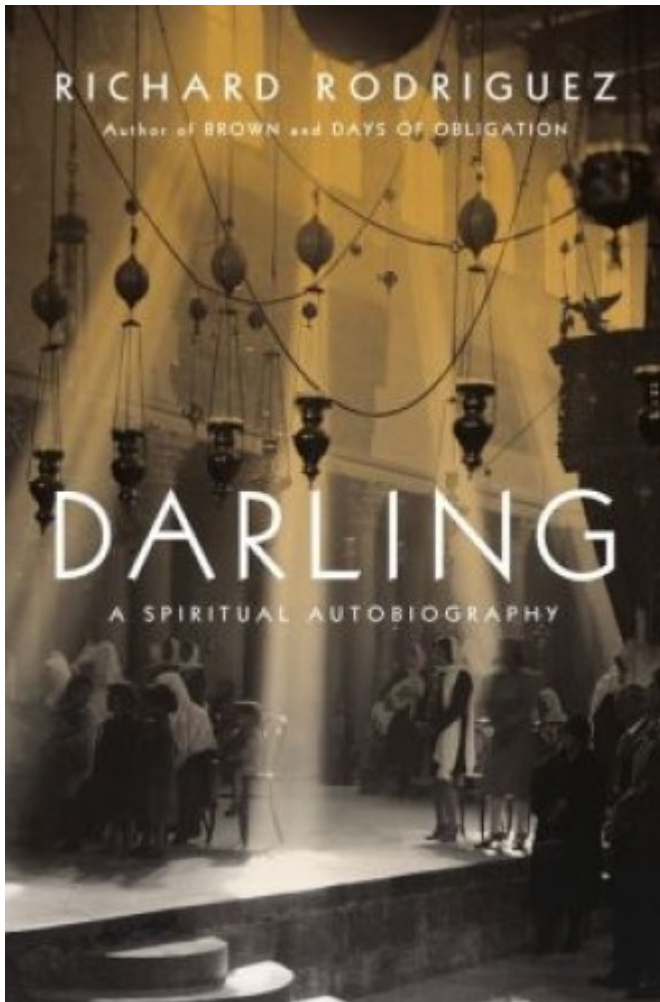


Darling, by Richard Rodriguez

Books in the [November 27, 2013](#) issue

In Review



Darling

By Richard Rodriguez

Viking

After 9/11 Rodriguez was determined to learn more about the religion that purportedly inspired the terrorists who engineered the attacks. In his explorations he came to realize that Judaism, Christianity and Islam share more than a patriarch and

matriarch: all three are desert religions. The nature of desert religion is the theme that unites these otherwise very disparate essays. Rodriguez is a master stylist with a probing mind. He asks questions that make a reader pause and reflect. He ranges from popular culture to memories of his youth, from Lance Armstrong to Elvis Presley.