



Thanks To God And The Revolution

By Dianne Walta Hart

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Winner of the 1991 Chicago Women in Publishing Award

In a restaurant in Estelí, Nicaragua, Dianne Walta Hart, a visiting American scholar, and Marta Lopez, member of a Nicaraguan women's organization, began to talk of the Sandinista revolution and of the changes it had brought, especially for women. Their conversation was to continue at intervals over the next four years; it expanded to include Marta's mother, Doña María, her sister, Leticia, and her brother, Omar, a Sandinista soldier. From these conversations has come the powerful and moving oral history of a Nicaraguan family in the twentieth century: a testimonial by ordinary people caught up in civil strife and living in a country devastated by war and inflation.

Laying bare the inner workings of the Lopez family, Dianne Walta Hart evokes a picture of a close-knit and loving family. Tracing their story from the years of repression and guerrilla activity under Somoza through an era of personal and political revolution in the 1970s and 1980s, she shows people persevering against every kind of adversity.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Members of a pseudonymous Nicaraguan family here talk about their lives, beginning with accounts of the late Somoza years through the triumph of the 1979 revolution, and ending in 1987. The family consists of elderly Dona Maria Lopez, essentially apolitical but sympathetic to her children's political passions; her daughter Leticia, a Sandinista collaborator and the most articulate, least ingenuous subject; and Leticia's half-sister and half-brother, Marta and Omar, active in the revolution, now employed in Sandinista agencies. Amid occasional squabbling and political grandstanding, a compelling human panorama emerges, and one of tragic dimensions, as family members come to realize the fragility of the revolutionary culture that matters so deeply to them. Hart, a language instructor at Oregon State University who spent 1983 to 1987 meeting with her subjects, makes no claim to objectivity, yet her portrayal conveys great force and her subjects' eloquence. Copyright 1990 Reed Business Information, Inc.

About the Author

Diana Walta Hart is senior instructor in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures at Oregon State University, Corvallis.

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