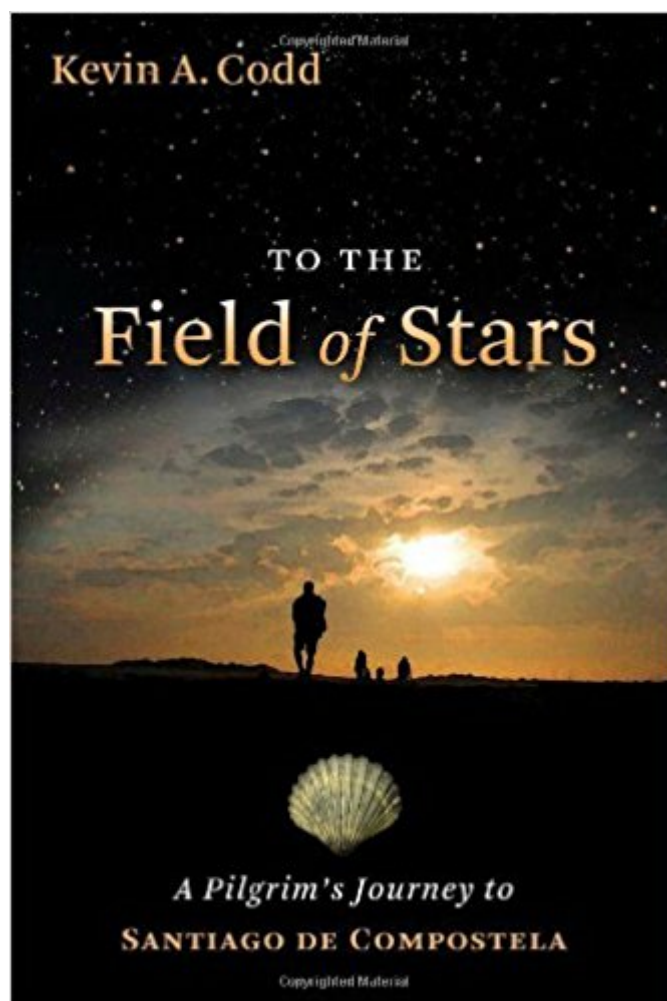


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To The Field Of Stars: A Pilgrim's Journey To Santiago De Compostela



Synopsis

“I am about to share here a story about stars that dance. . . . If the very thought of seeing stars dance piques your curiosity at some deep level of your soul, then pay attention to what follows, for the walk to the Field of Stars, to Santiago de Compostela, is a journey that has the power to change lives forever.” -- from the introduction

“Pilgrimage is a strange notion to our modern, practical minds. How many of us have walked to a distant holy place in order to draw nearer to God? Yet the pilgrimage experience is growing these days in various parts of the world. Seeking to take stock of his life, Kevin Codd set out in July 2003 on a pilgrimage that would profoundly change his life. To the Field of Stars tells the fascinating story of his unusual spiritual and physical journey on foot across Spain to Santiago de Compostela, the traditional burial place of the apostle James the Greater. Each brief chapter chronicling Codd’s thirty-five-day trek is dedicated to one or two days on the road. Codd shares tales of other pilgrims, his own changes of perspective, and his challenges and triumphs along the way -- all told with a disarming candor. Seen through the eyes of a Catholic priest who honors the religious worldview that originally gave rise to these medieval odysseys, “pilgrimage” comes to life and takes on new meaning in these pages.

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Customer Reviews

Martin Sheen "In this wonderful book Father Codd brilliantly captures for us the essence of pilgrimage. He is a candid and engaging guide to the physical realities involved -- the beauty of nature, the aches and pains of weariness, and other pilgrims along the way. More than that,

though, he reveals the interior journey, equally difficult and equally rewarding. It is a spiritual and emotional trek on which pilgrims are confronted with their own broken humanity and come face to face with the God they seek."Tom Korologos • Former U.S. Ambassador to Belgium "Father Kevin Codd's fascinating, thirty-five-day pilgrimage comes to life, step by physical and mental step, in this remarkable book about his 500-mile adventure-filled trek to fulfill a dream. I found myself joining, indeed even pulling for, this limping American pilgrim Catholic priest telling about his challenges and triumphs of body and spirit. I even got sympathy blisters on my feet as I joined him on the twisted road to Santiago. Written in the tradition of a Hemingway. Bravo, Father Codd!"Commonweal "Both a pilgrimage journal and a priest's wonderfully unsentimental meditation on faith. • Worship "The fascinating story of the thirty-five days and nights spent traversing the camino. . . .Beautifully written. • Spirit & Life "To say that this book is a delightful experience is putting it far too mildly. It is rather a high spiritual adventure as one travels day by day, mile by mile to the famous Spanish shrine of St. James, along with the author and many of the pilgrims he meets and loves along the way. . . . May this inspirational book find a wide readership and bring its message of love and faith to a world sorely in need. • The Pilgrim (Belgium) "To the Field of Stars has become a travelogue that disarms by its lack of pretense, and enthralls by its sincerity. " Â

Kevin A. Codd is pastor of Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Othello, Washington. From 2001 to 2007 he served as rector-president of The American College of Louvain, Belgium. In 2007 he completed a second pilgrimage from Louvain to Santiago de Compostela, which he chronicled online at kcodd.blogspot.com.

