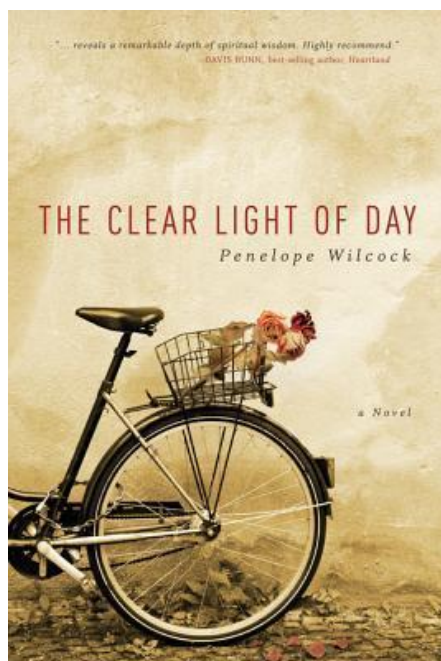




The Clear Light of Day

Penelope Wilcock

Download now

Read Online ➔

The Clear Light of Day

Penelope Wilcock

The Clear Light of Day Penelope Wilcock

Recently ordained and more recently divorced, Reverend Esme Browne finds herself at an uncomfortable crossroads when stationed at the Portland Road Chapel. In addition to the seaside town, she also now bears the spiritual responsibility for two country chapels, which, for the efficient, well-versed, forty-something lifelong student should be exciting, invigorating and even hopeful. Esme, however, has forgotten how to pray, and, she fears, how to feel.

A chance encounter with an eccentric pair of country gnostics may change all that, but she'll have to be willing to juggle the demands of the Church, her parishes and a bevy of well intended but nibby neighbors, before she'll know for sure.

The Clear Light of Day Details

Date : Published August 1st 2007 by David C. Cook (first published January 1st 2004)

ISBN : 9780781445535

Author : Penelope Wilcock

Format : Paperback 304 pages

Genre : Christian Fiction, Fiction, Christian

 [Download The Clear Light of Day ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Clear Light of Day ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online The Clear Light of Day Penelope Wilcock

From Reader Review The Clear Light of Day for online ebook

Betsy says

interesting read. I liked Esme and her questioning. even as a minister sometimes just going through the motions is all one can do... will she find what she is most wanting in her life? a friend. someone to share it with.

Gwen says

This is an OK read, but nothing close to her marvelous, The Hawk and the Dove.

Georgia Herod says

Wilcock is the author of The Hawk and the Dove trilogy, which I have read and reread. Although she's also written other fiction and poetry, I've been unaware of her work. A Methodist minister who served as a fulltime pastor to six rural congregations simultaneously in England, she's divorced and remarried and has been assigned to the Aylesbury Circuit in Buckinghamshire, England. She believes "that God speaks to us through every smallest circumstance of life."

The Clear Light of Day seems to be autobiographical, based on the above facts about Wilcock's life. Rev. Esme Browne is recently ordained and divorced--two major emotional life events, on top of which she is assigned to the Portland Road Chapel, where she is the spiritual leader for the village, as well as two country chapels, in what seemingly would be an exciting challenge. However, in the midst of her life as a student and being religious, Esme has failed to tend her own soul. As a result, she seems to have lost hope, along with the vitality of her prayer life, and even more seriously, she's become emotionally numb. As she begins her new position, she is struggling with her faith, her prayer life, her identity, her loneliness—quite frankly, she's not happy in ministry—or so it seems to me.

Jabez Ferrall and Seer Ember, who reminds me of a gypsy (names have significance), enter Esme's life and provide refuge, friendship, and challenge to her view of life, ministry, and the church. Jabez has walked away from church because his wife had a long, lingering illness, and died—in spite of the church members coming to pray for her.

Jabez and Seer are "spiritual," without being "religious." They present a strong anti-church position (cf. The Shack by Wm. Young—similar themes in these two books).

While it is difficult to argue against the "spirituality" of Jabez and Seer, Esme's dissatisfaction with her life and role and her seeming lack of a dynamic relationship with Christ, along with the negative church member who is very legalistic and critical, makes the gnostic worldview of Jabez and Seer very attractive. As Esme realizes her attraction to Jabez, she confronts her crisis of faith and future in ministry.

