

PAM MUÑOZ RYAN

is a Newbery Honoree, a Kirkus Prize winner, and a *New York Times* bestselling author. She received the NEA's Human and Civil Rights Award and the 2024 Children's Literature Legacy Award for her body of work. Her celebrated novels—*Echo*, *Esperanza Rising*, *The Dreamer*, *Riding Freedom*, *Becoming Naomi León*, *Paint the Wind*, and *Mañanaland*—have received countless accolades and are treasured by readers around the world. Ryan lives in Southern California with her family. Learn more at pammunozryan.com.

JOE CEPEDA

is the Pura Belpré Honor-winning illustrator of more than thirty books for children, some of which he has written. He also created the iconic cover art for Pam Muñoz Ryan's bestselling novel *Esperanza Rising*. Cepeda received the Recognition of Merit Award from the George G. Stone Center for Children's Books and is a former president of the Society of Illustrators of Los Angeles. He lives in Southern California with his family. Learn more at joecepeda.com.


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PRAISE FOR *El Niño*

“A brilliant amalgamation of myth, nature, sport, and loss.
I’ve never read anything like it!”

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RYAN

PAM MUÑOZ RYAN

AUTHOR OF *ESPERANZA RISING* AND THE NEWBERY HONOR BOOK *ECHO*

EL NIÑO

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PRESS



DRAWINGS BY **JOE CEPEDA**

*Sometimes the only way to hold on
to what we love is to let go.*

KAI SOSA is so passionate about swimming, he is practically a fish. This summer, he's determined to become the athlete he once was on an elite swim team.

But something invisible holds him back. His race times are off. Dreams of his sister Cali haunt him. And he hasn't found her missing gold cuff, her last request. Mom is still talking about grief, even though it's been two years since she disappeared. He's fine now, isn't he?

When Kai discovers a library book Cali had checked out multiple times—about an underwater realm and a mysterious place called the Library of Despair and Sorrow—details from the story begin to appear in his own life: dolphin pods, imposing rock towers, unusual sea creatures, and even Cali's beloved bracelet. As myth and reality collide, *El Niño* unleashes its fury, and Kai is swept up in a storm of events that will change his understanding of love, death, grief, and how best to honor those we've lost.

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