

# Women and C.S. Lewis

What his life and literature reveal for today's culture

Edited by  
Carolyn Curtis and Mary Pomroy Key



*“A remarkably fine tribute to C.S. Lewis.”*

– **Walter Hooper**, literary advisor to the C.S. Lewis Estate, United Kingdom.

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*“A fine survey of the many aspects of this perennially interesting topic; any book that brings together the voices of Don W. King, Crystal L. Downing, Andrew Lazo, and Malcolm Guite is worth the read. I find myself with an even deeper appreciation for the roles Dorothy L. Sayers and Joy Davidman played in Lewis’ life and their influence on him as a writer and thinker.”*

– **Janet Brennan Croft**, Editor of *Mythlore: A Journal of J.R.R. Tolkien, C.S. Lewis, Charles Williams, and Mythopoeic Literature*. Rutgers University, New Jersey.

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*“The stellar cast of thinkers assembled for this unique anthology delivers an astonishing array of insightful essays written with erudition and nuance. This is a substantial, original work of great merit; the editors, Curtis and Key, are to be commended for their inclusion of multiple viewpoints that grapple with Lewis’ stated beliefs, rendering them with clarity and diligence.”*

– **Dr Bruce L. Edwards**, Professor Emeritus, English and Africana Studies, Bowling Green State University (Ohio); Editor of *C.S. Lewis: Life, Works, Legacy*; Online Editor of *The C.S. Lewis Review*, [www.cslewisreview.org](http://www.cslewisreview.org). Willow, Alaska.

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*“In Women and C.S. Lewis we do not meet ‘Jack’ Lewis the Feminist – there are no attempts to smooth over beliefs unacceptable today. Who we do meet is a Lewis who lived, corresponded, and collaborated with women, valuing, edifying, and enjoying their company. A remarkable melding of quick pace and ample information.”*

– **Dr Charlie W. Starr**, Professor, English and Humanities, and Program Chair, Humanities, Kentucky Christian University; author of *Light: C.S. Lewis’ First and Final Short Story*.

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*“Thought-provoking from the very first page, this collection brings together a wide variety of perspectives on a single, significant question: Was Lewis sexist? It’s a lively conversation, and there’s plenty to enjoy.”*

– **Dr Diana Pavlac Glycer**, Professor of English, Azusa Pacific University, California; author of *Bandersnatch: C.S. Lewis, J.R.R. Tolkien, and the Creative Collaboration of the Inklings* and *The Company They Keep*.

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*“Excellent for both fans of Lewis and for scholars. Rich in truth and wisdom for the twenty-first century. A most welcome contribution to closure on the vital question of Lewis’ views on gender.”*

– **Dr J. Stanley Mattson**, Founder and President, The C.S. Lewis Foundation, Redlands, California.

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*“Thanks! Someone needed to write this book.”*

– **Eric Metaxas**, *New York Times* best-selling author of *Miracles*, *Bonhoeffer*, *7 Men*, and others.

*“In reading Women and C.S. Lewis we are invited to be part of an important conversation. Attitudes and resulting actions towards others matter greatly, and this is certainly no less so, when they are informed by understanding based on gender. In this book, we find a variety of voices ‘pursuing truth in the company of friends’ as they thoughtfully reflect upon Lewis’ response to women in both his life and in his writings. Not all contributors in this volume agree, but all take seriously the significance of the issue of gender, and we should as well. Women and C.S. Lewis is a very good place to begin to deepen our understanding, and to help us frame our own considered questions.”*

– **Marjorie Lamp Mead**, Interim Director, Marion E. Wade Center, Wheaton College, Illinois.

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*“This book brings new light, thought, and perception to the subject of women in C.S. Lewis’ life and writings. These essays are full of shared wisdom and cogent argument that will challenge your perceptions of Lewis and his world.”*

– **Brian Sibley**, writer and broadcaster known for his highly acclaimed BBC serializations of *The Chronicles of Narnia* and *The Lord of the Rings*.

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*“It’s about time! Many seem to think C.S. Lewis was a misogynist, who lived in a stuffy, male dominated, academic world, and we finally have a book that addresses this. The matter is far more complex than some have charged. The judgments against Lewis are generally made by people who have not read him deeply and certainly not for any great length of time. Curtis and Key have put together a cadre of some of the best Lewis thinkers who know the material and can write authoritatively on the matter. The judgments in this book are fair-minded, nuanced, and have no ax to grind. The editors simply desire to set the record straight, and, it’s about time.”*

– **Jerry Root**, Ph.D., Wheaton College, Illinois, co-editor (with Wayne Martindale) of *The Quotable C.S. Lewis* and co-author (with Mark Neal) of *The Surprising Imagination of C.S. Lewis*.

