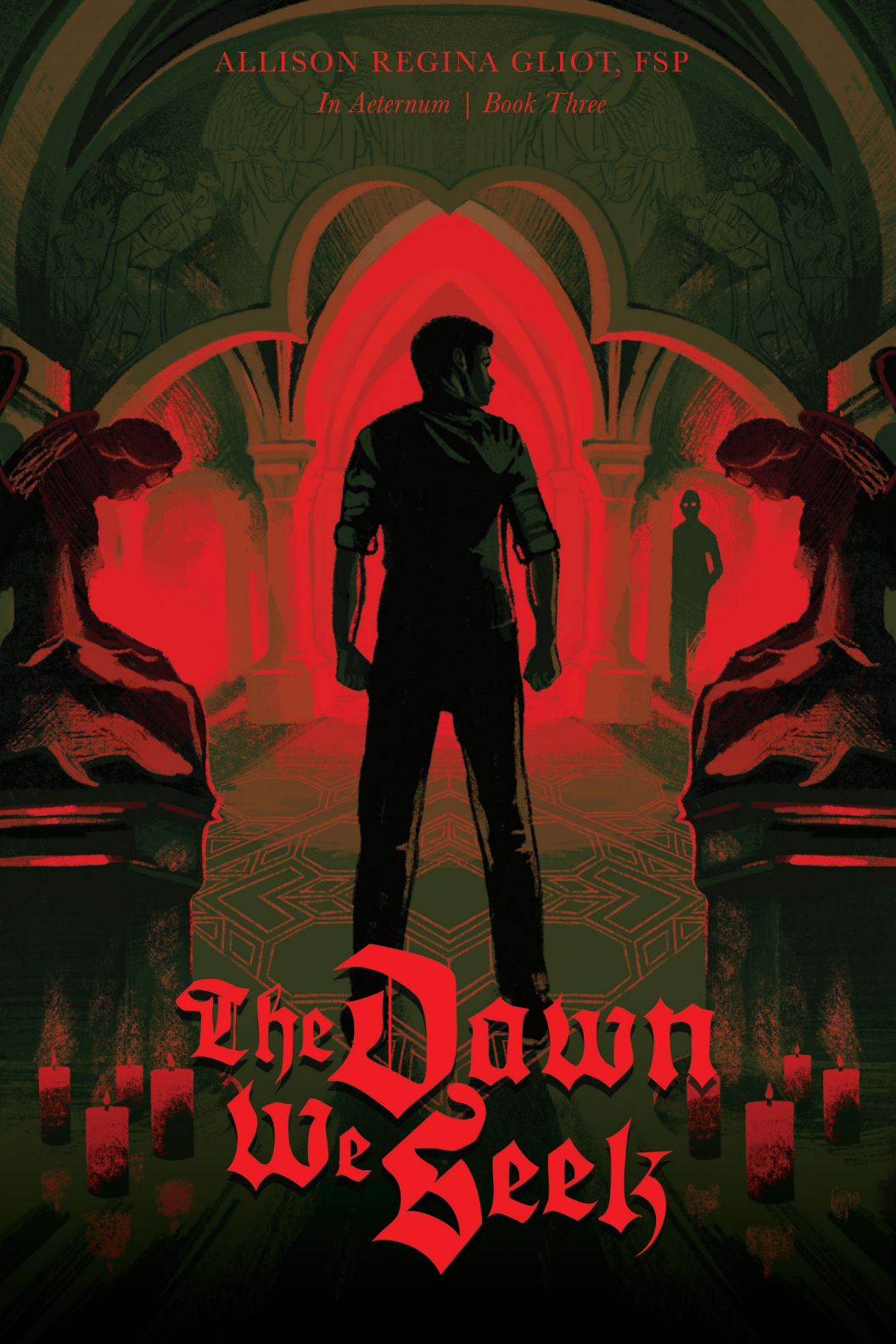


ALLISON REGINA GLIOT, FSP

In Aeternum | Book Three



The Dawn We Seek

BOOK THREE OF THE IN AETERNUM TRILOGY

The Dawn We Seek

By Allison Regina Gliot, FSP



Pauline
BOOKS & MEDIA
BOSTON

Library of Congress Control Number: 2024938917

ISBN-10: 0-8198-3170-0

ISBN-13: 978-0-8198-3170-5

The Scripture quotations contained herein, except on page 368, are from the *New Revised Standard Version Bible: Catholic Edition*, copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

The Scripture quotation found on page 368 is taken from *The Revised Standard Version of the Bible: Catholic Edition*, copyright © 1965, 1966 the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Cover design by Ryan McQuade

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or by any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the publisher.

