



# The Memory of Light

By Francisco X. Stork

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"When Vicky Cruz wakes up in the Lakeview Hospital Mental Disorders ward, she knows one thing: After her suicide attempt, she shouldn't be alive. But then she meets Mona, the live wire; Gabriel, the saint; E.M., always angry; and Dr. Desai, a quiet force. With stories and honesty, kindness and hard work, they push her to reconsider her life before Lakeview, and offer her an acceptance she's never had.

But Vicky's newfound peace is as fragile as the roses that grow around the hospital. And when a crisis forces the group to split up, sending Vicky back to the life that drove her to suicide, she must try to find her own courage and strength. She may not have them. She doesn't know.

Inspired in part by the author's own experience with depression, *The Memory of Light* is the rare young adult novel that focuses not on the events leading up to a suicide attempt, but the recovery from one -- about living when life doesn't seem worth it, and how we go on anyway."

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## The Memory of Light By Francisco X. Stork Bibliography

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## Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 7 Up—Vicky Cruz never expected to wake up. She planned her suicide attempt so nobody would find her until well after the pills did their job, but she was saved by her family's housekeeper's cat and woke up in Lakeview Hospital. There, she meets three other teens who also have mental illness. Mona copes with losing custody of her child by imagining getting her back, but when that doesn't work, she cuts and uses drugs. E.M. is always angry, but there are compassion and caring buried underneath the surface, and Gabriel, who has a kindness that penetrates Vicky's despair, hears God's voice and may be suffering from schizophrenia. They, along with Dr. Desai, a quiet, empathetic psychiatrist, become the force she needs to get through her chilling and near-fatal depression. After her mother died from cancer and her more successful sister left for college, Vicky has felt abandoned, including by her emotionally remote father. Vicky's connection with the others allows her not only to begin a slow, painful return to believing that life is worth living, but to find the strength to be there when she is needed, and to stand up to her father when it's most important. This is an excellent fictional look at teen depression, made even more so by narrator Frankie Corzo's pacing, steadiness, and inflection. VERDICT A stellar choice for any library serving teens. ["A beautiful read that adds essential depth to the discussion of teens and mental illness": SLJ 2/16 starred review of the Scholastic/Arthur A. Levine book.]—John R. Clark, Hartland Public Library, ME

## Review

\* "A stellar choice for any library serving teens." -- *School Library Journal*, starred review

\* "[T]his important story of a teenager learning to live with clinical depression is informative and highly rewarding." -- *Booklist*, starred review

"*The Memory of Light* is filled with hard truths and beautiful revelations. It's a beacon of hope for those in the dark of depression. This book just might save your life." -- Stephanie Perkins, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Isla and the Happily Ever After*

"*The Memory of Light* takes you to that strange, cold planet that is depression. Vicky's journey back from the darkness doesn't simplify or sentimentalize the pain of mental illness. Francisco Stork has shows us the universe of the human mind, how it can be terrifyingly dark--and how, in the company of the right sort of heart--infinitely dazzling." -- Martha Brockenbrough, author of *The Game of Love and Death*

"This is an honest look at recovery, about finding a way out from rock bottom, and about learning that the process of living with a mental illness is just that: a learning process. A solid, powerful story." -- Kelly Jensen, blogger at [Stackedbooks.org](http://Stackedbooks.org)

## Praise for *Marcelo in the Real World* :

"[A] brisk, brilliant, unsentimental novel." -- Robert Lipsyte, *New York Times Book Review*

## About the Author

Francisco X. Stork is the author of *Marcelo in the Real World*, winner of the Schneider Family Book Award for Teens and the Once Upon a World Award; *The Last Summer of the Death Warriors*, which was named to

the YALSA Best Fiction for Teens list and won the Amelia Elizabeth Walden Award; and *Irises*. He lives near Boston with his wife. You can find him on the web at [www.franciscostork.com](http://www.franciscostork.com) and @StorkFrancisco.

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Sheldon McLean:**

Why don't make it to be your habit? Right now, try to ready your time to do the important work, like looking for your favorite book and reading a publication. Beside you can solve your trouble; you can add your knowledge by the guide entitled *The Memory of Light*. Try to the actual book *The Memory of Light* as your buddy. It means that it can being your friend when you feel alone and beside that of course make you smarter than ever before. Yeah, it is very fortunated to suit your needs. The book makes you considerably more confidence because you can know every thing by the book. So , we need to make new experience and knowledge with this book.

#### **Nelson Berg:**

The book *The Memory of Light* will bring you to definitely the new experience of reading some sort of book. The author style to describe the idea is very unique. If you try to find new book to read, this book very suited to you. The book *The Memory of Light* is much recommended to you to read. You can also get the e-book from the official web site, so you can more readily to read the book.

#### **Wanda Holmes:**

People live in this new day time of lifestyle always attempt to and must have the extra time or they will get great deal of stress from both way of life and work. So , if we ask do people have spare time, we will say absolutely yes. People is human not just a robot. Then we consult again, what kind of activity are there when the spare time coming to an individual of course your answer will certainly unlimited right. Then do you try this one, reading guides. It can be your alternative within spending your spare time, the book you have read is definitely *The Memory of Light*.

#### **Russell Fielder:**

Reading a publication make you to get more knowledge as a result. You can take knowledge and information coming from a book. Book is prepared or printed or outlined from each source that will filled update of news. With this modern era like now, many ways to get information are available for anyone. From media social just like newspaper, magazines, science guide, encyclopedia, reference book, fresh and comic. You can add your understanding by that book. Isn't it time to spend your spare time to spread out your book? Or just looking for the *The Memory of Light* when you needed it?

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