

## DEAR READER,

I will always be a fat kid. I've struggled with weight my whole life. My mother put me on Jenny Craig in high school. Every sport I tried would put me in the emergency room. I have terrible balance and eyesight and suffer from chronic migraines. And, oh yeah, I have one lung. When I was five years old, I had to have a lobectomy, removing my left lung. I almost died. It was a long recovery that took me out of school for a year. So, yeah, I was never going to be a pro athlete.

My father, on the other hand, is an amazing athlete. Even in his seventies he can beat me in tennis. You never quite get over the look of disappointment in your father's eyes when you fail in sports. This book is about those external and internal pressures that all kids feel when trying to live up to their parents' expectations.

*Chunky* is a graphic memoir, with a hint of magical realism in the form of an imaginary mascot, about my trials and tribulations as a fat kid trying out for different sports. As a lower-middle-class Mexican Jew growing up in Houston, Texas, in the 1980s, with a weird name, I never felt like I fit in anywhere. My escape was comedy and movies. As far back as I can remember I have been drawing posters for action-comedy movies that I imagined I would one day star in. *Chunky* represents the voice in my head that pushed me to pursue my artistic dreams.

So, yes, I will always be a fat kid. And I will always be a funny kid.

Funnily Yours,  
Yehudi Mercado