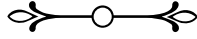
“P” and PAULINE are registered trademarks of the Daughters of St. Paul.

Copyright © 2026 Daughters of St. Paul

Published by Pauline Books & Media, 50 Saint Paul’s Avenue, Boston, MA 02130-3491

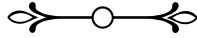
www.pauline.org

Pauline Books & Media is the publishing house of the Daughters of St. Paul, an international congregation of women religious serving the Church with the communications media.



Therefore, if any one is in Christ, he is a new creation;
the old has passed away, behold, the new has come.

—2 CORINTHIANS 5:17





AUTHOR'S NOTE

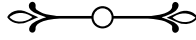
This book deals with some tough topics. But I'm guessing you sometimes wish your real-life problems were as nice and neat as these.

Whatever you're facing, you don't have to do it alone. If you're going through something, need help, or just want to talk, there are people who want to support you. Reach out to someone you trust, contact your local parish, or get in touch with trained professionals who provide anonymous assistance:

For the Suicide & Crisis Lifeline, call or text 988 (USA and Canada).

Visit findahelpline.com to connect with an organization that best suits your situation.

Whether you need that information or not, keep it just in case—for yourself, for a friend, or for a random stranger God might place in your path someday.



You are precious in my sight,
and honored, and I love you.

—ISAIAH 43:4



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thanks first of all to my family and friends for all your love and support, and for patiently listening to me talk about my writing problems in annoyingly vague terms so that I didn't spoil anything. I hope it was worth the wait. Special shoutout to Kate, my best friend and first reader, for championing Becca and Miguel's relationship to the point that their engagement actually happened.

Thank you to all my sisters for being so open to creative means of evangelization, and for the prayer power you lent this project. And thanks to the sisters and staff of the Pauline Books & Media publishing house for recognizing the potential in this story for a trilogy, and for helping me see it through to the end, especially Czeena (for pushing for Adrian to get more page time) and Courtney (for the encouragement, fun facts, and fruit stickers).

Thank you, Jesus, for staying with me through the late-night writing sessions, for providing the sudden bursts of inspiration, for making me laugh so that I don't take myself too seriously, and for loving me into existence. I knew saying yes to you was a good idea.

Finally, thank you, dear reader, for sticking with this story to the end. It wouldn't be the same without your imagination bringing it to life. Wherever you're at with God right now, I dare you to let him catch you. I promise it will be worth it.



FACT OR FICTION?

The Dawn We Seek blends real Catholic beliefs with a myriad of fictional legends about vampires and the author's own creative license. However, even fiction carries seeds of the truth. See for yourself what is real about Christopher and Elizabeth's story and where the fictional elements come from:

Paulskloster and Josef's village

Fiction, but...

The places that appear in this book draw on details from actual locations in southwestern Germany. For example, Paulskloster is loosely based on a Cistercian abbey called Kloster Lichtenthal in Baden-Baden; certain aspects of the monastery are the same as in real life, such as how guests come there to stay and pray, but other details were changed for various reasons. For example, although it was more common for nuns in Germany to be buried in cemeteries rather than crypts, I set the climax in a crypt below the church because they needed an enclosed space to trap the Wolf, the atmosphere fit what was going on in the story, and many medieval European churches do have crypts. There were also personal reasons for that choice. The way the abbesses were interred in niches in the walls is not necessarily accurate to medieval burial practices of that specific area, but it is how the sisters of my religious community are often buried, so having the deceased sisters present in that scene carried special meaning for me.

Although Josef's family and neighbors are fictional, many details about the historical and political changes to their state and country are not. The late nineteenth century was a tumultuous time in what is today known as Germany, when different states were vying for power and fighting for or against unification under one government. Some areas were primarily Catholic, others primarily Protestant, so there were high tensions surrounding faith and laws related to the practice of religion. This only intensified after Prussia, a Protestant state, gained control and certain high-level politicians (such as Otto von Bismarck) began trying to curb the power of the Catholic Church within Germany. The experiences portrayed in this trilogy represent one example of how an isolated village in a historically Catholic area (modern-day Baden-Württemberg) might have responded to the major political and cultural shifts of that time.

