



2015

Aldredge-Clanton's "She Lives!: Sophia Wisdom Works in the World" (Book Review)

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Recommended Citation

Buhler, Mary Ann (2015) "Aldredge-Clanton's "She Lives!: Sophia Wisdom Works in the World" (Book Review)," *The Christian Librarian*: Vol. 58: Iss. 2, Article 84.
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.55221/2572-7478.1319>

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various authors, each essay does give at least one good, serious reason why the reader should consider its virtue worth the moral effort.

For instance, in his essay on chastity, Matt Labash makes an incredibly good case for the unpopular concept of abstinence. The chapter is both laugh-aloud funny and the most awkward piece to read in the entire book (if colorful descriptions of the porn industry are not your normal daily fare).

Not all of the authors give as good an argument as Labash. I found Rob Long's chapter on justice less than persuasive and James Lilek's on simplicity downright boring, but each author's style is different and what speaks to one reader may say something else to another. The great thing about *The Seven Deadly Virtues* is that one does not need to read it in a linear fashion beginning to end, but can pick and choose what essay most interests one at the moment. It is a light, easy read and worth the time spent for the chuckle, but don't get the wrong idea. Students of ethics and philosophy will be pleased when Jonathan Last quotes heavyweight philosopher Alasdair MacIntyre (p. 9), Andrew Stiles references C. S. Lewis in his call for temperance, and other essayists remind us of the words of St. Paul, St. Augustine, and other towering figures in the history of Christianity.

Overall, I would recommend this book to students because it's rare to find a humorous contribution to the topic of virtue that is not tearing down morality, but instead gives compelling reasons why we should all strive to be better people.

She Lives!: Sophia Wisdom Works in the World,

by Jann Aldredge-Clanton. Woodstock, NY: Skylight Paths Publishing, 2014.

320 pp. \$18.99. ISBN 9781594735738

*Reviewed by Mary Ann Buhler, Director of Library Services,
Manhattan Christian College, Manhattan, KS*

I found this book difficult to relate to my faith journey. Rev. Aldredge-Clanton believes that the use of masculine names in reference to God is behind many of the problems in the world. She divides her book into ten parts, describing various people (mostly women) who are active in fields related to feminist theology. Some of the sections deal with gender equality, racial equality, caring for creation, creative worship, etc. The featured people come from all faith backgrounds: fundamentalists, to Presbyterians, to Roman Catholics. What they all have in common is a desire to remove all references to the masculine forms of God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. Various terms used for God are "Godde," "Goddess," or "Mother;" for Jesus, "Sophia;" and for the Holy Spirit, "Wisdom."

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

*Reviewed by Deborah L. Denison, Medical Librarian,
Madigan Army Medical Center, Tacoma, WA*

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.