

Walking the Way: A Medieval Quest

Neal A Wiegman

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Walking the Way: A Medieval Quest Neal A Wiegman

The author's trek along the 500-mile pilgrimage road across northern Spain-called the Way of Saint James or Camino de Santiago-inspired this historical novel about what the journey must have been like during its medieval heyday. Two thorns from Jesus' Crown of Thorns have been stolen from a monastery in the Pyrenees. The quest for these holy relics sends an 18-year-old Basque named Xavier on an odyssey over the length of the Camino. He makes his living as a jongleur, or entertainer, reciting passages from The Song of Roland, The Poem of the Cid, and Beowulf. Xavier shares his adventures with two Italian priests, characters based on actual historical figures. One of them published a memoir and the most vivid passages are quoted in the novel, as are sections of the Liber Sancti Jacobi, the earliest pilgrim guidebook. Walking the Way: A Medieval Quest not only entertains, but informs the reader about art, architecture, literature, history, religion, folklore, and everyday life. Walking the Way with the fictional Xavier in the 12th century will provide a foundation for understanding the pilgrimage road to Santiago in the 21st century.



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