

Books for the dark night

Cover Story in the [October 15, 2014](#) issue



The *Century* invited people to reflect on a book that helped them at a low point in their faith journey. Their replies are linked below.

[Carol Zaleski](#): The appeal of *Abandonment to Divine Providence* is its simple, lyrical repetition of a single idea: whatever happens is the will of God.

[Phyllis Tickle](#): When I was 13, my pastor slipped me Glenn Clark's *The Soul's Sincere Desire*. Within three pages, I knew I had a soul.

[Christian Wiman](#): Instead of sitting down to rage at a blank page again, I grabbed a copy of *Don Quixote*. Three days later, the ice of time had cracked.

[Marilyn McEntyre](#): I was 29, agonizing over a decision, when I came upon a little book by Robert Ochs.

[Cleophus LaRue](#): Princeton Theological Seminary can be a lonely place for an African American professor. During a difficult period, I saw Isabel Wilkerson on PBS.

Paula Huston: Morton Kelsey showed me that I was under a spell that needed to be broken.

Gregory Wolfe: Just when I was feeling despondent, I was asked to review a book by Luigi Giussani. His rhetoric both bamboozled and mesmerized me.

Shawnthea Monroe: I kept quiet about my faith for fear of embarrassment. Then I read Anne Lamott, and suddenly I wasn't so alone.