



## Cajas de Carton: Relatos de la Vida Peregrina de un Nino Campesino (Spanish Edition)

By Francisco Jimenez

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A powerful account of a family's journey to the fields of California -- to a life of constant moving, from strawberry fields to cotton fields, from tent cities to one-room shacks. Seen through the eyes of a boy who longs for an education and the right to call one place home, this is a story of survival, faith, and hope. It is a journey that will open readers' hearts and minds.

Francisco Jiménez emigrated from Tlaquepaque, Mexico, to California, where he worked for many years in the fields with his family. He received both his master's degree and his Ph.D. from Columbia University and is now chairman of the Modern Languages and Literature Department at Santa Clara University, the setting of much of *Reaching Out*. He is the award-winning author of *The Circuit*, *Breaking Through*, *La Mariposa*, and *Reaching Out*. He lives in Santa Clara, California, with his family.

El intenso relato del viaje de una familia a través de los campos de California viviendo una vida en constante movimiento, de campos de fresa a campos de algodón, y de campamentos a cobertizos de un ambiente. Narrada por un joven que anhela estudiar y obtener el derecho de elegir un hogar, esta es una historia de supervivencia, fe y esperanza. Un viaje que abrirá el corazón y la mente de los lectores.

Francisco Jiménez emigró de Tlaquepaque, México, a California, donde por muchos años trabajó junto con su familia en los campos. Obtuvo una maestría y un doctorado en la Universidad de Columbia, siendo actualmente jefe del Departamento de Lenguajes Modernos y Literatura de la Universidad de Santa Clara, el escenario principal de *Mas allá de mí*. Ha recibido premios por sus obras *Cajas de cartón*, *Senderos fronterizos*, *La mariposa* y *Más allá de mí*. Reside con su familia en Santa Clara, California

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### Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Grade 4-8-Jimenez has created a moving autobiography that some critics have compared to John Steinbeck's *Grapes of Wrath*. The story, originally published in English as *The Circuit*, begins in Mexico when the author is very young and his parents inform him that they are going on a very long trip to "El Norte." What follows is a series of stories of the family's unending migration from one farm to another as they search for the next harvesting job. Each story is told from the point of view of the author as a young child. The simple and direct narrative stays true to this perspective, never falling into moralistic or clichéd patterns. The backbreaking work and the soul-crushing effect of the endless packing and moving are portrayed through a child's dismay at having to leave a school where he has just gotten comfortable or, worse, having to miss several months of a school year in order to work. Panchito's desire to help his family by working in the fields often clashes with his academic yearning. In this case, as in the case of many Mexican migrant farm workers, the American dream never comes to fruition. Lifting the story up from the mundane, Jimenez deftly portrays the strong bonds of love that hold this family together. An afterword recorded by the author gives even more background on his family. Vargas's narration offers an authentic and strong Mexican voice. Highly recommended for all collections and bookstores. **MOB**

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### Review

Bajo la alambrada Soledad De dentro hacia afuera Un milagro en Tent City El angel de oro El aguinaldo Muerte perdonada El costal de algodón Cajas de carton El juego de la patada Tener y retener Peregrinos inmoviles

### About the Author

Francisco Jiménez emigrated from Tlaquepaque, Mexico, to California, where he worked for many years in the fields with his family. He received both his master's degree and his Ph.D. from Columbia University and is now the chairman of the Modern Languages and Literature Department at Santa Clara University, the setting of much of his newest novel, *Reaching Out*. He is the award-winning author of *The Circuit*, *Breaking Through*, and *La Mariposa*. He is also the recipient of the John Steinbeck Award. He lives with his family in Santa Clara, California.

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**Margaret Honig:**

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