



## Barefoot Heart: Stories of a Migrant Child

*By Elva Treviño Hart*

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### **Barefoot Heart: Stories of a Migrant Child** By Elva Treviño Hart

A vividly told autobiographical account of the life of a child growing up in a family of migrant farm workers. It brings to life the day-to-day existence of people facing the obstacles of working in the fields and raising a family in an environment that is frequently hostile to those who have little education and speak another language. Assimilation brings its own problems, as the original culture is attenuated and the quality of family relationships is compromised, consequences that are not inevitable but are instead a series of choices made along the way. It is also the story of how the author overcame the disadvantages of this background and found herself.

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## **Barefoot Heart: Stories of a Migrant Child** By Elva Trevino Hart Bibliography

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## **Editorial Review**

From Publishers Weekly

Hart's expressive and remarkably affecting memoir concerns her childhood as the daughter of Mexican immigrants who worked as migrant workers to feed their six children. In 1953, when she was only three, her parents took the family from Texas to work in the fields of Minnesota and Wisconsin for the first time, only to find that in order to comply with the child labor law they had to leave the author and her 11-year-old sister to board in a local Catholic school, where they pined for the rest of the family. Hart remembers other years when the entire family participated in the backbreaking field labor, driven mercilessly by Apa (her father), who was determined to earn enough money to allow all his children to graduate from high school. Apa not only achieved his goal but was able to save \$2000 so that Hart could enter college, a step that led to her earning a master's degree in computer science. This account is not, however, an ordinary memoir of triumph over adversity. Instead, Hart eloquently reveals the harsh toll that poverty and discrimination took on her family. In sharply etched portraits of Ama, Hart's worn-out mother who clearly loved her daughter but was too exhausted to show it; of her brother Rudy, who refused to sit at the back of the bus because he was a Mexican; and of her teenage sisters, who struggled to keep their dignity in the muddy fields. She recalls many painful incidents in school and with childhood friends that stemmed from being Mexican in a small white Texas town. At 17, she drove her father back to Mexico to visit his family; she recalls how he suddenly changed into a happy man who felt at home with his land, his language and his people. This is a beautifully written debut from a writer to watch. (June)

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From Library Journal

A powerful collection of vignettes by a successful career woman who looks back on her childhood and her Mexican-American family's impoverished years with stark dignity. (Nov.)

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## **Users Review**

**From reader reviews:**

**Peter Pitts:**

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**Catherine Hershey:**

A lot of people always spent their own free time to vacation as well as go to the outside with their household or their friend. Do you realize? Many a lot of people spent that their free time just watching TV, or maybe playing video games all day long. If you would like try to find a new activity here is look different you can

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