



2016

King's "Yet One More Spring: A Critical Study of Joy Davidman" (Book Review)

Douglas L. Fruehling
Point Loma Nazarene University

The Christian Librarian is the official publication of the Association of Christian Librarians (ACL). To learn more about ACL and its products and services please visit <http://www.acl.org/>

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.georgefox.edu/tcl>

Recommended Citation

Fruehling, Douglas L. (2016) "King's "Yet One More Spring: A Critical Study of Joy Davidman" (Book Review)," *The Christian Librarian*: Vol. 59 : Iss. 1 , Article 85.
Available at: <http://digitalcommons.georgefox.edu/tcl/vol59/iss1/85>

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by Digital Commons @ George Fox University. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Christian Librarian by an authorized editor of Digital Commons @ George Fox University. For more information, please contact arolf@georgefox.edu.

Yet One More Spring: A Critical Study of Joy Davidman,

by Don W. King. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2015.
296 pp. \$32.00. ISBN 9780802869364

*Reviewed by Douglas L. Fruehling, Instructional Services Librarian,
Point Loma Nazarene University, San Diego, CA*

Not familiar with Joy Davidman? She was an American author, Jew, Communist, Christian convert, divorcee, and then wife of C. S. Lewis. King's critical study of Davidman's work provides a look at her life with all its changes and how it influenced her writing. King, professor of English at Montreat College, edited *Out of My Bone: The Letters of Joy Davidman* and the first complete collection of Davidman's poetry *A Naked Tree*. The latter includes 45 love sonnets to Lewis.

In the book's chronological format King sets four goals. First, show Davidman's place in twentieth-century American literature. Second, present her "journey from secular Judaism, to atheism to Communism to Christianity" (p. xiii). Third, discuss how she matured as a writer. And finally, note her influence on Lewis's writing. He ably addresses all four.

King's familiarity with his subject does not preclude a true critical look at her works. While he does respect her, do not expect glowing reviews of each of her works. He does back up his evaluations, whether positive or negative, with examples. And now about those 45 love sonnets to Lewis. Davidman's sonnets do not appear in full, see another work entitled, *A Naked Tree* for a full collection. However, King does provide excerpts and commentary. These unreservedly reveal Davidman's desire that she and Lewis become more than mere friends.

Scholars will find the extensive bibliography, footnotes and index leading to additional research. King's critical study is a worthy addition to C. S. Lewis and American literature collections.