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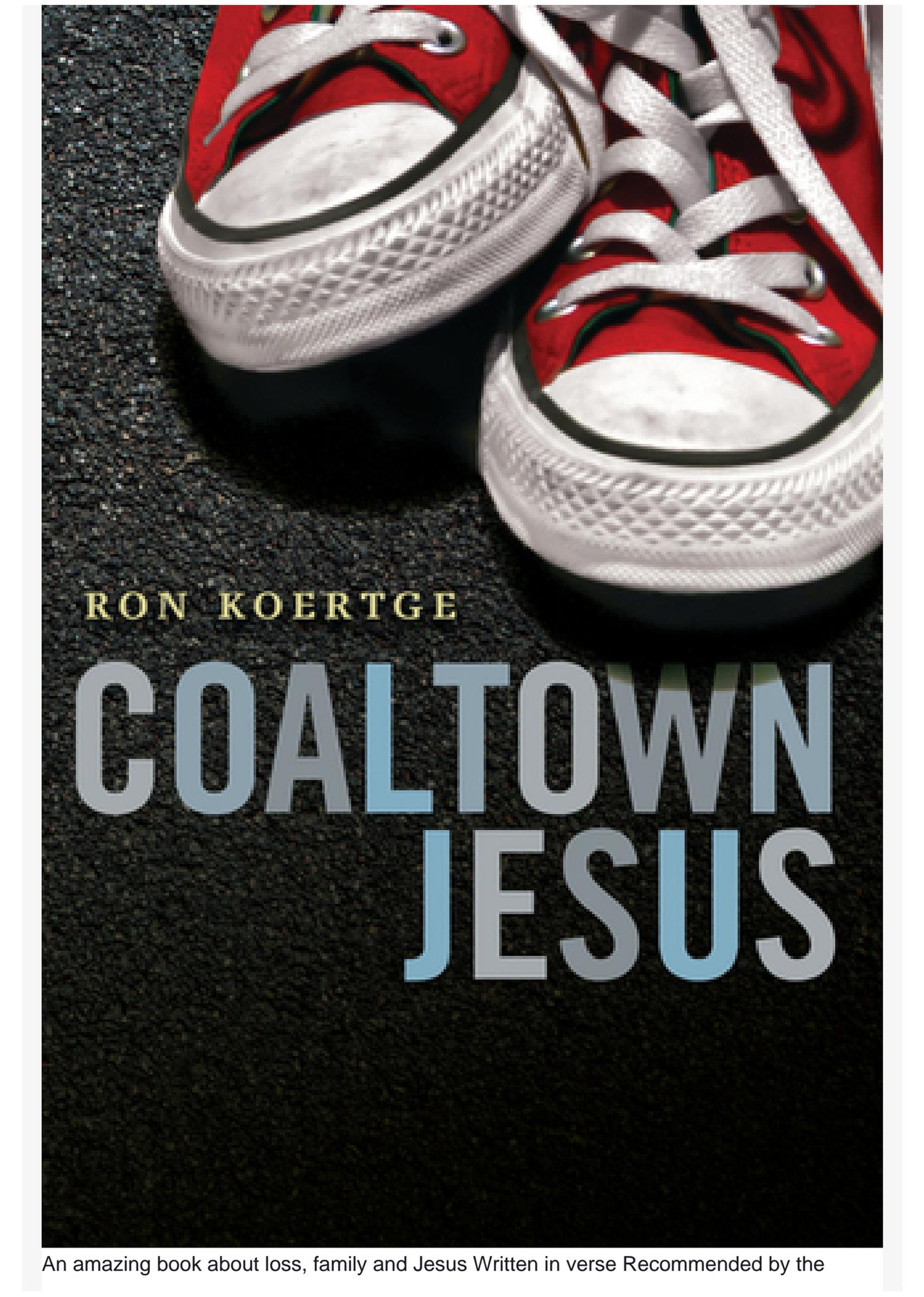
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Posted on 04 August 2017 By Ron Koertge

.READ E-PUB ? Coaltown Jesus ? eBooks or Kindle ePUB free

This story so reminds me of what my own personal relationship with Jesus is like Pure Simple Honest It s hard to take Him at His word when our emotions, fears and doubts run

interference Walker finally learned an important lesson Jesus may not answer prayers the way we want him to, but He does answer them. You're a miracle, Walker Your fingers are Your toes are Your crushing sadness and guilt are Walker and his mom are trying to survive after the death of Walker's wild brother, Noah Walker prays for comfort for his mom What he gets is Jesus in the flesh, walking beside him, asking him questions, getting to know Walker and his own life. See, what Walker doesn't know is his own grief is crushing him and Jesus, with his new red high tops, helps Walker with the help of a stray dog. By the end of the book, healing has started, and Walker has a new dog. Insightful and moving. This book was sacrilegious and heartbreaking As someone who has recently experienced major loss, this book really hit home Jesus moved closer Walker, listen to me, okay You ask what happens when someone dies Well, the body decomposes and the worms play pinochle on your snout, but Walker, my dear Walker, the light inside never goes out 87 I read about Coaltown Jesus somewhere either the New York Times or the Horn Book review, I believe I requested it from the library and by the time it arrived, I had forgotten whether I requested it for me or my daughters Turns out, it was really for both My thirteen year old read it first and told me it was good, but neglected to tell me it would make me cry in the best way. Fourteen year old Walker's brother died two months ago and both Walker and his mother are still grieving Walker prays for his mother one evening and is startled to find Jesus appear in his room the next day His encounter with Jesus is honest, down to earth, sad, painful and sweet The Jesus we see here talks to Walker in his own language, is honest about himself and encourages Walker to talk about how he's feeling In short, he's a lot like the Jesus I know. Told in free verse, the spare words give the story a beauty that might have been lacking in another format How can I not love a book with lines like He Watched the Skytake off its party clothes and slip into the comfortable pajamas of dusk This book is an extremely quick read that will stay with you long after you read the last lines And maybe reading this imagining of a visit from Jesus will prompt you to welcome him in a whole new way.



