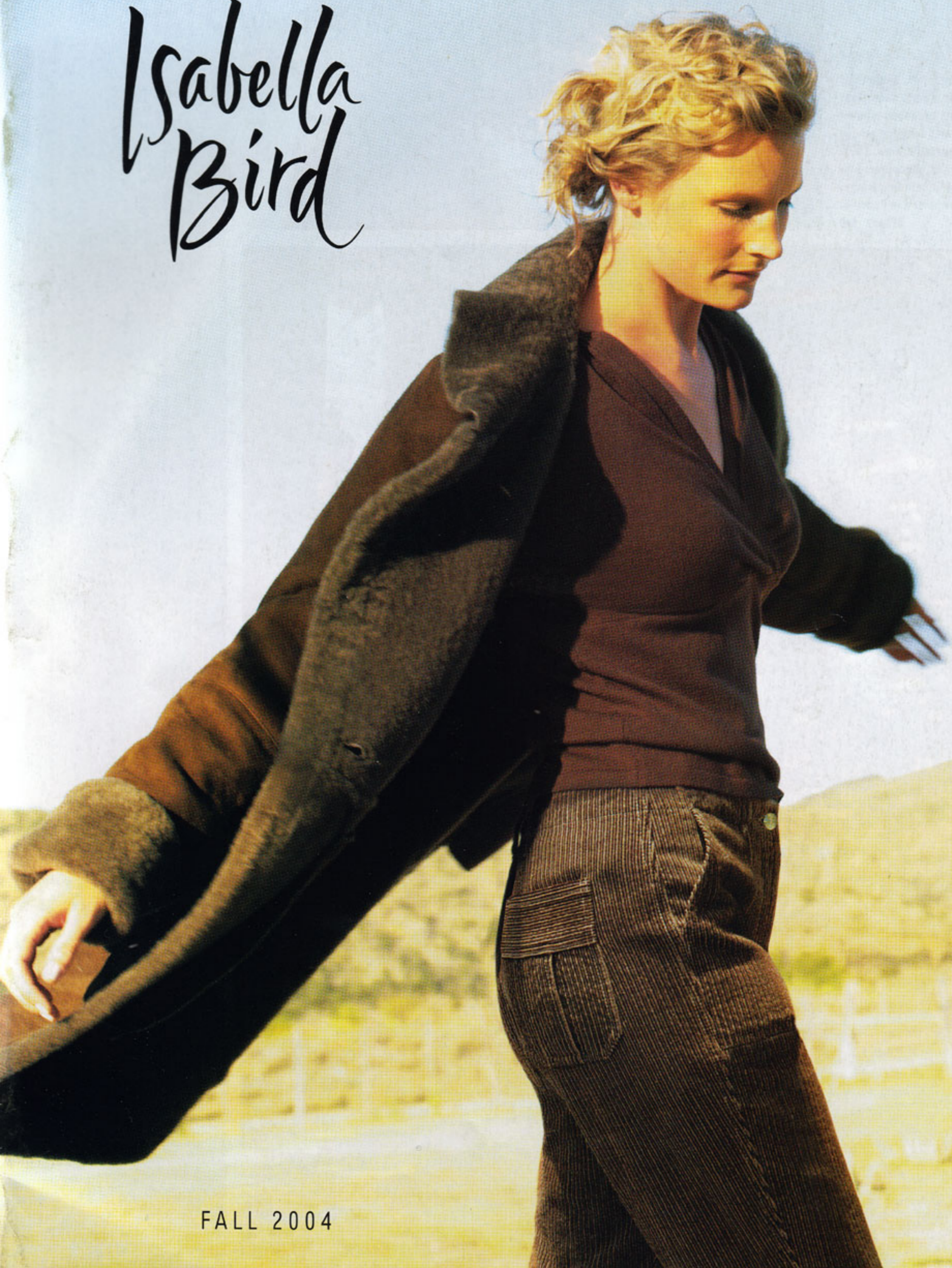


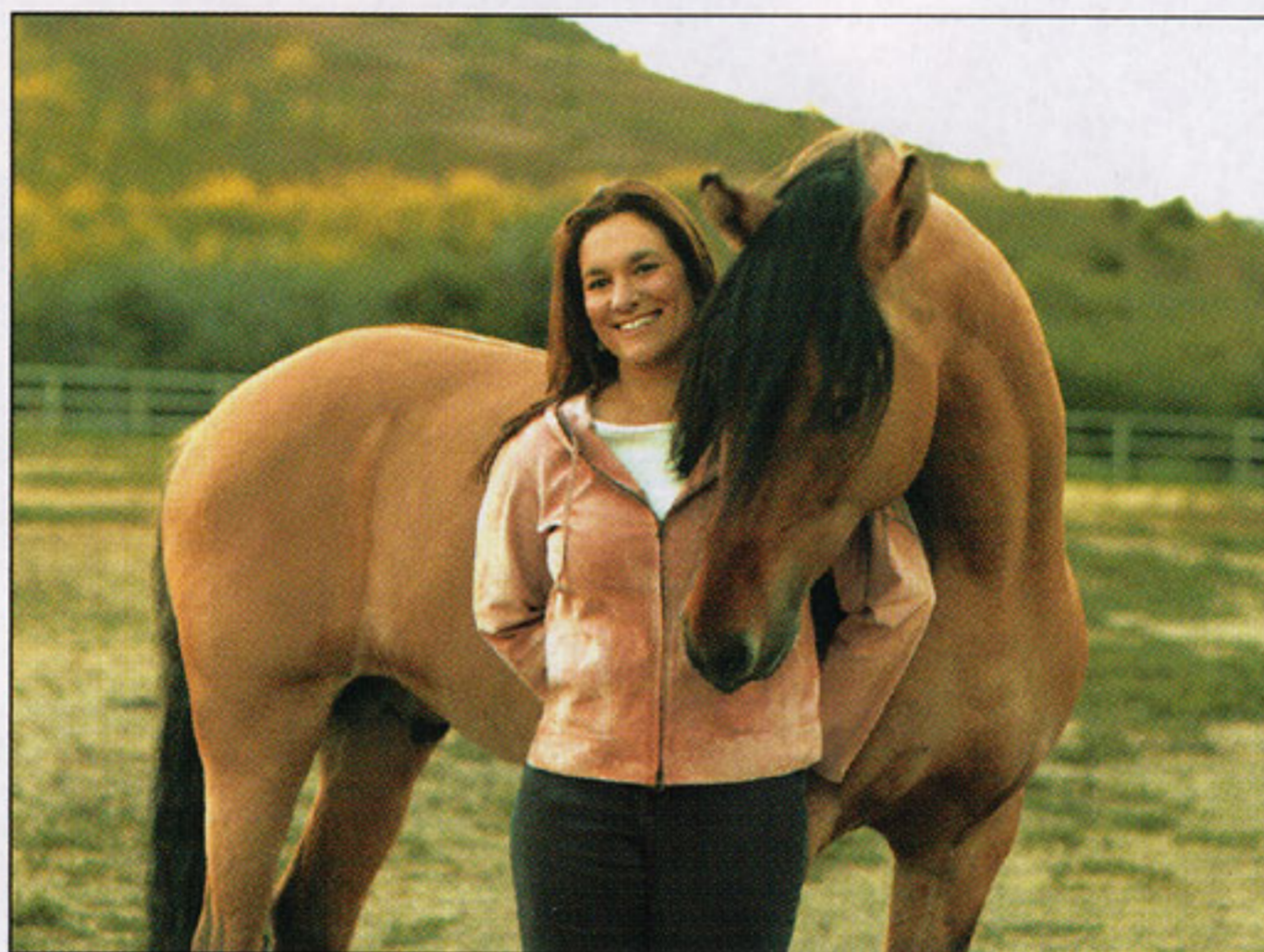
Isabella
Bird



FALL 2004

A Woman of Vision

Exemplifying the pioneering spirit of our namesake, Isabella Bird, we pay tribute to Neda DeMayo as this season's Woman of Vision.



Neda DeMayo, founder, Return to Freedom

Wild horses are a diminishing fixture on the American landscape. They once numbered two million; now, there are fewer than 32,000. Six years ago, Neda DeMayo realized her lifelong dream of creating a wild horse sanctuary. She purchased a ranch just north of Santa Barbara and founded Return to Freedom, which is now home to 210 wild horses – all rescued from slaughter or mistreatment, or relocated as entire social groups from diminishing wild lands. “What distinguishes our sanctuary is the recognition of American wild horses as an evolved wildlife species,” says Neda, “and our mission to preserve their herd societies and diverse bloodlines.”



With her existing ranch land fast reaching capacity, Neda's goal is to purchase more land and develop a Wild Horse Land Trust & Conservancy. She'll build an educational facility there, as well as a permanent home for more horses. And she'll continue her educational retreats for inner city kids, at-risk youth and foster children. “Nature is our greatest teacher,” says Neda, “and these wild horses – a vital part of our history – are being run out of town. We need to shift the way we interact – with each other, with our children, and with the natural world.” For more information about Neda, the land trust campaign, and Return to Freedom, please visit isabellabird.com.

Isabella Bird – a woman of trailblazing courage, vision and independent spirit – is our enduring source of inspiration. As a writer, photographer, botanist, nurse, and vocal advocate for education of the poor, Isabella wandered the world for almost 40 years and became the most published travel writer of the 19th century.