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*“Controversy about the women in Jack’s life and literature has often left a cloud of controversy over his life and writings. Finally, here is a book that properly places Lewis in his socio-cultural setting for a thorough and positive examination of nearly every aspect in which women touched his life – from created literary characters, professional acquaintances, familial relationships, literary references, to the deep marital love that so blessed his life with Joy. This collective work of prominent Lewis scholars is an extraordinary and vital read for any Lewis enthusiast.”*

– **Deborah Higgins**, PhD, former Director of the C.S. Lewis Study Centre, Oxford; Professor of Medieval Literature, La Sierra University, California; author of *Anglo-Saxon Community in J.R.R. Tolkien’s The Lord of the Rings*.

*“This collection of voices makes the point so solidly – that C.S. Lewis was emphatically not a woman-hater but ahead of his time in his attitudes toward them – with such variety of experience, eloquence of expression, and annotated proof, that I felt a sadness at turning the last page. Like saying goodbye to a motley collection of old friends after a long anticipated, stimulating, memory-making reunion and wondering if we would ever again gather in the same way.”*

– **Connie Cavanaugh**, Lewis admirer, speaker, author. Hear her speak and see her books at [www.conniecavanaugh.com](http://www.conniecavanaugh.com). Alberta, Canada.

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*“What a great read! Women and C.S. Lewis takes readers on a carefully curated journey through his life and literature. Nimble editing by Curtis and Key weaves together a tapestry of voices that clearly depicts Lewis’ high regard and respect for women, refuting critics who try to discredit Lewis because of his effectiveness in explaining the life of Christian faith.”*

– **Carol Pipes**, Editor of *Facts & Trends* magazine, LifeWay, Nashville.

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*“Written for laypeople and academics alike, this collection of essays would likely have pleased Lewis himself. Rather than respond to the charge that Lewis was sexist by merely assigning its own pejorative label to those responsible for the accusation, which occurs all too frequently in what passes for intellectual exchange these days, it rejects mere shibboleth for honest engagement with the issues themselves, drawing on a diverse array of authors who consider the evidence from both Lewis’ writings and life. Curtis and Key are to be commended for this valuable contribution to a crucial discussion.”*

– **Dr Stephen Dunning**, Associate Professor of English, Trinity Western University, Langley, British Columbia; author of *The Crisis and the Quest: A Kierkegaardian Reading of Charles Williams*; co-founder and co-director of the Inklings Institute of Canada, housed at TWU.

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*“How refreshing and encouraging to be reminded that Lewis’ fictional heroines were brave, feisty, and thoughtful. I love that they could be anything their male counterparts could be, both good or bad.”*

– **Gayle Roper**, award-winning, Pennsylvania-based novelist of a wide range of fiction from *Allah’s Fire* to *Lost and Found*.

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*“I am indeed very supportive of Women and C.S. Lewis, a worthwhile contribution that a wide range of readers will enjoy and find most helpful.”*

– **Mark A. Pike**, BA (Hons), PGCE, MA (Ed), PhD, Professor of Education and Head of the School of Education, University of Leeds, England. Author of *C.S. Lewis as Teacher for our Time* (Lutterworth Press, Cambridge, 2013).

*“Curtis and Key have assembled wonderfully varied voices yielding high scholarship that is yet readily accessible to address the question of C.S. Lewis’ attitude toward women. Does misogyny exist in Lewis’ writings, or in the eye of the beholder? No contributor to this fine volume shies away from that question. What an engaging, delightful read!”*

– **D. Joy Riley**, MD, MA (Bioethics), Executive Director of The Tennessee Center for Bioethics & Culture. Co-author (with C. Ben Mitchell) of *Christian Bioethics: A Guide for Pastors, Health Care Professionals, and Families* (B&H Academic, 2014).

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*“In this work you will find a thorough and honest exploration into the role of women in the life of C.S. Lewis. Its great strength is found in the diversity, depth, and breadth of perspectives, the range of which offers valuable insight into the nuances of his writing and his growth as a person. Given the frequent criticism directed toward Lewis in regard to women, this book is a much-needed voice and essential resource: an excellent read.”*

– **Lisa Coutras**, author of the forthcoming *Tolkien’s Theology of Beauty*; PhD Candidate, Kings College London.

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*“This balanced, irenic collection takes up a vital issue in the study of C.S. Lewis; lovers of Lewis will want to join the conversation.”*

– **Louis Markos**, Ph.D., Professor in English and Scholar in Residence, Houston Baptist University, Texas; author of *Restoring Beauty: The Good, the True, and the Beautiful in the Writings of C.S. Lewis*.

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*“I am convinced that C.S. Lewis well understood women because he took seriously the theology that before God we are all feminine.”*

– **Dr Paul F. Ford**, author of *Companion to Narnia*; Professor of Theology and Liturgy, St. John Seminary, Camarillo, California.

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*“Are you a woman who loves to think and create? You will find in these pages a brilliant scholar who honors your depth and complexity, who engages women like you in his personal correspondence and writes women of reason and imagination into his strong, winsome, female characters. Are you a man who wants to encourage women? You will learn from a man who not only engages women but learns from them. The book offers depth of scholarship and breadth of analysis of Lewis’ life and writings – all in an accessible style that will change the way you think about thinking women.”*

– **Lael Arrington**, author of *Faith and Culture: The Guide to a Culture Shaped by Faith* (Zondervan, 2011). Columbia, South Carolina.