RON KOERTGE

COALTOWN JESUS

An amazing book about loss, family and Jesus Written in verse Recommended by the

Unshelved Bookclub page. I don't know what to say about this book, except that it touched me. READ E-PUB ? Coaltown Jesus ? Walker Shouldn't Have Been So Surprised To Find Jesus Standing In The Middle Of His Bedroom After All, He'd Prayed For Whoever Was Up There To Help Him, And To Help His Mom, Who Hadn't Stopped Crying Since Noah Died Two Months Ago But Since When Have Prayers Actually Been Answered And Since When Has Jesus Been So Irreverent But As Astounding As Jesus Sudden Appearance Is, It's Going To Take Than Divine Intervention For Walker To Come To Terms With His Brother's Sudden Death Why Would God Take Seventeen Year Old Noah When Half Of The Residents In His Mom's Nursing Home Were Waiting To Die And Why Would He Send Jesus To Coaltown, Illinois, To Pick Up The Pieces In A Spare And Often Humorous Text, Renowned Poet Ron Koertge Tackles Some Of Life's Biggest Questions And Humanizes The Divine Savior In A Way That Highlights The Divinity In All Of Us This is a wonderfully written story about a 14 year old young man as he tries to emotionally deal with the death of his 17 year old brother Both he and his mother are struggling emotionally his father died when he was an infant and he prays for God to help his mother To his surprise, Jesus shows up, in person What happens next is a well told moving but sometimes funny tale of how God can move and work in our lives It is a bit like the story The Shack by Wm Paul Young in its surprising presentation of Jesus If you liked The Shack , you will enjoy this book. Very easy, quick read I read it in one sitting. Richie's Picks COALTOWN JESUS by Ron Koertge, Candlewick, October 2013, 128p., ISBN 978 0 7636 6228 3 Never been a sinner, I've never sinned I've got a friend in Jesus So you know that when I die He's gonna set me up with the Spirit in the sky Norman Greenbaum 1969 So Are You Going to Fix My Mom I'm sure going to try, said Jesus When Pretty soon Just let me get my bearings Carry on Don't pay any attention to me Act like I'm not here Walker tried He sat at the table and ate the last of his breakfast He read the back of the cereal box, or pretended to Jesus walked around the room, picking things up Staring at them Smelling them When Walker finished eating, he took his bowl and spoon to the sink He washed and dried them both Sun shot through the window at just the right angle and illuminated everything his red bowl, the rooster saltshaker, the orange box of cereal He wondered if Jesus would still be there when he turned around Wheaties said Jesus Breakfast of champions, Walker explained Do you want some Wouldn't say no You have to wash up afterward. Mom has enough to do Understood Walker filled a bowl with Wheaties. Jesus picked up a spoon Two months ago, the same night fourteen year old Walker angrily confronted him on his behavior, Walker's big brother Noah succumbed to his drug addiction Their mother, who runs a nursing home here in Coaltown, Illinois called Bissell House, has not yet begun to recover from losing her older child Walker asks for help, and Jesus shows up Jesus, who can only be seen by Walker and a few others like a baby we briefly encounter , is very cool Piece after piece in this really excellent verse novel is frequently funny and constantly thought provoking And Jesus wears size 11 red Chucks just like I do You missed me Admit it I just wondered

where you were Same thing Jesus pointed to the snack machine How do you work this contraption I m buying Mom doesn t want me to eat too much of that stuff Let me ask my mom Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy, Our Life, Our Sweetness, and Our Hope.Can I have a candy bar Jesus waited a bit She said fine, but brush afterward Loan me seventy five cents.I don t have any pockets in this robe Allusions to Biblical passages mix with philosophical questions about why things happen and fold really nicely into this quick but really memorable story of a family in desperate need of healing ALA spies tell me about Cynthia Rylant s God Got a Dog Her God went to Beauty School made me want to write Coaltown Jesus Ron Koertge tweet, 6 30 13COALTOWN JESUS is actually much less folksy and hip in a YA way than is Cynthia Rylant s GOD WENT TO BEAUTY SCHOOL which I liked a lot There is no language or sex here young end YA so you can put it in a middle school and not worry about it Except, of course, that somewhere in America there will be one of those parent groups like the one I recently read about that advocated banning CHARLOTTE S WEB because a book featuring two talking animals must be the work of the devil that will have a field day with the irreverence of this one All I can say is God bless them Richie Partington, MLISRichie s Picks Walker is 14 years old Just two months earlier, his 17 year old brother Noah succumbed to a drug addiction Both Walker and his single mom are struggling to come to terms with Noah s death His mother cries every day and one night Walker prays that if God is up there, will he please help her When he turns around, Jesus is standing in his bedroom Koertge has created a Jesus that is humorous and loving and forthright and real He likes Almond Joys, wants a pair of red high top athletic shoes and calls Walker dude He loves being called The Great Spirit and hates being called The Anointed One it makes him feel greasy Some people may find this depiction of Jesus irreverent, I found it refreshing and relatable.The story is written in sparse verse but with no lack of beautiful language It is a very quick read, I read the entire book over my morning coffee, and yet it packs quite an emotional punch yes, I cried but in all fairness, I usually do Serious philosophical issues are touched on, Biblical references are made with accuracy and often humor This is a story that was definitely not written just for Christians, but for anyone who knows what it is to hurt and to see those you love hurt while wishing you could do something to make it stop A good reluctant reader and or guys read choice, middle school and up.

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