



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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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 9 Up—After attempting to commit suicide in her bedroom, Vicky Cruz wakes up in the psychiatric wing of the hospital. Exhausted and nearly catatonic, Vicky goes through the motions asked of her by the quiet but firm Dr. Desai while intending to stay only the mandatory time before going home to try again. After attending group therapy with the other three young people on the ward—her energetic roommate Mona, intimidating E.M., and angelic Gabriel, however, Vicky accepts Dr. Desai's help in convincing her domineering father to let her stay. As Vicky begins intensive treatment, things start to look up, but the looming question of whether she and her friends can survive in the outside world remains. Stork's latest starts slow, with a cold, dry tone that mirrors Vicky's own emotional depletion. As the new environment and people begin to reach Vicky, however, the prose follows suit, growing smoothly into a warm and powerful tone. Unlike many novels about teens and suicide, this work focuses entirely on recovery. Vicky is dealing with a deep depression born from her mother's death and learns not only to name her illness but to cope with the effects and stand up for her needs. Stork's depiction of depression deftly avoids the traps of preaching or romanticizing and instead is accurate, heartbreaking, and hopeful. VERDICT A beautiful read that adds essential depth to the discussion of teens and mental illness.—Amy Diegelman, Vineyard Haven Public Library, MA

Review

Praise for *The Memory of Light*:

*"Stork further marks himself as a major voice in teen literature by delivering one of his richest and most emotionally charged novels yet." -- *Kirkus Reviews*, starred review

*"Stork writes sensitively about Vicky's journey from near death to shaky recovery... A subject that needs the discussion Stork's potent novel can readily provide." -- *Publishers Weekly*, starred review

*"Accurate, heartbreaking, and hopeful... A beautiful read." -- *School Library Journal*, starred review

*"Undeniable emotional strength and an encouraging, compassionate message. Stork writes his characters with authenticity and respect... Highly rewarding." -- *Booklist*, starred review

Praise for *Marcelo in the Real World*:

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

* "Stork introduces ethical dilemmas, the possibility of love, and other 'real world' conflicts, all the while preserving the integrity of his characterizations and intensifying the novel's psychological and emotional stakes. Not to be missed." -- *Publishers Weekly*, starred review

* "It is the rare novel that reaffirms a belief in goodness; rarer still is one that does so this emphatically." -- *The Horn Book Magazine*, starred review

Praise for *The Last Summer of the Death Warriors*:

*"Stork's latest marks him as one of the most promising young adult authors of the new decade." -- The Horn Book, starred review

"Complicated yet ultimately endearing characters are a Francisco Stork standard. His latest novel doesn't disappoint." -- *Chicago Sun-Times*

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; *Iris*; and *The Memory of Light*, which received four starred reviews. He lives near Boston with his wife. You can find him on the web at www.franciscostork.com and @StorkFrancisco.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Donna Beckman:

Often the book *The Memory of Light* will bring you to the new experience of reading any book. The author style to clarify the idea is very unique. If you try to find new book to read, this book very appropriate to you. The book *The Memory of Light* is much recommended to you to learn. You can also get the e-book from official web site, so you can easier to read the book.

Jeffrey Richard:

The guide with title *The Memory of Light* has lot of information that you can discover it. You can get a lot of profit after read this book. That book exist new knowledge the information that exist in this book represented the condition of the world now. That is important to you to be aware of how the improvement of the world. This book will bring you throughout new era of the global growth. You can read the e-book with your smart phone, so you can read the item anywhere you want.

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