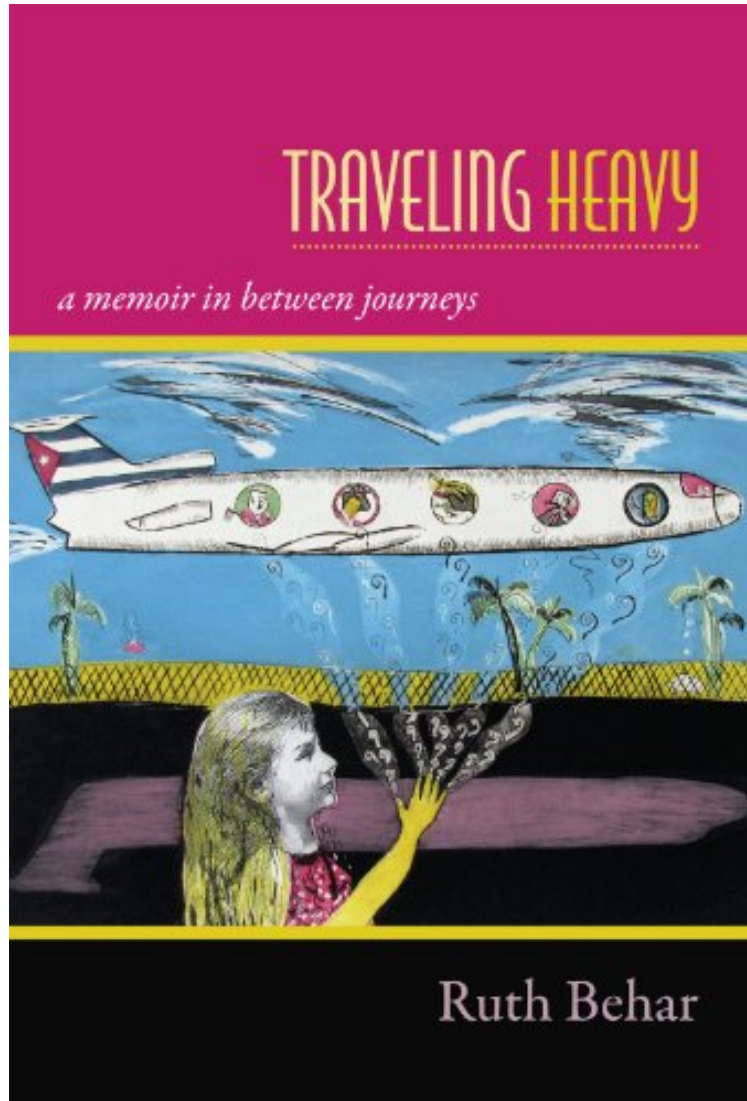


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Traveling Heavy: A Memoir in between Journeys

Ruth Behar

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#1167917 in Books Ruth Behar 2014-08-06Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 7.70 x .70 x 5.30l, .0 #File Name: 0822357208248 pagesTraveling Heavy A Memoir in Between Journeys | File size: 30.Mb

Ruth Behar : Traveling Heavy: A Memoir in between Journeys before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Traveling Heavy: A Memoir in between Journeys:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Deeply felt search for Cuban rootsBy aura starA personal emotional quest.Very easy to read, the work flows like the mind wanders.Engaging book easy to read,0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. wonderfulBy A BoyleWeaving personal history and anthropology together, Ruth Behar captures the essence of cubanismo. It was a pleasure to read this book.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Enlightened by Traveling HeavyBy D.BeyerBehar left Cuba at the age of four and a half and grew to be an

"una nina vieja " (old little girl) academic; an anthropologist specializing in homesickness. Her book is a memoir that attempts to reconcile the ghosts of a commandeered past with frequent travels to worlds that spoke to her Jewish roots and Spanish tongue. I enjoyed the black-and-white photographs that graced the beginning of each new chapter; of the author as a young girl, her family members, and other people of a shared past. As I explore summer travel destinations, Behar has me considering Cuba, raising my curiosity to witness a place absent of the seemingly ubiquitous Pizza Huts and Kentucky Fried Chicken!

Traveling Heavy is a deeply moving, unconventional memoir by the master storyteller and cultural anthropologist Ruth Behar. Through evocative stories, she portrays her life as an immigrant child and later, as an adult woman who loves to travel but is terrified of boarding a plane. With an open heart, she writes about her Yiddish-Sephardic-Cuban-American family, as well as the strangers who show her kindness as she makes her way through the world. Compassionate, curious, and unafraid to reveal her failings, Behar embraces the unexpected insights and adventures of travel, whether those be learning that she longed to become a mother after being accused of giving the evil eye to a baby in rural Mexico, or going on a zany pilgrimage to the Behar World Summit in the Spanish town of Bjar. Behar calls herself an anthropologist who specializes in homesickness. Repeatedly returning to her homeland of Cuba, unwilling to utter her last goodbye, she is obsessed by the question of why we leave home to find home. For those of us who travel heavy with our own baggage, Behar is an indispensable guide, full of grace and hope, in the perpetual search for connection that defines our humanity.

From Booklist You leave home to find home. University of Michigan anthropology professor Behar says she specializes in homesickness as she relates her own Jewish family immigration story to the universal search for roots. She was born in Cuba in the 1960s to an Ashkenazi mother and a Sephardic father; after the revolution, the family went to Israel; then, after a year, they left for New York. Her father resists her extended education and never speaks to her after she marries a non-Jew. The history behind her personal journey will grab readers as she travels back to Cuba, to Israel, to Poland, and also back to Spain, where Jews were driven out in 1492 and where now communication on the Internet brings descendants together in a reunion in the city of Bejar. All those intrigued by their ancestral story will be moved by the personal quest and also by how with the help of computers as well as the kindness of strangers the lost can find their way home. --Hazel Rochman A moving story of finding oneself through a lifetime of travel, this will be a terrific addition to memoir and Judaica collections.