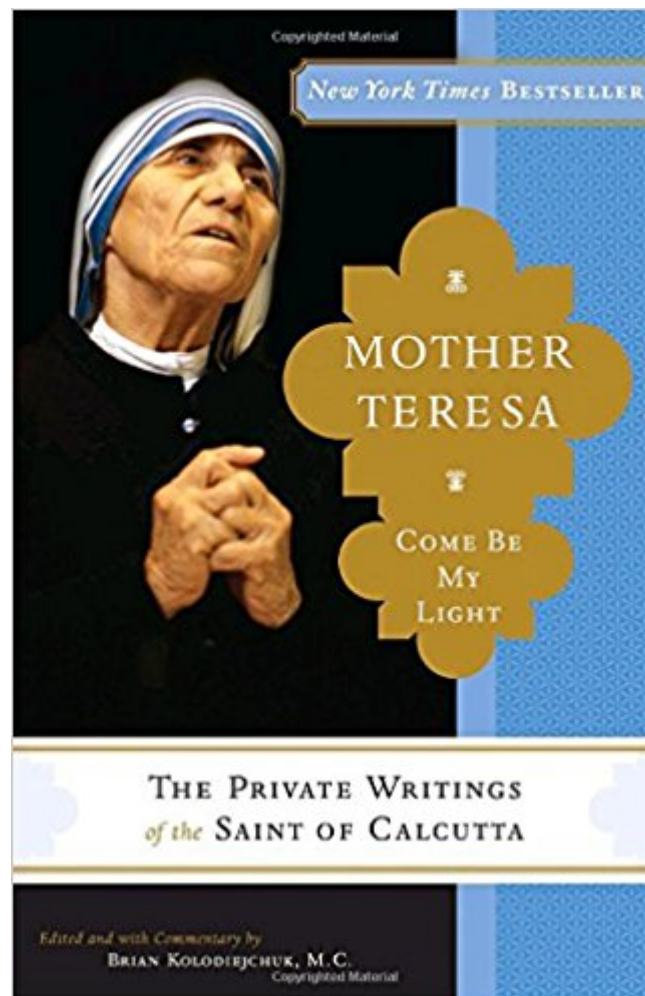


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Mother Teresa: Come Be My Light: The Private Writings Of The Saint Of Calcutta



Synopsis

“If I ever become a Saint I will surely be one of “darkness. I will continually be absent from Heaven to light the light of those in darkness on earth. Mother Teresa of Calcutta During her lifelong service to the poorest of the poor, Mother Teresa became an icon of compassion to people of all religions; her extraordinary contributions to the care of the sick, the dying, and thousands of others nobody else was prepared to look after has been recognized and acclaimed throughout the world. Little is known, however, about her own spiritual heights or her struggles. This collection of letters she wrote to her spiritual advisors over decades, almost all of which have never been made public before, sheds light on Mother Teresa’s interior life in a way that reveals the depth and intensity of her holiness for the first time. A moving chronicle of her spiritual journey including moments, indeed years, of utter desolation these letters reveal the secrets she shared only with her closest confidants. She emerges as a classic mystic whose inner life burned with the fire of charity and whose heart was tested and purified by an intense trial of faith, a true dark night of the soul.

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Customer Reviews

Mother Teresa was one of the most revered people of the 20th century, so it is no surprise that 10 years after her death people still want to know what impelled this poor, humble Albanian woman to give her life to God so completely. Kolodiejchuk, a Catholic priest and friend of Mother Teresa’s who is actively promoting her cause for sainthood, assembles a startling and impressive collection of her writings, most of which have never been seen by the public. Two

themes especially shine through in Mother Teresa's letters, namely, her absolute conviction that she was doing God's will, and a deep and surprising chasm of darkness within her that some would call the dark night of the soul. It is also apparent that this saintly woman was no pushover. In her quest to found the Missionaries of Charity, she aggressively pursued approval from her bishop, fully confident that God desired this work to be done. Kolodiejchuk is at times a bit presumptive in his interpretations of Teresa's letters, as no one can say for certain what was in her mind and heart at all times. What we do know, in part thanks to this volume, is that Mother Teresa's vocation to care for the poorest of the poor will continue to inspire people for generations. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Come Be My Light is that rare thing, a posthumous autobiography that could cause a wholesale reconsideration of a major public figure -- one way or another. It raises questions about God and faith, the engine behind great achievement, and the persistence of love, divine and human. That it does so not in any organized, intentional form but as a hodgepodge of desperate notes not intended for daylight should leave readers only more convinced that it is authentic -- and that they are, somewhat shockingly, touching the true inner life of a modern saint. --David Van Biema, Time Magazine