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A note on style: we have kept the appropriate usage – American, British, or Canadian English – based on nationalities of our contributors, to whom we are extremely grateful for their energetic discussions and enthusiasm for the project. We think our readers will be pleased by the variety of insights, approaches, and – often – engaging wit.

Special thanks to Doug Gresham, son of Joy and stepson of Jack, for his gracious loan of our cover photo, which he snapped at the age of eleven with his trusty Kodak. And thanks to our brilliant cover designer, Jonathan, for converting it to color.

**Carolyn Curtis**, in Texas

**Mary Pomroy Key**, in California



**Carolyn Curtis** is the author or collaborator of seven books, and a veteran journalist with awards from The Wall Street Journal, Evangelical Press Association, Society of Professional Journalists, etc. She has been published in *On Mission*, *Christianity Today*, *By Faith*, *Sports Illustrated*, *The Saturday Evening Post* and many others. She worked in communications management for three Fortune 50 companies and at corporate headquarters for two major church denominations. She has reported from daily newsrooms and from Capitol Hill in Washington D.C. She has taught journalism at a college and been a speaker at numerous conferences. She has a BA in journalism from The University of Texas at Austin and an MA in communication from Stephen F. Austin State University. She lives in Fort Worth, Texas.

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**Dr. Mary Pomroy Key** serves as Director of Special Programs for the C.S. Lewis Foundation, which has a goal to establish C.S. Lewis College, a four-year accredited Great Books and “Mere Christian” college. Contributing strategically to the fulfillment of this goal, as the Director of the newly established C.S. Lewis Study

Center in Northfield, Massachusetts, she oversees renovations and programming at the Study Center, housed in an historic Victorian home known as “Green Pastures” and located adjacent to the former Northfield Seminary for Girls established by Dwight L. Moody. An experienced educator and administrator at the college level, Mary has held several student life positions and taught psychology, education and literature at California Baptist University, where she earned her BSc and MSc degrees in Psychology. She earned her PhD in Counseling Psychology through the University of Southern California, specializing in College Student Development. She also holds a Marriage and Family Therapist license. She and her husband, a professor of philosophy, have home educated their three children for seventeen years.





**Dr Crystal Hurd** is an educator, writer, poet, and scholar in Virginia. She holds a BA in English Literature, an MA in English, and a PhD in Educational Leadership. She enjoys exploring aspects of C.S. Lewis, J.R.R. Tolkien, and Dorothy L. Sayers, while also examining the role of artists as leaders and the rhetoric of power. She has published articles and reviews in *Inklings Forever*, *Mythlore*, *The Englewood Review of Books*, and *Sehnsucht: the C.S. Lewis Journal*, with poetry published in *Neon Ink*, a literary magazine. She is a monthly contributor to the art/faith site *All Nine Muses* ([www.allninemuses.wordpress.com](http://www.allninemuses.wordpress.com)) and a staff writer for the sci-fi/fantasy news site *Legendarium*. She and her husband Aaron have three dogs. [www.crystalhurd.com](http://www.crystalhurd.com).

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**Paul McCusker** is an author and dramatist. His books include *The Screwtape Letters Annotated Edition* and *C.S. Lewis & Mere Christianity: The Crisis that Created a Classic*, plus more than twenty novels and non-fiction works. His scriptwriting includes the multiple award-winning audio dramatizations of *The Chronicles of Narnia*, *The Screwtape Letters*, *C.S. Lewis at War* and the Peabody Award-winning *Bonhoeffer: The Cost of Freedom*. He is also a writer and director for the popular children's program, *Adventures in Odyssey*. Paul lives in Colorado Springs with his wife, son and daughter.



**Dr Lyle W. Dorsett** is Billy Graham Professor of Evangelism at Beeson Divinity School, Samford University, Birmingham, Alabama. He is the author of twenty books – histories and biographies, several on Lewis and Davidman, including *And God Came In*; and others, plus articles for the C.S. Lewis Institute, Washington

D.C., including “*Helen Joy Davidman (Mrs C.S. Lewis) 1915–1960: A Portrait.*” His most recent book is *Serving God and Country: U.S. Military Chaplains of World War II* (Berkley, 2013). Lyle is former Curator of the Marion E. Wade Center at Wheaton College, Illinois, housing papers, memorabilia and effects of Lewis and other British authors. Lyle and wife Mary Dorsett, deacon in PEARUSA/ACNA, founded *Christ the King Anglican*, Birmingham, where he is pastor.

