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Crisp and Sanders' "Locating atonement: Explorations in constructive dogmatics" (Book Review)

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Lynd, D. (2016). *Leaving innocence: A Gran and Bass Olson mystery*. Bloomington, IN: WestBow Press. 259 pp. \$19.95. ISBN 9781490894478

A seventeen-year old unsolved murder, a dying man's last words, and a million-dollar reward get this exciting novel off to an intriguing start. Computer geek Bass Olson, along with his feisty grandmother and an attractive woman sheriff, launch into a quest to find out who killed Daniel Olson. Daniel, Gran's son and Bass's uncle, was a good man who sang in church and had no enemies, but was found stabbed in his truck in a sketchy neighborhood far from his hometown of Innocence. Twists and turns keep the reader wondering what could have possibly happened to Daniel, as murderous, quirky, and downright suspicious characters are introduced along the way.

While the story itself is a compelling page-turner, the skill with which the story is told makes this book unique. For instance, when Bass walks into his grandmother's kitchen, the reader smells the baking bread and coffee, tastes the salty crunch of bacon, hears the faucet running, and feels the big warm hugs of the prayer circle ladies. The descriptive detail in this mystery is incredible, from an eyelash wiped off a computer keyboard, to the pain of the emotional tirades of a mentally ill mother, to an unexpected climax so vivid that the reader's pulse will quicken in suspense.

Events escalate to a thriller-style ending, making it worth the effort to keep track of the cast of characters who pop in and out across the pages. Lynd's debut novel will be savored by anyone who enjoys Ted Dekker or Brandilyn Collins, as it creates menacing characters who act and sound as tough as can be, without any profanity or sex scenes. Highly recommended for leisure reading collections.

Reviewer

Lauren Kelley, Westmont College

Crisp, O., & Sanders, F. (Eds.). (2015). *Locating atonement: Explorations in constructive dogmatics*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan. 256 pp. \$26.99. ISBN 9780310521167

Locating Atonement is a collection of essays originally presented at the Los Angeles Theology Conference in January 2015. The contributors are theologians and philosophers drawn from various theological camps. As suggested in the title, the essays approach atonement from the vantage of other topics in an effort to "locate" atonement within broader theological contexts. As such, the book does not map out and debate discrete atonement models (i.e., the pros and cons of so-called satisfaction theories and/or moral example and/or *Christus victor*, etc.). However,

the exploration from various theological topics does inform particular models of atonement. For example, Ben Myers' essay, "The Patristic Atonement Model" does sketch a unified atonement mechanism among the Fathers in a sustained and effective critique of Gustav Aulén's still influential book *Christus Victor*. Other essays, as well, relate overtly to specific models (e.g., "Atonement and the Concept of Punishment" and "Atonement and the Wrath of God" relate directly to penal or satisfaction theories). Trinitarian and Christological efforts approach atonement via God's inseparable operations and Christ's will(s), respectively. Creation and covenant merit two essays, respectively couching the atonement within these broad theological and biblical concepts. Other essays consider atonement in relation to wisdom, human suffering, the Eucharist, the Ascension, and (a psychological outlier) shame. Given the purpose of the book, it does not introduce atonement theology. Some understanding of the debates in atonement theology and of the ancillary theological topics are presupposed. Nonetheless, the essays are well written and accessible even to novice theologians. I highly recommend the book for all libraries.

Reviewer

Greg Rosauer, University of Northwestern

MacGregor, K. R. (2015). *Luis de Molina: The life and theology of the founder of middle knowledge*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan. 288 pp. \$27.99. ISBN 9780310516972

Kirk R. MacGregor, Assistant Professor of Philosophy and Religion at McPherson College, provides a thoroughly researched and timely introduction to the life and thought of the 16th century Jesuit theologian Luis de Molina in his helpful work *Luis de Molina: The Life and Theology of the Founder of Middle Knowledge*. The past 25 years have seen a steady increase in scholarship surrounding the theological ideas of Molina as they relate to the concepts of divine omniscience, providence, and predestination, leading many theologians to place Molinism alongside Calvinism, simple foreknowledge, and open theism as significant options when treating these areas of Christian doctrine. Despite the growing influence of Molina's theology, until this work by MacGregor no modern critical biography of Molina existed, so MacGregor's monograph fills a substantial gap in the scholarly literature related to this important late Reformation-era theologian.

MacGregor skillfully draws on numerous primary sources from 16th and 17th century Spain to construct his portrait of Molina's life. The result is an engaging presentation of the key events in the life of a Roman Catholic theologian whose rejection of