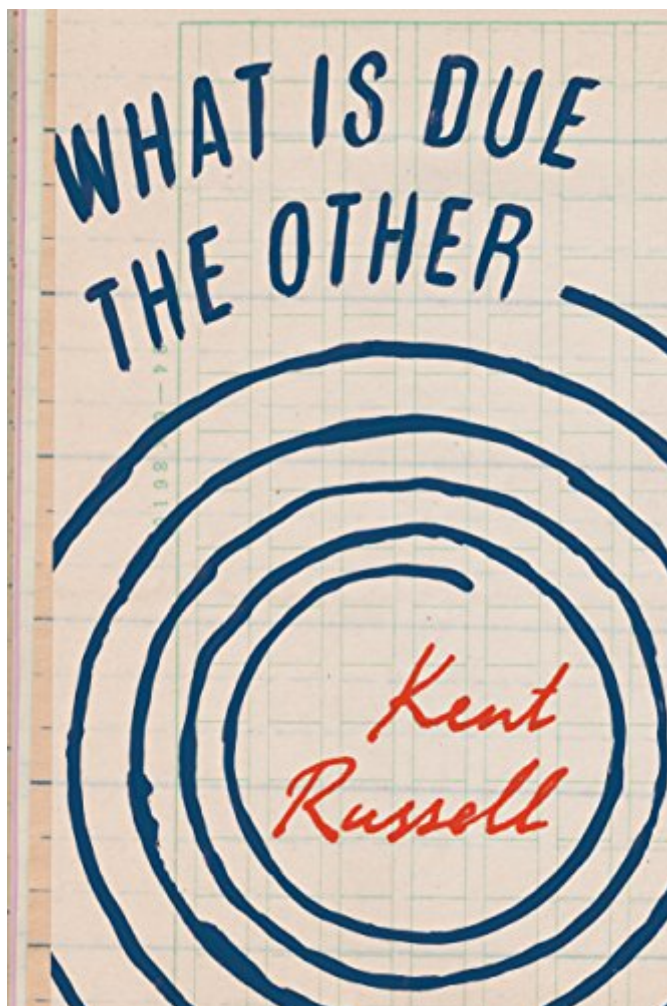


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What Is Due The Other (Kindle Single)



Synopsis

From the acclaimed author of *I Am Sorry to Think I Have Raised a Timid Son* comes a memoir of a young man's reckoning with his mother and the spiritual universe during a two-week pilgrimage to the Holy Land. When journalist Kent Russell agreed to accompany his mother on a "momgrimage" to Israel and Palestine, he put down his phone and returned to his dissolute life as a self-promoting writer on a book tour. He forgets the exchange ever took place until he is reminded two weeks before their scheduled departure and resolves to take the trip seriously by fasting, meditating, and reconsidering the bend of his moral arc. For seventeen days, Russell walks in the footsteps of Jesus Christ through Bethlehem and Nazareth, shoulder to shoulder with his detached mother; his sister, the novelist Karen Russell; and a gaggle of elderly pilgrims. He sails across the Sea of Galilee and shuffles down the Via Dolorosa in Jerusalem. Along the way, he must confront the idea of faith: what he believes in, what he doesn't, and why. One of the funniest, most erudite, and most inventive journalists of a generation charts a new path toward reconciliation with God, his Catholic upbringing, and perhaps most mysteriously, his mother.

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Russell's pilgrimage is a telling of three journeys which encompass his relationship with his mother and sisters, his relationship with Catholicism, and a historical of Christ's last days. His writing is well balanced and explicit. During his pilgrimage you will be exposed to questions and answers every true Christian is searching to obtain.

Fortunately I didn't have to drag along such a ponderous load of intellectual baggage to come to the same place as the author without ever making the physical pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Nor wait for a few decades to realize what a gift my parents were. But good for him. He ended up in the right place! It would have been a better trip for me, a born again Protestant, without the early, snide descriptions of his tour mates or four letter Anglosaxonisms interspersed for effect, but he is what he is. Or was and that's OK.

I enjoyed the humor and honesty in this book so much!

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