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**Dr Don W. King** is Professor of English at Montreat College, North Carolina; editor of *Christian Scholar’s Review*; author of *C.S. Lewis, Poet: The Legacy of His Poetic Impulse*; *Hunting the Unicorn: A Critical Biography of Ruth Pitter*; *Out of My Bone: The Letters of Joy Davidman*; *Plain to the Inward Eye:*

*Selected Essays on C.S. Lewis* (Abilene Christian University Press, 2013); *The Letters of Ruth Pitter: Silent Music* (University of Delaware Press, 2014); *The Collected Poems of C.S. Lewis: A Critical Edition* (Kent State University Press, 2014); *Yet One More Spring: A Critical Study of Joy Davidman* (Eerdmans, 2015); and *A Naked Tree: Joy Davidman’s Love Sonnets to C.S. Lewis and Other Poems* (Eerdmans, 2015). He is married to his wife of forty years, Jeanine.

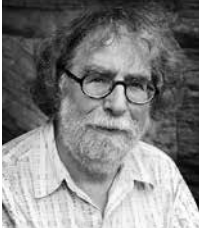


**Dr Crystal L. Downing** wrote *Writing Performances: The Stages of Dorothy L. Sayers* (Palgrave, 2004), which was selected as the first recipient of the Barbara Reynolds Award for excellence in Sayers scholarship (2009) by The Dorothy L. Sayers Society. Downing has also published a dozen essays and given twenty lectures on Sayers in four countries. Sayers and her friend C.S. Lewis have entered into Downing's other two books as well, *How Postmodernism Serves (My) Faith* (IVP Academic, 2006) and *Changing Signs of Truth* (IVP Academic, 2012). With a PhD from the University of California at Santa Barbara, Crystal Downing is Distinguished Professor of English and Film Studies at Messiah College in Pennsylvania.

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**Dr Alistair McGrath** is Andreas Ideos Professor of Science and Religion at Oxford University. Dr McGrath is a bestselling author of more than fifty books and a popular speaker, travelling the world every year to speak at various conferences. His most recent book is *If I Had Lunch with C.S. Lewis: Exploring the Ideas of C.S. Lewis on the Meaning of Life*, published by Tyndale, 2014. His books *C.S. Lewis, A Life* (Tyndale) and *The Intellectual Life of C.S. Lewis* (Wiley-Blackwell) were published in 2013.



**Colin Duriez** has authored many books on C.S. Lewis, including *The A-Z of C.S. Lewis*; *C.S. Lewis: A biography of friendship*; *The C.S. Lewis Chronicles*; *J.R.R. Tolkien and C.S. Lewis: The Gift of Friendship*. His placing of Lewis in the context of his friends is reflected in two new books: *The Oxford Inklings: Lewis, Tolkien and Their Circle* (*Lion Hudson*) and *Bedeviled: Lewis, Tolkien and the Shadow of Evil* (*IVP Books*). Colin lectures on Lewis, Tolkien, and the Inklings. He has been a commentator on documentaries, Sony's *Ringers*; *Walden/Disney's special edition, The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*; and the extended version of Peter Jackson's *The Lord of the Rings*.

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**Devin Brown** is a Lilly Scholar and Professor of English at Asbury University, where, among other duties, he teaches a class on C.S. Lewis. He has an MA from the University of Florida and a PhD from the University of South Carolina. He served as consultant and Advisory Board member for *The C.S. Lewis Bible* and as an assistant editor for *The Annotated Screwtape Letters*. He is the author of eight books, most recently a new biography of C.S. Lewis, *A Life Observed*, featuring a Foreword by Douglas Gresham, Lewis' stepson. In summer 2009 Devin was Scholar-in-Residence at *The Kilns*, C.S. Lewis' home outside Oxford. He and his wife, Sharon, live in Lexington, Kentucky, with their fifteen-pound cat, Mr Fluff.



**Steven Elmore** is Vice President of Events and Communications for the C.S. Lewis Foundation. Elmore has a BA in English from Pepperdine University and an MA in Literature and Film from Claremont Graduate University, both in California. Prior to joining the Foundation, he was a community college instructor in English composition, a software instructor in basic to advanced MS Office, a GED instructor in science and history, and he worked in technical and clerical support in the nonprofit, education, and small business sectors.

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**Dr Joy Jordan-Lake** has authored five books, including Christy-Award winner *Blue Hole Back Home*, chosen as Baylor University's Common Book for 2009, now required reading at other universities and high schools. Her others include short stories and reflections, *Grit and Grace: Portraits of a Woman's Life*; an academic text, *Whitewashing Uncle Tom's Cabin: Nineteenth-Century Women Novelists Respond to Stowe*; non-fiction books, *Working Families: Navigating the Demands and Delights of Marriage, Parenting and Career*, and *Why Jesus Makes Me Nervous: Ten Alarming Words of Faith*. Joy holds a PhD and an MA in English and American Literature, and an MA from a theological seminary. While in Cambridge, Massachusetts, she led initiatives targeting low-income and homeless families, and was a Baptist chaplain at Harvard University. She lives near Nashville, Tennessee, where she writes, teaches as Adjunct Professor for the Honors College of Belmont University, blogs "Writing in the Midst of Real Life," and leads seminars, retreats, and workshops.



