

# JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

by Shane Cloonan



Copyright © 2015: Shane Cloonan (Mike and Debbie Cloonan)

All rights reserved. This book is protected under the copyright laws of the United States of America. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the written permission of the author.

ISBN: 978-1-5136-0350-6

## DEDICATION

**T**his book, my first book, is dedicated to the memory of my grandmother, Maureen Cloonan, who touched the heart of everyone who knew her, but none more than me. And while she never saw the completion of this book, her spirit and unconditional love helped me write every page. I remember how excited she was when reading the first draft—so excited that she sent a copy of it to her native Ireland.

Much love always . . .



## PUBLISHER'S INTRODUCTION

**T**ake your child or grandchild on a *Journey to the Cross*. It's an imaginative tale told by the Jesus donkey, an improbable fictional creation engagingly brought to life through the words of 14-year-old author Shane Cloonan.

Shane's book began years earlier, starting with his lifelong love of nature. When he was a young boy, Shane had two pet donkeys, as well as other unusual animals, including chickens, pygmy goats and a guinea pig. The donkeys were kept and cared for in a barn adjacent to his family home. Shane noticed that these two donkeys, named Burt and Biscuit, had crosses on their backs. Each cross had a dorsal stripe of darker hair down the length of the back, then crossed by a stripe across the top of the body at their shoulders. Shane wondered why? Why a cross? Well, he did a little research online, learning there's a Christian allegory about the cross on a donkey's back—that it's said to be the inherited shadow of the cross as a donkey stood at the crucifixion when Jesus died, a reminder that one of the world's humblest creatures carried Jesus at various times throughout his life, from Bethlehem to Calvary, so to speak.

In reward for the loyal and unassuming love of the donkey, God ordained the shadow of the cross to fall across its back and the donkey has carried the cross ever since as a sign that the love of Jesus carries a reward for everyone to see.

According to a Christian website, most, if not all, donkeys have the narrow strip of hair that makes the shape of a cross. Some, however, are more visible than others.

Shane used this simple visual as the basis for a compelling journey—a *Journey to the Cross*.

Like all great stories, mine will be remembered forever. Let me start by telling you that I'm a donkey. I'm also going to tell you about the most important event in my life . . . the most important event in history.

