

Books that helped Kent Haruf become more fully human

By [Amy Frykholm](#)

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In a recent issue of the *Century*, I [interview](#) Kent Haruf, whose novel *Benediction* has garnered a nomination for the newly minted Folio Prize in the United Kingdom and recent reviews in [The Guardian](#) (by Ursula Le Guin) and the [Telegraph](#). Haruf has made a life out of fine and careful reading, as well as writing. I asked him for recommendations on five books that have helped him become more fully human. Here is his list:

- *Man's Search for Meaning*, Viktor Frankl
- "The Bear," William Faulkner
- Stories by Chekhov, including "Peasants," "Anyuta," "The Hunter," "The Student," "The Lady with the Pet Dog," "About Love"
- *Let Us Now Praise Famous Men*, James Agee
- *Winter in the Blood*, James Welch