

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.

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