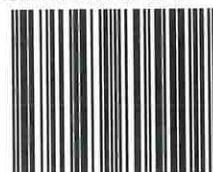
What makes us Filipinos? It's more than where we're from - it's in the laughter that fills our homes, the respect we show our elders, the songs we sing with family, and the courage that lives in every heart.

But *The Filipino in Me* is also a reminder that no matter where your roots lie - whether you're Filipino by birth, by heart, or from another heritage entirely - there's beauty in knowing who you are and where you come from.

Through reflections on family, kindness, and tradition, this heartfelt story celebrates the strength and spirit that connect us all. Because being proud of your story isn't about borders - it's about heart.

Perfect for children ages 4-10

ISBN 9781959805502



9 781959 1805502

90000