We can have a relationship with the dead and will be united with them one day

Fact

In the Apostles' Creed, we profess belief in the Communion of Saints. This refers not only to living members of the Church, but also to those people who have died and gone to heaven or are en route to heaven via purgatory. We are separated from them physically by death, but spiritually we can still be united to them through prayer. We can pray for the souls in purgatory to help them on their journey of purification as they prepare for heaven, and those in heaven (saints) can also intercede for us. Because the saints are so close to God, they are especially good at praying and know what kind of graces to ask for on our behalf. Through prayer, we can continue the relationships we had with deceased loved ones in a different form, and even connect with people that

we never met in real life, knowing that if we strive to respond faithfully to God's invitations, we can hope to be with them more fully after we die—not just in heaven or purgatory, but at the universal resurrection of the dead at the end of time, when God will create a new heaven and a new earth for us to live in with him forever.

The question of whether it is possible to go to heaven without being baptized is particularly important to Josef. For much of history, many believed it to be impossible to go to heaven without being baptized, since the unbaptized never received the divine life necessary for salvation through Baptism. However, the Church has since clarified her teaching in this area.

God desires all people to be saved, but there is only one way to be saved: through Jesus' sacrifice on the Cross, when he died to redeem us and give us life. This sacrifice is made present to us through the sacraments of the Church, which were instituted by Jesus. But if someone does not know Jesus and remains outside the Church through no fault of their own, yet they still seek God as best they can and follow their conscience to be a good person, we believe God can use extraordinary means to save that person, giving them that grace and new life of Jesus' sacrifice even without the ordinary means of Baptism. We do not know how many people God saves this way or exactly how it works, but we trust that God in his goodness provides the help needed for salvation to each person, even for those who are ignorant of Jesus and the Church through no fault of their own.

The process of becoming a vampire

Fiction, but...

There is no general agreement in vampire legends as to how, exactly, one becomes a vampire. In this story, the process of

becoming a vampire involves an intentional rejection of what it means to be human, represented by the person destroying something they love that is closely tied to their identity. In this way, the person shows their willingness to sever ties with everything they were before and denies their true identity in God as a human being.

After sacrificing something precious and irreplaceable to them, the person who wants to become a vampire then wounds himself or herself and allows the vampire standing witness to drink all of their blood. This element of choice reflects the way evil operates in our lives. Evil can be inflicted on us against our will, and it might seek to rob us of our freedom in various ways by preying on our fear, bad habits, or uncontrolled appetites. But we cannot *become* evil by force or accident. We have to choose it, just as the person who would become a vampire has to make that cut themselves.

Finally, the vampire standing witness feeds some of the blood back to the person and they wake as a vampire. There is truth to the old saying *you are what you eat*. What we consume shapes us, for better or for worse. As Catholics, we are called to nourish ourselves on the Body and Blood of Christ in the Eucharist, becoming more Christ-like as we are more closely united with him. Perversely, in the process of becoming a vampire, the person nourishes themselves on the undead blood of a vampire who has rejected their eternal destiny, thereby also becoming undead and forsaking their own future with God.

The process of becoming a vampire may be fictional, but there are similarly dangerous ways that we can open ourselves to evil in real life. Whenever we engage with the occult—superstitious practices that promise knowledge, power, or special abilities by invoking the demonic or any supernatural power aside from God—we are choosing to enter into a relationship with the demonic. This opens us to evil and allows demons to influence us in dangerous, unhealthy ways, whether that was our original intention or not. This is why

the Catholic Church warns against involvement in the occult and instead encourages us to trust our loving God with all our needs.

If you have questions about what the occult consists of, or have been involved in it in any capacity, you should speak to a priest for clarification and guidance. Generally, stopping the practice, going to Confession, and receiving the Eucharist regularly is the best way to heal from the spiritual consequences of participating in the occult.

The bond between vampires and the ones who turned them

Fiction, but...

Spiritual bonds really do exist between us. God calls us to be in relationship with each other, to pray for one another, to love one another, and to help each other get to heaven. These relationships carry real weight in the spiritual realm. Sometimes the bond is explicit and recognized by the Church, as with the bond between a person being baptized and their godparents, or in Confirmation with the person being confirmed and their sponsor. When the Church talks about the Communion of Saints (which includes all the saints in heaven, the souls in purgatory, and those of us who are a part of the Church still living on earth) this is also referring to the special spiritual bonds we share with each other as members of the same Body of Christ. But we are also spiritually connected to others in our lives: members of our family, friends, those with whom we work and live closely, and, to a certain extent, every human being created by God.

The mutually beneficial relationship of grace and goodness that God desires us to have with each other is twisted and warped in the case of a vampire who turns another vampire. This bond between vampires is purely transactional, preying on the new vampire to

strengthen the old one. As long as the new vampire continues their momentum toward evil, that old vampire continues leeching strength from the one he or she turned. But if the new vampire stopped moving toward evil, the old vampire would stop gaining undead strength from the bond. And if the new vampire reversed the momentum completely, embracing grace and living within the Church, the only things the bond could take from the new vampire would be grace and goodness.

