



Ode to a Summer Cloud

Ode to a Summer Cloud
Along the Red Book Road
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By Linda Carter Holman

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Desert Sky and Land Sing

Arizona and New Mexico are mysterious, rich in symbolism, vast, brimming, abounding with life, embraced by the sun. To this day they remain a great source of inspiration and continues to be one of my favorite backdrops for storytelling.

Illustrations for "Ode to a Summer Cloud" come from original oil on canvas paintings and verses, 2008–2010. Most all reflect the spirit of the Sonoran Desert and the Navajo people, as I imagine them—visually, emotionally and spiritually. Every face, bramble, mesa, and sky-cloud speaks. Each painting and its descriptive verse share the same title and sing the same song in its own special way.

"The transient moves through
the open innocent heart
like a summer cloud."

Rainer Maria Rilke



Up from the Valley

Where the little fishes stream

I follow

to the headwaters—

Flowing.



In Distant Cloud Rain

In distant cloud rain
the orange sky sang
a shepherd's song—
Till rosey dawn.



Journey Across the Sky

On twilight edge hold tight
from here to there—and back.

O love, rise and set
and rise again.



Cloud Walk

Distant storm rolls
by lightning strike—
Heart of red and pink
with fingers touch the sky.



Desert Lark

She—first foot on green earth,
soaring straight from heaven
with joyful song—
Step forth.



Thunder Cloud

Crack and bumble me.

Thunder rumble me.

No jack stumble—

Be now.



Back

Turn back wondering heart—

blazoned trail

beginning middle

road to end.



Remembrance on Tipping Toe

Sun and rain Heaven's floor

fruit and flower come.

Shine down Tipping Toe—

Love's ladder.



This Green Earth

Mother hen
of golden three—
Rooster scratch
on bended knee.



And Now

And now look see

pillar to post

—hither and yon—

all standing here before thee.



Indian Butterfly

Sun Rose with dancers Faberge.

Morning Indian butterfly
rise up on fluttering toe—
to the call of Love.



Crow Love in Bloom

High above
valley storms wide—

Four wings
soar as One.



Blue Fox

Sun shown high on Blue Fox.

Purely paused at back
prayed and moved with steady breath—
holding to the end.



Cloud Burst

Cloud burst
rain drops
—streaming—
to my garden.



Love's Song

Hear Love's song
from every corner see
lamb and rattle—sun and moon
climben shower tree.



Return

Return bright faced

walk with me

this morning—

Sweet day.



Ode to a Perfect Verse

We three

Tween night and day

—treasures at hand—

Steadfast, holding to the end.



Miracle Mesa

Golden sun shown high,
so the story goes.

How tortoise found the berry—
no one really knows.



In Distant Rumble

In distant rumble
on battles field
cry—back.

Be lost and found.



My Little Corner

With tindered arms and reigns
see lambs in Shepherd's Nest
high here—
on My Little Corner.



The Mission

March white tailed
fluttered skirt
—footloose—
on Paradiso.



Serenata

Soft call me back

my Love—flower.

Wouldst sweet breath breathe.

Return.



Saying the Prayer

Come lambs

pray.

Red chairs beckon—

Stay.



Offerings

Tarry storms

no more—

for now

Joy.



Magic Carpet

Magic carpet sun and moon

—rise and glide—

Tumbleweed roll past.

Fragrant moments forever last.



Seven

Curtained backed
tear stained—happy sad.

Heart in flower hand
rise and shine.



Chair at the Door Bowing

Passions armed

kneel and rise

—through the door dancing—

and stay.



The Hook

Chicken eggs and lamb
climb the ladder mam.

Sing the song and reach the door—
amen.



In Spirit

Above Rainbow Bridge

Love hearts burn—

Blown away

to the now be.



Corn Rings

Come corn rings call.

Whisper wind

soft green tween toes sing—

be mine.



Little Sister

Little sister
shining door
bowing enter—
evermore.



Sun Rise

Fly sun rise
from burning bush—up.

Love's petals
breathing in and letting go.



In a Cherry Blossom Dream

In a cherry blossom dream
fishes fly and berries cream.
Taste the petal for it falls—
life's abuz.



On Becoming Alice

O Alice, hold tight.

Orange fishes swirl on deep blue sky
—red book, green snake, nesting brush—
following the love trail.



Little Wind

At end of days
the sun she shown
and little butterfly—
Rose.



The Hunt

Spring in flowers yellow hide

the treasure

—the spell cracker—

under the artichoke tree.



Balancing Act

Bowing on branches
embracing the blue
hold tight wiggle—
Crack and be new.



The Corn Maiden

He begins and she holds.

At middle chicks look back and forth.

Green snake sidewinds

and she reaching—Touch the sky.



Look Out

Up from the valley
the shepherdess calls
—her flock—
follow.



Passing Through the Gate

With lambs in lead
bearers of the torch
pass through the red chair gate—
and on to Paradise.



Lalleshwari

Short and long hare jump.

Birds nest. Roses bloom.

Lalleshwari—

toss sun to moon.