Anticipating my first Camino coming up in a few months, I am anxious to read the experiences of others - hence the choice of this book. While it hints at the sense of physical places along the Way, it is not imaginatively written and it was tedious in the way it tried to flesh out the story. I found myself scanning more of the text than really reading it. Maybe this is because I read a lot and depend on the beauty of imagery crafted by an author to carry me into the heart of the story, that I was disappointed in this recounting of the author's events. Many of the notions of the author were recounted, but they were self-reflective at the initial level and for me they needed to be re-worked to give them a more transcendent or universal sense of what he was feeling.

To date, I have read 5 books on walking the Camino. .and I rank this among the best so far. . .The

details the author went into detailing the places he slept. . .places he ate. . .the friends he made. . .and the pains he suffered. .were mixed in with a decent amount of humor, made his tale seem more lifelike. . .The author delved into his religion and core beliefs more than I thought he would. . but with the author being a priest, I can understand why he would. If your into walking the Camino from the spiritual side. .this would be a good read!

What an extraordinary book this is. It is a story of humanity, of an amazing pilgrimage, the Camino de Santiago de Compostela, and it is a grace, a blessing that leads us at the end to Field of Stars where we are drawn to consider so many aspects of our own day-to-day caminos. It is Kevin's story, but it is our story, it is your story if you will allow it. As another reviewer has exclaimed, "I LOVE THIS BOOK!" This is the only book I have ever IMMEDIATELY started to re-read upon finishing the last page! I just did not want to leave the world within this book. I think when you are in it's pages, you are as near to being on the camino as you possibly can be without actually being there. But, in the end, it's not only about the walking. No, my friend, it's much, much more. Do yourself a HUGE favor and BUY THIS BOOK. Even if you have no present intention of walking the camino yourself, you will love this book. Buen camino, everyone!

This book is a must read if you are contemplating taking this pilgrimage. I was inspired to consider doing so after watching the DVD "The Way" with Martin Sheen. In fact Martin Sheen endorses this book. But after having read Field of Stars I realize this trek is not to be taken lightly. There is much to consider. The author is a Catholic priest who seems as imperfect as the rest of us. I've been a Catholic for almost 60 years but I have never known a priest outside Mass. It was very interesting to read his personal thoughts and frustrations as he hiked the Camino. If you are contemplating this particular pilgrimage, this is a perfect story about the do's and don'ts. The author will make you so familiar with the refugio system you will almost smell the sleeping quarters. The good Padre gives you a detailed account about what to bring and what not to bring for the 4 to 6 week hike. You also learn what problems and ailments can keep you from completing the pilgrimage. He does not preach much but he does show his impatience from time to time with himself and others. It was particularly interesting to read his opinion of other priests he encountered at different towns along the way. Father Codd is quick to admit his own faults which is surprising and refreshing. And he does an excellent job of teaching us camino etiquette. You also realize that our American standard for privacy is not shared by our European companions along the trail. A good title for this book might be "Average Joe Survives the Camino." While I did find the book anti-climactic, it did convince me to

take on the Camino only after serious thought - and maybe after a life changing event. The good news is this is about average people making this extensive journey - and how to cope and survive both physically and mentally along the trail. Thank you Father Codd.

I loved this book. It is thoughtful, honest and real. Walking for spiritual reasons but battling weakness of body.... Looking for dancing stars while tending to hurt feet. If anything, even with all of his struggles, it has made me more convinced to see those stars for myself.

After my first 100 miles and before I returned to complete the Camino I by chance found myself attending the author's parish in Spokane Washington. He is as gentle and genuine as his prose and has the same humor and humility he brings to his account of his own first Camino. Read it if you are considering the pilgrimage. Read it if you have already trekked the Way. Or just read it to understand better what makes seekers tick.

I love hiking, new places and spiritual places . I was considering doing this pilgrimage. This book had good ratings and seemed like the best choice to learn about the walk to Santiago de Compostella and it certainly was. I have gotten over my urge to do this hike, He realistically described every day of his journey, including the physical aspects of this journey, his body's reactions and the landscapes, as well as the spiritual and interpersonal aspects which are also very interesting. It was good to read about the trials and tribulations of a good man, traveling alone, dealing with strangers also on this trek, people from many different countries, how he felt about them and interacted with them. The spiritual aspect is important to me as well. I am not Catholic, but am interested in understanding their point of view. He is very good at explaining why the repetitious prayers, "worship" of statues, confessing sins to priests. (I'm still not sold).

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