Hopefully we'll never encounter someone as spiritually manipulative as a vampire in real life, and we pray that the relationships in our lives influence us for the better, not the worse. But seeing spiritual bonds play out between vampires can be a good reminder to pay attention to the company we keep and the consequences that company has for us.

The Mass is the most powerful prayer of the Church

Fact

There is a reason why the Mass is so effective against even powerful and ancient vampires like the Wolf. In the Mass, the Church comes together as a community to pray and worship God. We are actually joining Jesus as he prays and offers himself to the Father, renewing his act of self-giving love on the Cross. We receive God's word in Scripture, and we receive Jesus himself in the Eucharist. The Eucharist is the source of our life as Christians, as well as its climax: there is no higher prayer than the Mass, where God himself is present, transforming bread and wine into his own Body and Blood for us to consume. Jesus himself established the Mass during the Last Supper, and after he ascended into heaven, the apostles continued "the breaking of bread" (see, for example, Acts 2:42); from the earliest centuries in the Church, the Mass started to take on the form we know today. The Mass is so important that the

Church teaches that all faithful Catholics must attend Mass on Sundays and important feast days (called “holy days of obligation”) and receive the Eucharist at least once a year during the Easter season.

During each Mass, we can join our personal prayer intentions with the sacrifice taking place on the altar. The priest also offers the Mass for a specific prayer intention or intentions, such as how Father Stephen offered the Mass at the end of the book for Adrian’s conversion. In many parishes or places where Mass is offered, people can request to have a Mass said for their intention (for example, for a loved one who has died, or for help in a particular need). This is a beautiful way to unite our personal prayers with the entire faith community, and to tap into that grace and power of the Mass more deeply.

Believing in science impedes our faith life

Fiction, but...

We can sometimes fall into the trap of thinking that certain discoveries in science could call into question, or even disprove, aspects of the Catholic faith. Our understanding of the natural world does change over time, and the Holy Spirit also constantly guides the Church to delve more deeply into the truths God has revealed through his words and actions. However, the truths revealed by science and the truths that we know through faith both have the same source: God, who is Truth itself (see John 14:6).

God created the natural world and everything in it. Just as we can know something about artists by studying the art they create, so can we learn about our Creator by examining the physical world: its beauty, its order, its harmony, and its power. Examining creation with our God-given gifts of intelligence and reason is a way of coming to know and appreciate the One who crafted the mysteries of

the natural world and delights in our discovery of the truth. Rather than weakening our faith life, this has the potential to strengthen it greatly. Exploring the wonders of creation with a mind toward God's loving action in the world can become wonderful food for prayer.

Flashbacks stop when all repressed memories have been recalled

Fiction, but...

Although Christopher's process of remembering and reintegrating his past parallel some symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), his movement from vampirism back to humanity is intended to primarily reflect his spiritual journey of reclaiming his rejected humanity and acknowledging his sins. That is one reason why prayer and spiritual accompaniment from Father Stephen are so helpful to Christopher's healing, and also why his flashbacks stop after he has reclaimed his entire past and surrendered it to God.

People who experience flashbacks in real life due to various forms of trauma or amnesia are unlikely to recall repressed memories in chronological order, and it is common for flashbacks to center specifically on traumatic experiences and happen repeatedly. Furthermore, while prayer and spiritual guidance are often helpful aids in healing from trauma, additional forms of psychological or emotional support may be needed. If you or someone you know is struggling with mental health or PTSD, talk to someone you trust to see what next steps you can take or visit findahelpline.com to connect with an organization that best suits the situation.



IN AETERNUM PRAYERS

A Prayer for Forgiveness

Lord, I know I have hurt others. I know I have hurt myself. I know I have even hurt my relationship with you. I am full of sharp edges, and my heart is sometimes more stone than flesh. But I want to be better. I want to be reconciled to you and to those around me.

Forgive me for the wrongs I have done. Show me how to forgive myself. When it is your will, grant me the courage to seek out forgiveness from those I have harmed. And give me a heart that is ready to forgive others as well. Amen.

A Prayer for Hope in Dark Times

Jesus, I can't always sense you with me. I can't always see the next step on my path. There are times when I feel utterly lost and alone. There are times when it is all too much and I have no strength to go on. But you know this darkness inside of me. You see what weighs me down, what trips me up, what pulls me further from you. And still, you love me. Even in the dark, you love me.