Poppy Read

With folded hands

Poppy read—

of Love

birds and heaven.



Pan de Muerto

Fragrance blooms
on tables set tween worlds.

For now—
we waite on clouds of love.



Setting the Table

Enemy, Angel,

Seed Bearer

set the table—

Dine.



Mystery of Life 4

From inside out
golden fishes fly
—sunny bright peaking duck—
for Joy.



That Day Began

Recall the night

the stars to dim.

Send forth the sun—

that day begin.



Floating on Blue Mesa

In a glorious purple slosh world
golden branches wind bent bow.

Now—Muse and toil aside—
floating high on Blue Mesa.



Golden Face

In keeping close the heart

hold sweet breath

till sings Love's song

with lips of red—and die.



"It is our task to imprint the temporary,
perishable earth into ourselves so deeply,
so painfully and passionately, that its
essence can rise again "invisibly," inside us.
We are the bees of the invisible. We wildly
collect the honey of the visible, to store it in
the great golden hive of the invisible."

Rainer Maria Rilke



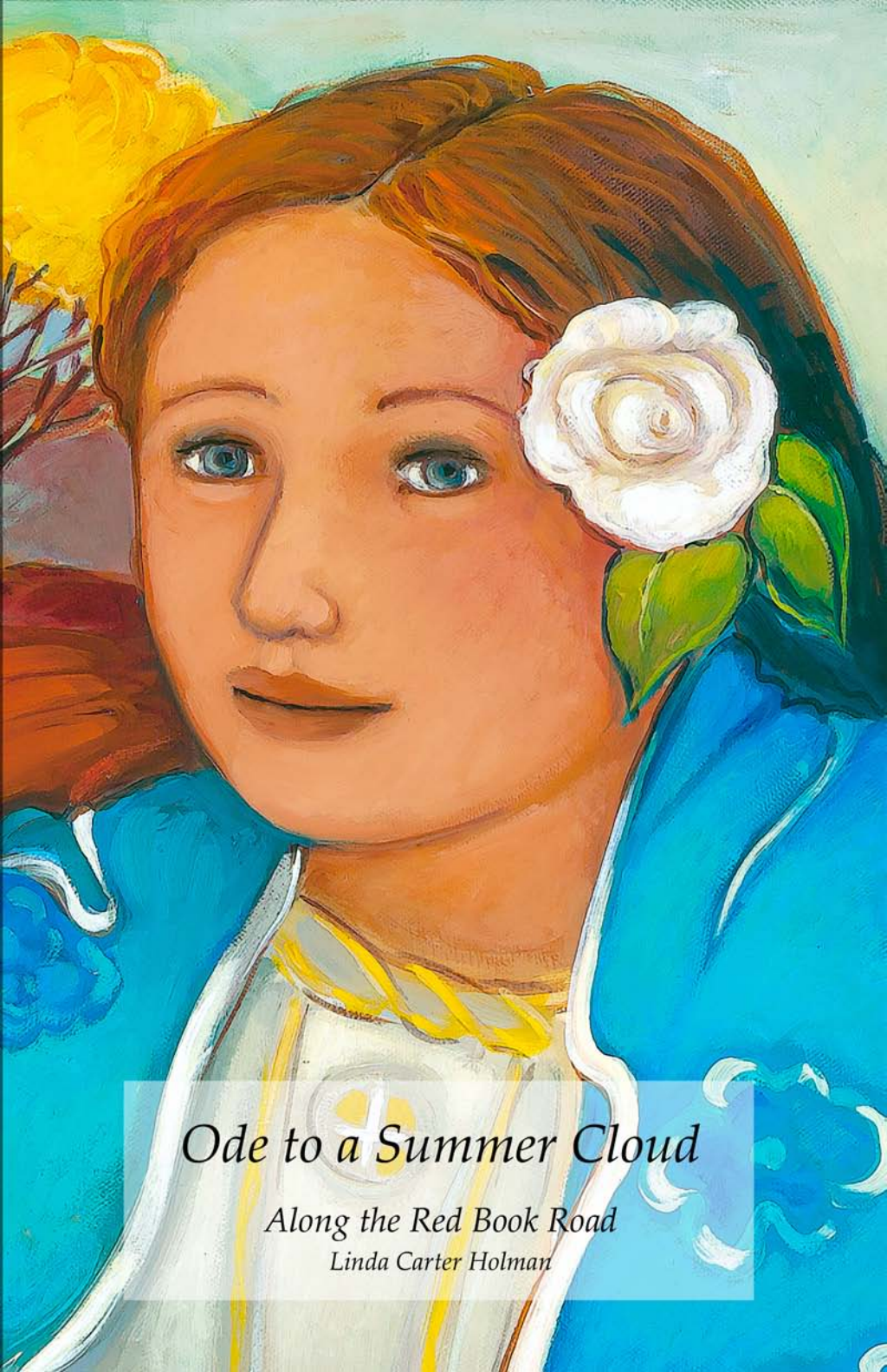
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*Paintings and descriptive verse
by Linda Carter Holman*



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