**Dr David C. Downing** is the R.W. Schlosser Professor of English at Elizabethtown College in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. He is the author of four award-winning books on C.S. Lewis including *Planets in Peril* (1992), *The Most Reluctant Convert* (2002), *In the Region of Awe* (2005), and *Into the Wardrobe* (2005). Downing also published a historical novel, *Looking for the King* (2010), which features C.S. Lewis, J.R.R. Tolkien, and Charles Williams as characters. His most recent book is *The Pilgrim's*

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**Andrew Lazo** is a speaker and writer on C.S. Lewis and fellow Inklings. He holds an MA in Modern British Literature from Rice University in Houston, where he was a Jacob K. Javits Fellow in the Humanities, and a BA in English (with Honors), with minors in Latin and Medieval Studies from the University of California, Davis. He is a frequent speaker at retreats, conferences, and seminars in the US and UK. Andrew has written articles and reviews on C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien and a book, *Mere Christians: Inspiring Encounters with C.S. Lewis* (Baker Books, 2009). Andrew has also transcribed and edited a previously unknown book written by C.S. Lewis. The little-known "Early Prose Joy" was Lewis' first spiritual autobiography; in 2014 Andrew transcribed, edited, and published this revelatory work in *VII: An Anglo-American Literary Review*, a publication of The Marion E. Wade Center. Andrew teaches English and C.S. Lewis at Houston Christian High School, Houston, Texas.



**Brad Davis** is a poet and teacher from Pomfret, Connecticut, where he works at Pomfret School, a co-educational boarding school (grades 9–12). He also taught at the College of the Holy Cross in Massachusetts and Eastern Connecticut State University. His most recent books of poems are *Still Working It Out* (Poiema Poetry Series, Cascade Books, 2014), *Sunken Garden Poetry* (ed., anthology, Wesleyan University Press, 2012), and *Opening King David: Poems in conversation with the Psalms* (Emerald City Books, 2011). Individual poems have appeared widely in such US journals as *Poetry*, *The Paris Review*, *Image*, *Puerto del Sol*, *Michigan Quarterly Review*, and *The Connecticut Review*. He holds graduate degrees from Trinity School for Ministry (MDiv, 1980) and Vermont College of Fine Arts (MFA, 1995).

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**Kelly Belmonte** holds a BA in English Literature from Gordon College, Massachusetts, and an MSc in Business Management from New England College. Her poetry has been published in *Relief Journal: A Christian Literary Expression* and *Atlas Poetica*. Her books of poetry, *Spare Buttons* and *Three Ways of Searching*, are published by *Finishing Line Press*. She is a New England-based poet, blogger, and management consultant with expertise in non-profit organizational development and youth mentoring. She blogs from her site [allninemuses.wordpress.com](http://allninemuses.wordpress.com) on poetry, writing, and creativity. She is a frequent contributor to [www.12most.com](http://www.12most.com) and [www.hieropraxis.com](http://www.hieropraxis.com).



**Revd Dr Malcolm Guite** is a poet and singer-songwriter living in Cambridge, England, where he also works as a priest and academic at the University of Cambridge. He is the author of *What Do Christians Believe?* (Ashgate, 2010, paperback 2012) and *Sounding the Seasons: Seventy Sonnets for the Christian*

*Year* (Canterbury Press, 2012). His next poetry book, *The Singing Bowl*, was published by Canterbury Press in 2013. He contributed the chapter on Lewis as a poet to the *Cambridge Companion to C.S. Lewis* (Cambridge University Press, 2010). He's also singer-songwriter and front man for Cambridge rockers, *Mystery Train*. His CDs, *The Green Man* and *Dancing Through the Fire*, are out on *Cambridge Riffs* and *iTunes*. Dr Guite is a popular speaker at C.S. Lewis conferences and other events in the US and the UK.

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**Dr Monika B. Hilder** is Associate Professor of English at Trinity Western University in Langley, British Columbia, Canada, where she teaches children's and fantasy literature. She is the author of *The Feminine Ethos in C.S. Lewis' Chronicles of Narnia*; *The Gender Dance: Ironic Subversion in C.S. Lewis'*

*Cosmic Trilogy*; and *Surprised by the Feminine: A Rereading of C.S. Lewis and Gender*. She is a 2011 recipient of the Clyde S. Kilby Research Grant, Marion E. Wade Center, Wheaton College, Illinois, and co-director of the *Inklings Institute of Canada*. Hilder received her PhD in literature education from the Faculty of Education at Simon Fraser University, for which she received the Dean of Graduate Studies Convocation Medal for Academic Excellence. Her BA and MA degrees in English are from the University of British Columbia.





**Brett McCracken** is the author of *Hipster Christianity: When Church and Cool Collide* (Baker, 2010) and *Gray Matters: Navigating the Space between Legalism & Liberty* (Baker, 2013). A Los Angeles-based writer and journalist with degrees from Wheaton College and UCLA, he works as managing editor for

*Biola University's Biola magazine* and is pursuing an MA in Theology at Talbot School of Theology. A frequent contributor to publications such as *Christianity Today*, *Relevant magazine* and *The Wall Street Journal*, he comments on popular culture, movies, the media and other issues on his blog, *The Search*, and also *Mere Orthodoxy*.