I have mixed feelings about this book. On the one hand it was a real blessing for me. I went through (and somewhat I am still going through) one of the darkest periods of my life. During some of the most darkest times, I have cried out to God in tears: "Oh God, I need You. I need to hear from you. Something. Something to know you are there. A whisper, or just a touch. Just to know that you are there." Many times I cried out and prayed this. And I got NOTHING. Not a touch, not a word. Nothing. And I got mad at God, to the point of asking: "If God is not there for you when you really need Him, what good is He?" How blasphemous that for a blasphemous question? Honestly, my faith was shaken, I'm sorry to admit. And that is why this book has been such a blessing. It has given me understanding and answers to some of my questioning. It has helped me to grow in my faith in God again. A God that is loving. A God that is there for me, even when He seems to be ignoring me, and turning His back on me. If you are in a place that is making you feel this way, then I recommend this book for you. It has been a blessing to me, and I pray that it will bless you too. Now on the other hand, this book was a betrayal. Mother Theresa on many occasions made it explicitly clear that she did not want these letters to be published. She wanted them

destroyed upon her death. They were entrusted to her spiritual leaders/advisors, and they betrayed this trust. They published her letters, which are in this book. I know from reading this book that because of her humility, and because of her submission to those in authority over her, that she probably would not see it this way. But because I am not where Mother Teresa is spiritually, that is how I see it. Which is what makes me conflicted about this book. While I am glad it was published after all, I can't but help feel that her trust was betrayed. Maybe if, and when I get to where Mother Teresa was spiritually, I'll feel differently. I hope this helps you.

Illuminating. Never knew about Mother's personal crisis when she felt abandoned by God. She kept on doing her work although feeling alone. What a model for all of us who have felt the same! I was greatly inspired.

Only halfway done: The first page of her actual letter in her hand writing was certainly good bait. THAT is the kind of inspirational biography I was searching for. Many letters and insightful notes in between. Be patient, it is lengthy.

This is such a beautiful book about Blessed Mother Teresa--in her own words. It shows how her faith was unshakeable and her love for Jesus everlasting, though she suffered one of the longest "dark nights of the soul" ever recorded. She stopped experiencing Jesus' Presence in her heart and soul not long after she founded the Missionaries of Charity, and yet she remained totally faithful to His call. What great love! It was like a spiritual crucifixion that she experienced with Him. Yet it is not a depressing book. It is totally uplifting to see such total love and faithfulness revealed.

This book was amazing as for a long time I had held Mother Theresa and her principles in an ideal way, believing that she enjoyed some level of peace and harmony. To find out it was exactly the opposite allowed me to let go of that ideal, which my life has been based on, and has had significant cost, obviously nowhere near the level as she endured. On reading the book, Mother Theresa became a human being who was bound by vows which allowed her to use will to push over her feelings and neglect her own needs and it is amazing she could have maintained this over such a long period of time. She is truly a saint and a Bhodisattva. She worried about the hypocrisy of how she presented to the world what was really happening inside of her, and one can see why she couldn't be truly honest with that as she had millions of people knocking at her door for help, she had thousands under her guidance and most of all she didn't want to go against any of her vows.

This makes her more of a Saint than I could have imagined. The Catholic Church paints it as Mother Theresa identifying with Christ, when he thought God had forsaken him on the cross, and truly sharing his pain, and they claim, which is probably true, that it allowed Mother Theresa to identify closely with the outcasts, as she too felt abandoned by God, and could understand their feelings of rejection. From a psychological point of view it could be interpreted that Mother Theresa felt this way, as she was under way too much pressure, and her mind never had real time to relax, so she could be back in touch with God. Her vow of never saying no to God was almost impossible, as she saw God in the poor, in children, in reality she saw God in everything and particularly anyone in distress or who needed guidance. That is an unbearable load if you are talking on a world level of the need she would have seen and felt she had to do something about. Again, regardless of what perspective I look at it from, she was remarkable that she was able to keep going and shine so much light in the world, when her own suffering was so immense and this book really conveys the depth of Mother Theresa's interior world, giving a more realistic view of an amazing Saint.

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