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Miller's "Grace Finds Wings" A Journey in Song" (Book Review)

Cynthia Hammell

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Grace Finds Wings: A Journey in Song  
$15.00. ISBN 9781940262420  

Reviewed by Cynthia Hammell, Professional Librarian, Highland Park, NJ

The purpose of this autobiographical account by Christian singer/songwriter Jill Miller is to explain how God inspired her to write her songs. It is also to show that God’s grace and faithfulness are present in our situations, even when we don’t see it right away. God brought the author through infertility, divorce, raising a special needs son, and other struggles many women face. Miller is very honest about her life story. She discusses the need for a community of believers to encourage each other and share burdens in difficult times, and also the need for rest. She quotes Matthew 11:28-30 from the Message:

Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come, get away with me and you’ll recover your life. I’ll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me – watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won’t lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you’ll learn to live freely and lightly. (The Message)

Miller was involved with music ministry for many years, but after reading The Purpose Driven Life by Rick Warren, and with the support of John, her second husband, she felt called to go into music full time. Grace Finds Wings is the title of her latest album. Miller testifies to God’s grace in this time in her life, and that her adopted son who was diagnosed with Asperger’s and ADHD is now a Marine and serving the Lord. She says, “I believe with all my heart that we are called to share our stories because we are all a part of God’s story” (p. 59). This is not a scholarly work, but it might have a place in a library’s autobiography/biography or Christian living section.

The Hobbit Party: The Vision of Freedom That Tolkien Got, and the West Forgot,  
2014. 232 pp. $17.00. ISBN 9781588178239  

Reviewed by Robert Burgess, Digital Resources Librarian, Roberts Library,  
Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, TX

J.R.R. Tolkien’s Middle Earth books and adapted films have captured the imaginations of millions of people for nearly eighty years. His works have undergone many criticisms and analysis over the years. This book analyzes how Tolkien’s politics, life experiences, religion, and philosophy deeply affected the narrative of The Hobbit