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**Dr Mary Poplin** is the author of *Is Reality Secular? Testing the Assumptions of Four Global Worldviews* (InterVarsity Press, 2014) and *Finding Calcutta: What Mother Teresa Taught Me About Meaningful Work and Service* (IVP, 2008). She earned her PhD from *The University of Texas at Austin* and

is a professor in the School of Educational Studies at Claremont Graduate University in Claremont, California. Her work spans K–12 to higher education. Professor Poplin, whose career began as a public school teacher, conducts research on highly effective teachers in urban schools educating the poor. Her work in higher education has included administration, serving as a dean and as director of teacher education. In her latest work, she explores contemporary intellectual trends dominant in the larger culture and in university academic disciplines – the sciences, humanities, and social sciences. She speaks frequently at Veritas Forums throughout the United States.



**Revd Dr Jeanette Sears** is a writer and speaker specializing in Lewis, Sayers, and Tolkien. She was a postdoctoral Fellow at Harvard on a Kennedy Scholarship and is a trained teacher. Formerly President of the Oxford C.S. Lewis Society and Curate at St Aldate's Church, Oxford, she has most recently lectured in *Christian Doctrine and Church History* at Trinity College, Bristol, for seven years. She was a contributor to *The C.S. Lewis Bible* and to the Symposium at Lewis' inclusion in *Poets' Corner* at Westminster Abbey. Her writing includes a tour guide to the Inklings' Oxford and two novels: *Pig's Progress* for children, and now the first in a series of murder mysteries, *A Murder in Michaelmas*. Her website is [www.jeanettesears.com](http://www.jeanettesears.com).

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**Kathy Keller** corresponded with C.S. Lewis as a child. She is co-founder of New York City's Redeemer Presbyterian with her husband, Tim Keller. She wrote *Jesus, Justice, & Gender Roles: A Case for Gender Roles in Ministry* (Zondervan, 2012). She and Tim collaborated on *The Meaning of Marriage: Facing the Complexities of Commitment with the Wisdom of God*. They married one semester before their graduations from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. West Hopewell Presbyterian in Virginia extended a call for Tim as a three-month interim pastor while they searched for someone more experienced. Nine years and three sons later, they moved to Philadelphia, where Tim taught at Westminster Theological Seminary and Kathy edited for Great Commission Publications. In 1989 they moved to Manhattan to plant Redeemer Presbyterian. She writes and speaks with Tim, who is a New York Times best-selling author, with awards from World and Christianity Today. Tim was described in Newsweek as a "C.S. Lewis for the twenty-first century," although he disavows comparisons. Media coverage has treated growing and influential Redeemer Church as an anomaly because it appeals to Manhattan yuppies and intellectuals.



**Dr Holly Ordway** is Professor of English and Director of the MA in Cultural Apologetics at Houston Baptist University, and the author of *Not God's Type: An Atheist Academic Lays Down Her Arms* (Ignatius Press, 2014). She holds a PhD in English literature from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst;

her academic work focuses on imaginative apologetics and on the writings of C.S. Lewis, J.R.R. Tolkien, and Charles Williams.

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**Kasey Macsenti** is a graduate of Gutenberg College, Eugene, Oregon, a liberal arts college that offers a degree in *The Great Books*, a curriculum centering around the most influential ideas of Western civilization. The degree is comprised of the major historical works of science, history, philosophy, theology, and mathematical theory. After graduating from Gutenberg, Kasey continued to pursue her career in the wireless industry as a national director. Recently married, she and her husband live in Portland and attend *Imago Dei* Community Church where she teaches philosophy at *Imago's* School of Theology.

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**Randy Alcorn** is the founder and director of *Eternal Perspective Ministries* and a *New York Times* best-selling author of more than forty books including *Heaven* (more than one million sold), *If God is Good*, *The Treasure Principle*, and *Gold Medallion* winner *Safely Home*. His books sold exceed eight million

copies and have been translated into more than fifty languages. He lives in Gresham, Oregon, with his wife, Nanci. They have two married daughters and five grandsons. Randy enjoys hanging out with his family, biking, tennis, research, and reading.



**John Stonestreet** is a Speaker and Fellow of the Chuck Colson Center for Christian Worldview. He communicates on faith and culture, theology, worldview, education, and apologetics, and speaks at conferences, colleges, churches, schools, etc. John is the co-host with Eric Metaxas of Breakpoint, the Christian worldview radio program founded by the late Chuck Colson, and the voice of the Point, a daily national radio feature on worldview, apologetics, and cultural issues.

He also serves as Senior Content Advisor for Summit Ministries in Manitou Springs, Colorado. John holds degrees from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School (Illinois) and Bryan College (Tennessee). He is co-author of *Restoring All Things* (Baker Books, 2015), *Same-Sex Marriage* (Baker Books, 2014), and *Making Sense of Your World: A Biblical Worldview* (Sheffield Press, 2007). He and his wife Sarah have three daughters and a dog, and live in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Connect with John at [ThePointRadio.org](http://ThePointRadio.org).



