



Cris Plata: From Fields to Stage del Campo Al Escenario

By Maia Surdam Ph. D

Wisconsin Historical Society Press. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 136 pages. Dimensions: 0.0in. x 0.0in. x 0.0in. Raised among Mexican American farmworkers, singer-songwriter Cris Plata spoke Spanish, ate Mexican food, and heard Mexican music played by family and friends. He also spoke English, went to school with mostly white children for at least half the year, and grew more familiar with mainstream American culture. Until he was seven, he and his family lived and worked on a ranch near Poteet, Texas. The family became migrant farmworkers, moving from Indiana to Arkansas and Florida before finally settling in Wisconsin in 1966 to work at an Astico farm. This dual language book shares the Platas family story of migrant farming, music, and family amid the constant change and uncertainty of migrant life. While hardships from poor working conditions and low wages to racial prejudice were constant in Cris Platas upbringing, so too was the music that bonded and uplifted his family. After long days in the fields, Criss family spent their small amount of free time playing and singing songs from Mexico and South Texas. Cris learned to play the guitar, accordion, and mandolin, beginning to strum when he was just five years old. Today,...



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