Fill my heart with hope. Reassure me of your presence. Cast your light through my shadows. Draw me into your mercy. Give me every grace that I need to face these challenges and remind me that no darkness lasts forever. May I trust in the good things you have in store for my future. Amen.

Saint Michael Prayer Against Evil

Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle;
be our protection against the wickedness and snares
of the devil.

May God rebuke him, we humbly pray;
and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the power
of God,
cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits
who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls.
Amen.

Praying with the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is God, the Third Person of the Trinity. We are consecrated to the Holy Spirit during Baptism, and we are further sealed in the Holy Spirit through the sacrament of Confirmation. The Spirit gives us new life: God's life within us. But sometimes we can take the Holy Spirit for granted or forget to call upon him for help.

This guided prayer experience encourages you to invite the Holy Spirit into different areas of your life more intentionally. Set aside at least fifteen minutes and find a place where you won't be disturbed. Avoid distractions by leaving your phone in another room for those fifteen minutes or by turning off your notifications.

Take a moment to quiet yourself, asking God to be with you in your own words or through a favorite prayer.

Take some time with each of the prompts to call to mind your own particular situation and prayer petitions. You can do this mentally or write your thoughts down in a prayer journal. At the end of each prompt, prayerfully repeat the refrain *Come, Holy Spirit*, letting him breathe new life and fire into each of these areas of your life.

Spirit of life and goodness, I pray for the graces I need to grow in my relationship with God and to follow your invitations without fear. *Come, Holy Spirit.*

Spirit of wisdom and prudence, I pray for insight into the path God has marked out for me so that I can understand my calling and become the person God made me to be. *Come, Holy Spirit.*

Spirit of understanding and piety, I pray for a deepening of my prayer life and a greater sensitivity to spiritual realities and God's presence. *Come, Holy Spirit.*

Spirit of love and patience, I pray for the relationships in my life to be grounded in you and lead me toward heaven. *Come, Holy Spirit.*

Spirit of creativity and knowledge, I pray for your inspiration and guidance for my creative projects and the tasks that have been entrusted to me. *Come, Holy Spirit.*

Spirit of truth and fortitude, I pray for the courage to stand up for what is right and to boldly be your witness before others, even when that comes at a cost. *Come, Holy Spirit.*

Spirit of mercy and gentleness, I pray for the ability to treat others with kindness and to forgive those who have wronged me, not excusing the wrong but remembering how you never give up on them and how you have also forgiven me. *Come, Holy Spirit.*

Spirit of joy and faithfulness, I pray for the needs of my loved ones and for the people in my community: family, friends, classmates, coworkers, neighbors. *Come, Holy Spirit.*

Spirit of peace and justice, I pray for the needs of my country and of the world, especially those people and situations that seem hopeless or far from God. *Come, Holy Spirit.*

Take a few moments to rest in the presence of the Holy Spirit, adding any final prayer intentions that arise in your heart. Then finish with this ancient prayer to the Holy Spirit:

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful.
And kindle in them the fire of your love.
Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.
And you shall renew the face of the earth.

Let us pray.

O God, you instructed the hearts of the faithful by the light of the Holy Spirit; grant us in the same Spirit to be truly wise, and ever to rejoice in his consolation. Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

End by invoking the Trinity through making the Sign of the Cross:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

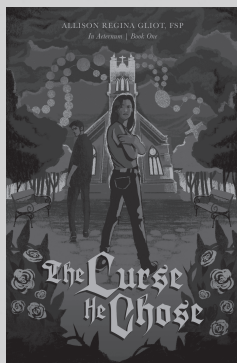
ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Sister Allison Regina Gliot, FSP, grew up in a military family moving all over the place. She's always loved reading stories of all types (the more fantastical the better!). She fell in love with Jesus while she was at university and became a Daughter of St. Paul after graduation so that she could spend the rest of her

life with him. Since then, she's had lots of adventures, the most recent of which involves serving as an editor and author for Pauline Books & Media, the publishing house of the Daughters of St. Paul. She never thought she'd write vampire books—or any books, really. But she's loving every second of it. Connect with her on social media @sister_allison and find In Aeternum bonus content as well as her other books at pauline.org/sister-allison.

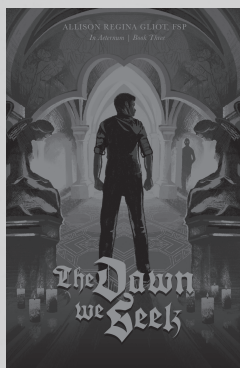
THE IN AETERNUM TRILOGY



The Curse He Chose
978-0-8198-3166-8



The Light They Left
978-0-8198-3168-2



The Dawn We Seek
978-0-8198-3170-5