**Christin Ditchfield** is the best-selling author of *A Family Guide to Narnia: Biblical Truths in C.S. Lewis' The Chronicles of Narnia*, which has sold more than 55,000 copies and been translated into half a dozen languages. A popular conference speaker and syndicated radio host, she has written sixty-six other books, including several literature curriculum guides introducing thousands of elementary school children to the world of Narnia. She holds a BA in Christian Leadership and an MA in Biblical Theology.

# Questions for Reflection and Discussion

1. C.S. Lewis used the term “joy” to describe which early experiences and emotions in his life? In what ways can you relate?
2. Think about his relationship with Mrs Moore. What do we know about it and what does it tell us about Lewis?
3. Lewis’ life was marked by a number of losses, hardships, disappointments, and upheavals. How did he handle these?
4. Think about his friendships with both men and women. How did his friendships seem to influence his life, his thinking, his work?
5. Lewis said that George MacDonald’s book *Phantastes* baptized his imagination. What did he mean by this? What books by Lewis or other authors have done the same for you?
6. In his youth and as a young man, he dabbled in the occult and considered himself an atheist. What circumstances and people might have fueled these ideas in him?
7. Lewis placed a high value on the combination of intellect and imagination, especially their point of intersection. How do they affect you?
8. Lewis took a spiritual journey that led him to the Christian faith. How did that struggle and his ultimate decision to trust God impact his life and his work?

## QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

9. Think about Joy Davidman, her accomplishments and her life's journey. How do you think the relationship between Joy and Jack affected each of them?
10. Consider Lewis' life and body of work. From what sources did his moral compass come and how did that play out in his personal and professional choices?
11. Some critics have said that Lewis was a sexist, that he did not have a high view of women and girls based on his life and literature. What do you say to that claim?
12. Contributors to *Women and C.S. Lewis* have shared from their hearts as well as their extraordinary minds. What did you learn that can apply to today's culture?

# Endnotes

## **Introduction: Not mere mortals**

### ***Dr Mary Pomroy Key***

- 1 Como, James, ed. 2005. *Remembering C.S. Lewis: Recollections of Those Who Knew Him*. San Francisco: Ignatius Press.
- 2 C.S. Lewis College motto “Pursuing truth in the company of friends.” Borrowed, with permission, from Page Smith, the Founding Provost of the University of California, Santa Cruz.
- 3 Lewis, C.S., “The Weight of Glory”.
- 4 Fondly based on the Inklings, the “Sprinklings” are a loose-knit group of writers who meet together to read original works and solicit critique and encouragement at conference events sponsored by the C.S. Lewis Foundation.
- 5 Harwood, Laurence. 2007. *C.S. Lewis, My Godfather: Letters, Photos and Recollections*. Downer’s Grove, IL: Intervarsity Press, p. 124.

## **Section One, Chapter One: The enduring influence of Flora Lewis**

### ***Dr Crystal Hurd***

- 1 Smith, Sandy. *C.S. Lewis and the Island of His Birth*. Derry-Londonderry: Lagan Press. 2013. 83.
- 2 Lewis, *Surprised by Joy: The Shape of my Early Life*. San Diego: Harvest. 1955. 3.
- 3 Smith, *C.S. Lewis and the Island of His Birth*. 71.
- 4 Smith. *C.S. Lewis and the Island of His Birth*. 61–62.
- 5 *The Lewis Papers*, Vol. 2. 251.
- 6 Smith. *C.S. Lewis and the Island of His Birth*. 74.
- 7 *The Lewis Papers*. Vol. 2. 248.
- 8 *The Lewis Papers*, Vol. 3. 389, 450.
- 9 Smith. *C.S. Lewis and the Island of His Birth*. 143–48.
- 10 Sayer, George. *Jack: C.S. Lewis and His Times*. San Francisco: Harper & Row. 1988. 6. Later editions of Sayer’s biography published by Crossway were titled *Jack: A Life of C.S. Lewis*.
- 11 Myers, Christine. “Academic Student Life.” *University Coeducation in the Victorian Era: Inclusion in the United States and the United Kingdom*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan (2010). 70.

## ENDNOTES

- 12 The May 25, 2009 issue of *Italy* magazine reports that Walter Hooper, Lewis' secretary and biographer, gave author Giuseppe Fortunati a copy of a Latin atlas of Italy that belonged to Lewis in which the author of *The Chronicles of Narnia* had underlined the Latin word *Narni*. Lewis was fascinated with Roman history. According to *Italy*, Hooper said Lewis told him he had been inspired by it for his *Chronicles*.
- 13 Sayer, *Jack: C.S. Lewis and His Times*. 4., *The Lewis Papers*, Vol. 2, 220.
- 14 *The Lewis Papers*. Vol. 3. 119.
- 15 Sayer. *Jack: C.S. Lewis and His Times*. 22
- 16 Smith. *C.S. Lewis and the Island of His Birth*. 37–38, 104.
- 17 *The Collected Letters of C.S. Lewis*, Vol. 3. Ed. Walter Hooper. San Francisco: Harper. 2007. 398.

