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## Autumn in Texas

Anna Boling

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**JESSE**

Beth Ayers

I like to think the best,  
 To listen to those who call him  
 Robin Hood of the West  
 Those who say he robbed from the rich  
 And gave to the poor... and he did... sometimes,  
 Those times when he knew who he was  
 Knew *where he came from*.  
 Could he recall his father preaching  
 Bible in hand?  
 Hear his mother's gentle voice?  
 Before he was sixteen.

Before he became a warrior.  
 Before peer pressure and the desire to survive  
 Turned the boy into the man and  
 Reconstruction turned the man into the outlaw  
 Who robbed from the rich.  
 But I like to think the best  
 Because my great-grandmother was a James  
 And some small part of the recipe for *who I am*  
 For the blood that flows through *my* veins  
 Showing where *I* come from,  
 I share with  
 Jesse.

**AUTUMN IN TEXAS**

Anna Boling

