



## Hoe, Heaven, and Hell: My Boyhood in Rural New Mexico

By Nasario García

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When Nasario García was a boy in Ojo del Padre, a village in the Rio Puerco Valley northwest of Albuquerque, he grew up the way rural New Mexicans had for generations. His parents built their own adobe house, raised their own food, hauled their water from the river, and brought up their children to respect the old ways. In this account of his boyhood García writes unforgettably about his family's village life, telling story after story, all of them true, and fascinating everyone interested in New Mexico history and culture.

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

“An excellent collection of folklore and cultural treasures that one can consult over and over again.”? *New Mexico Historical Review*

“Reading Dr. Nasario García’s inspiring tome *Hoe, Heaven, and Hell: My Boyhood in Rural New Mexico* rekindled so many wonderful experiences of growing up in Peñasco and being around matanzas.”? *nmgastronome.com*

“A volume of wondrous stories told through García’s gathered remembrances of his early boyhood . . . [and] an insightful profile of the culture of a rural Hispanic New Mexico village in the Río Puerco Valley in the early 1940s.”? *Albuquerque Journal*

“A saga of ranch life, community bonds, the omnipresent threat of drought, and more, *Hoe, Heaven, and Hell* is the first-person testimony of a traditional way of life that is all but vanished in America today. Highly recommended.”? *Midwest Book Review*

“*Hoe, Heaven, and Hell* mixes childhood autobiography with poems, common sayings and superstitions, recipes and holiday and wedding menus, lists of garden vegetables and animals raised on the land, and other mundane accountings that are fascinating in their details. It’s a rich and revealing account of how rural Hispanic parents raised their offspring, demanding strict obedience from them and forming intense family bonds while finding transcendence in their Catholic faith and survival in their adherence to a strenuous set of daily farm and ranch chores.”? *Pasatiempo*

“There are plenty of good stories in *Hoe, Heaven, and Hell* . . . all of them told in the spirit of his mother’s *dicho* which serves as one of the epigraphs: ‘On this earth there is nothing better than to have a kind heart.’ And that, throughout the book, the author displays in abundance.”? *Southwestern American Literature*

“Growing up on the Rio Puerco in the 1940s, Nasario García was part of one of the last generations to experience the strong family and community bonds that made life in rural New Mexican villages possible. His touching recollections of his life through folklore and family history are told with humor and drama.”?Frances Levine, coeditor of *Telling New Mexico: A New History*

#### About the Author

Folklorist and native New Mexican **Nasario García** has published numerous books about Hispanic folklore and the oral history of northern New Mexico, including *Grandma’s Santo on Its Head / El santo patas arriba de mi abuelita: Stories of Days Gone By in Hispanic Villages of New Mexico / Cuentos de días gloriosos en pueblitos hispanos de Nuevo México* and *Grandpa Lolo’s Navajo Saddle Blanket: La tilma de Abuelito Lolo* (UNM Press). He currently lives in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

#### Users Review

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##### Allan Carle:

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##### Joseph Singleton:

This Hoe, Heaven, and Hell: My Boyhood in Rural New Mexico is great guide for you because the content which can be full of information for you who have always deal with world and get to make decision every minute. That book reveal it info accurately using great manage word or we can declare no rambling sentences included. So if you are read this hurriedly you can have whole info in it. Doesn't mean it only provides straight forward sentences but tough core information with lovely delivering sentences. Having Hoe, Heaven, and Hell: My Boyhood in Rural New Mexico in your hand like having the world in your arm, data in it is not ridiculous a single. We can say that no guide that offer you world in ten or fifteen second right but this reserve already do that. So , this is good reading book. Hey Mr. and Mrs. hectic do you still doubt in which?

##### Francisco London:

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