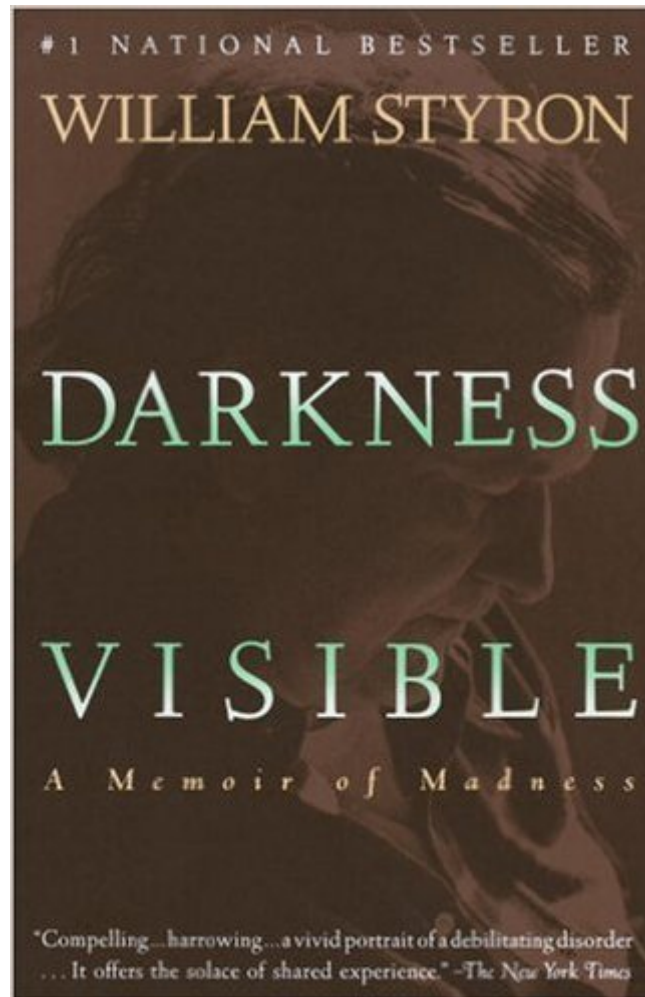


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# Darkness Visible: A Memoir Of Madness



## Synopsis

A work of great personal courage and a literary tour de force, this bestseller is Styron's true account of his descent into a crippling and almost suicidal depression. Styron is perhaps the first writer to convey the full terror of depression's psychic landscape, as well as the illuminating path to recovery.

## Book Information

Paperback: 84 pages

Publisher: Vintage; 1 edition (January 8, 1992)

Language: English

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ISBN-13: 978-0679736394

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.3 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (435 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #9,370 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #18 inÂ Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Mental Health > Depression #63 inÂ Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Arts & Literature > Authors #576 inÂ Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Memoirs

## Customer Reviews

William Styron is perhaps best known for his bestselling novel, *Sophie's Choice*, which was converted to screenplay and released as an Academy award-winning motion picture starring Meryl Streep. Many critics acknowledged Styron's seemingly natural ability to evoke a sense of bitter, submerged despair through subtle understatement. The reviewers who lauded his work had no way of predicting that Styron would eventually become afflicted with a more personal misery, a depression so severe it would drive him to suicidal obsession. Styron's harrowing struggle with clinical depression is the subject of his non-fiction bestseller, *Darkness Visible: A Memoir of Madness* (Vintage Books, 1992). In a mercifully brief 84 pages, Styron eloquently demonstrates how the most brutal and debilitating stages of psychotic depression often hurl patients into an existential nightmare from which the only perceived escape is death (and according to Styron, this misperception constitutes one common, potentially lethal distortion of thought in depressed patients). *Darkness Visible* opens with a pointed epigraph from the book of Job. This reflects Styron's perception that like Job's trials, depressed patients are beset by something inexplicable and powerful that threatens to destroy the fruits of their life and labor, the relationships they hold dear, and their very understanding of spirituality. Like Job, depressed patients struggle to find

cosmological meaning in their suffering. And like Job, depressed patients who petition God to provide this meaning for them may only receive partial answers or worse yet, a silence that reverberates from an expansive, ominous void.

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