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Lytton's "Silence" (Book Review)

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Many of the people grew up in churches that not only frowned on women pastors, but also claimed that men were better than women. Because of this viewpoint many of the women found it difficult to approach God, who was considered male. Some have even gone so far to claim as Ann Landaas Smith does: “When enough people worship the Divine Feminine – as sacred, as God – the rape of women, sex trafficking, and all forms of violence against women and girls and the land, all creation, will end” (p. 233). They believe that unless all masculine names are removed, none of this will end. Several times in the book the author and others state that in the Bible are numerous feminine names for God, but they seldom tell what and where they are. Documentation would have been most helpful.

Whether or not you agree with this theology, I believe that it is important to have this book in academic and possibly church libraries. Christians need to know what theories are associated with their faith so that they can determine how to respond to them.

Silence,

by Deborah Lytton. Salt Lake City, UT: Shadow Mountain Publishing, 2015.

314 pp. \$17.99. ISBN 9781609079451

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Deborah Lytton’s *Silence* is the story of Stella, a sweet, smart high school sophomore who dreams of someday performing on Broadway, and curly-haired, blonde Hayden, a quiet outcast. Soon after Stella lands the lead in the school musical, a tragic swimming pool accident plunges her into a world of silence. Hayden, whose profound stutter causes him to speak very slowly, is the only person with whom Stella can communicate (by reading his lips).

The book’s chapters alternate between Stella’s and Hayden’s perspectives. It is a simple, somewhat predictable, story that is written in the first person. The language of *Silence* is, in many places, lyrical, making the book read more like a poem than a novel. (Some readers may find Lytton’s writing style a bit cloying. I liked it.)

Silence will appeal to younger teens who are looking for a clean, tender romance about two disabled young adults who, through self-discovery, courage and resilience, find their voices. The message of hope that permeates *Silence* from the first pages of the novel is refreshing.