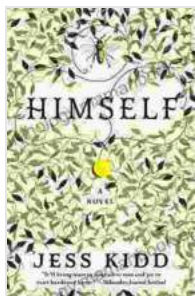


# Himself: A Journey into the Heart of Faith and Identity



## Himself: A Novel by Jess Kidd

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 5086 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
X-Ray	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 401 pages



Jess Kidd's "Himself" is a spellbinding novel that transports readers to the rugged landscapes of 19th century Ireland. Through the intertwined stories of two extraordinary characters, Kidd explores the complexities of faith, the search for identity, and the transformative power of storytelling.

## The Characters

### Mahony



Father Mahony is a devout Catholic priest who has dedicated his life to the service of his community. Haunted by the guilt of a past tragedy, he struggles with his faith and the weight of his vocation. Yet, beneath his austere exterior lies a compassionate and questioning soul.

**Maud**



Maud Drennan is a young woman who has always felt like an outsider. Orphaned as a child and raised in an unloving foster home, she longs to discover her true identity and place in the world. Armed with nothing but a faded photograph, she sets out on a perilous journey to uncover her past.

### **The Journey**

Mahony and Maud's paths intersect when Maud seeks refuge at the convent where he serves as chaplain. As their stories unfold, they find themselves drawn into each other's lives and the mysteries that haunt them.

Mahony grapples with his growing doubts and the realization that his faith is not the unwavering certainty it once was. Maud, determined to find her

family, uncovers long-buried secrets that challenge her very understanding of herself.

Through their shared experiences and the bonds they forge, Mahony and Maud embark on parallel journeys of self-discovery and redemption. They confront the shadows that have haunted them, embracing both their fragility and their resilience.

## **Themes**

### **Faith**

"Himself" delves into the complexities of faith and the challenges it faces in a rapidly modernizing world. Mahony's struggles with doubt and the changing landscape of religious belief provide a poignant exploration of the human need for meaning and connection.

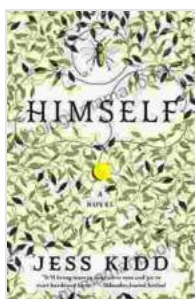
### **Identity**

The novel explores the search for identity and the ways in which our past and experiences shape who we are. Maud's journey to find her family and Mahony's quest for a deeper understanding of himself demonstrate the transformative power of discovering and embracing one's true self.

### **Storytelling**

Storytelling plays a vital role in "Himself." Mahony's ability to weave compelling tales provides solace and inspiration to his parishioners, while Maud's own story unfolds like a captivating mystery. The novel highlights the power of stories to heal, connect, and illuminate our lives.

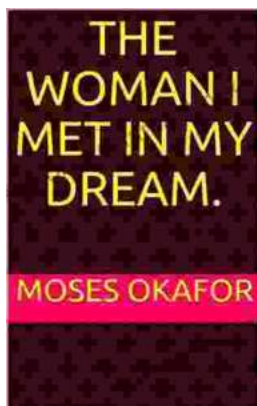
Jess Kidd's "Himself" is an unforgettable novel that weaves a rich tapestry of faith, identity, and storytelling. Through the compelling characters of Father Mahony and Maud Drennan, Kidd takes readers on a profound journey that explores the human condition with sensitivity, wisdom, and an abundance of heart. "Himself" is a testament to the transformative power of storytelling and a reminder that even in the face of adversity, we can find redemption, meaning, and a sense of belonging.



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