If I didn't have such stacks of unread books around, I'd reread this, looking at the worldviews expressed more closely.

Pam says

"Veddy British" and read a little like a Masterpiece Theater knock-off-- sort of a lesser Cranford. OK, but no revelations here.

Liz says

[ebook]

Martha says

two stars

Diane says

meh.

(would have given 2.5 stars if possible)

Melanie says

Give this book a chance! I found it slow to get into, but as I moved through it I found myself liking it more! I really liked the characters, and enjoyed the story the most when it included Jabez and Ember. As Esme visited their cottage, I could feel myself being pulled into the haven of peace and security! Everyone should have a place like that to visit! The story did go in the direction I hoped it would, but at times I wasn't sure it would head that way. Even though at times the story seemed complicated, it really wasn't, and was sort of a breath of fresh air for its simplicity.

The thing about the story I appreciated the most was the reminder to slow down in life! Appreciate the simple things, avoid the "rushing" in our lives, live simply, minimize, nurture and pay attention to the relationships in your life.....all good reminders in this day and age of rush here and there, constant distractions and electronic gadgets always competing for time in our lives.

Take some time for this book.....I think you will be happy you did!

Haije Bergstra says

The book reveals the spiritual journey of a Methodist and the friendship that is evolving between to people in her village. The book offers a lot of wisdom to slow down life and enjoy the place and people you care for.

Margaret Fraleigh says

This book was hard to get into. However, as the story unfolded, it became more clear. A couple of times I was going to stop reading it, but I am glad that I finished the book.

Good lessons to be learned.

Mary says

This was an interesting story. It opens with a quote "Down the avenue of trees I can see a spot of sunlight. I'm trying so hard to get there." The story opens with Esme, a Methodist minister at a stage of spiritual burnout. She is feeling unfulfilled in her personal faith and questioning her effectiveness as a minister. She meets an unusual man named Jabez who is lost in his own emotional turmoil after the death of his wife. He has a deep personal faith but finds the institutional church to be insufficient for him. Through her friendship with Jabez and his renter, Ember, Esme comes to a point where she is willing to be vulnerable and risk her well ordered life for something greater. She finds her way out of formality and into a natural expression of faith...and ultimately love.

Teresa Burns says

Gentle. Reflective. Fun and introspective characters. Oozes with love.

Dawn says

It was hard getting into it at first. Then it caught my attention and at the end lost me again. When I start reading a book I push through until the end no matter how painful it is. This could have been a great story. The Author needs to take advice from her own writing and simplify. No need to speak over our heads or to speak down to us. We are your audience. A novel or book should capture our attention and our imagination.

Sarah says

This was a head-shaker. As a practicing Anglican, I appreciated the sympathetic insight into the life of a Methodist minister, (and ironically, read this after the inimitable Phil Rickman's *The Secrets of Pain and I love his books, but am dismayed by the overwhelmingly negative portrait of a parish church*) but found there was, if possible, too much insight in this book.

Esme, the main character makes challenging decisions in the midst of crises of faith, but the first two chapters seemed to be devoted to exposition. There were also laundry lists of a pastor's schedule, which were accurate (and likely drawn from the author's calendar), but the same sense of overwhelming busy-ness could

be just as well portrayed in context, or added to the plot. Just not a lot happening in terms of plot. Yes, this is a character study rather than a plot-driven novel, but editing was needed.

In the end, I warmed to the story, but after all the build up, the ending seemed abrupt in comparison with the opening.

A brave try, and I hope the author tries some more. I'm sure it's a good discussion book for church book clubs and for pastors, male & female. (If they have the time to read it.)

Anna says

Two lonely souls looking for love and companionship. Esme, a divorced Methodist minister, is overwhelmed by her ministerial duties and losing focus in her spiritual journey. Jabez, mourning the loss of his beloved wife, lives a simple life, but is lonely. In Jabez's simple cottage, Esme finds a place of peace and acceptance. She is also able to find a way to connect to her inner search for God. My favorite quote: "To walk with God is an unfolding rhythm of life, a wild music of many moods and tempos, embracing the shadows of doubt and disillusionment and the black dark of despair as well as the sweet blue heavens of joy and affirmation, the glorious sunset colors of the soul moved by beauty, amazed by peace." Savor the slow pace of this book and seek the insight it affords.