### **Section One, Chapter Five: The Divine Comedy of C.S. Lewis and Dorothy L. Sayers** *Dr Crystal L. Downing*

- 1 Diana Glycer, *The Company They Keep: C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien as Writers in Community* (Kent, OH: Kent State Univ. Press, 2007), 23, nt21.
- 2 *The Letters of Dorothy L. Sayers*, vols. II–IV, ed. Barbara Reynolds (Cambridge, GB: Carole Green, 1997–2000), III.45. All subsequent quotations from Sayers can be found in these volumes, keyed to the date.
- 3 *The Collected Letters of C.S. Lewis*, vols. II & III, ed. Walter Hooper (San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 2004, 2007), III.1400. All subsequent quotations from Lewis can be found in these volumes, keyed to the date.
- 4 Dec. 1945 (II. 682).
- 5 Scholars endorse Walter Hooper's suggestion that Sayers' comment on miracles was "the encouragement Lewis needed" to write his 1947 book (*Letters II*. 573 nt103). The Beatrice metaphor, of course, is my own.
- 6 Mary Stewart Van Leeuwen, *A Sword between the Sexes? C.S. Lewis and the Gender Debates* (Grand Rapids, MI: Brazos, 2010), 107.
- 7 These words were part of an essay Sayers sent to the Bishop of Coventry in June 1944 (*Letters III*. 29).



- 8 The first phrase is from a letter to Margaret Gray, dated 9 May 1961 (*Letters III*. 1265); the second is in a letter to Edward T. Dell, dated 25 Oct. 1949 (*Letters II*. 989).
- 9 Barbara Reynolds, *The Passionate Intellect: Dorothy L. Sayers' Encounter with Dante* (Kent, OH: Kent State University Press, 1989), 24.

## **Section Two, Chapter Four: The Pilgrim's Paradox: Female characters in *The Pilgrim's Regress***

***Dr David C. Downing***

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## **Section Four, Chapter One: Jack, the “old woman” of Oxford: sexist or seer?**

***Dr Monika B. Hilder***

- 1 Along with his idea that wives were prone to “fidgetiness,” Lewis had the idea that males, unfortunately, were naturally lazy. In *The*

## ENDNOTES

- Screwtape Letters*, he points to male reluctance to take proper trouble for others (142); in *The Four Loves*, he speaks of the male tendency to abdicate leadership in marriage (98); privately he speaks of male laziness as opposed to female fidgetiness (*Letters II* 507).
- 2 See C.S. Lewis, “The Necessity of Chivalry” 13.
  - 3 See my endnote 1.
  - 4 Mary Stewart Van Leeuwen believes that Lewis overused the “either/or” rhetorical strategy, thereby eliminating additional possibilities, and points to this discussion in other critics (44–45, 37n). Chad Walsh, however, while he points to the either/or strategy, states that in this he has taken the “role as Devil’s advocate” in “mak[ing] the case stronger than [he] actually consider[s] it to be” (*Literary Legacy* 205–206), and states, “It is always possible, though not necessarily true in every controversy, that God can count beyond two” (207). Walsh also notes Lewis’ “modesty”: “Sometimes he confesses that he cannot make up his mind between two viewpoints, and offers them both. When he ventures an opinion on some controverted point of orthodox theology, he usually prefaces it with a warning that this is merely what he thinks and he may be wrong” (C.S. Lewis 154).
  - 5 See Alan Jacobs’ (232–33) and Alister McGrath’s (252–59) discussions.
  - 6 In “Imagination and Thought in the Middle Ages,” Lewis speaks of intuitive reason as angelic and discursive reason as a necessary and “laborious process” that is indicative of “our [human] inferiority” (53). See my discussion of discursive and intuitive reason in *The Gender Dance: Ironic Subversion in C.S. Lewis’ Cosmic Trilogy* 68–70.

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### **Section Four, Chapter Three: From feminist to mere Christian Dr Mary Poplin**

- 1 C.S. Lewis, Foreword in Joy Davidman, *Smoke on the Mountain: An Interpretation of the Ten Commandments*. Philadelphia, PA: The Westminster Press, 1953.
- 2 Douglas Gresham, Introduction to C.S. Lewis, *A Grief Observed*, NY: Harper Collins, 1994, p. xxviii.
- 3 Lewis in Davidman, p. 7.
- 4 Lewis in *A Grief Observed*, pp. 4–5.
- 5 Lewis in Davidman, p. 9.

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- 6 C.S. Lewis, *A Grief Observed*, pp. 47–48.
- 7 In addition to the play and her letters and detective novels, Sayers wrote other significant works: *Creed or Chaos*, *Letters to a Diminished Church*, *The Mind of the Maker* and *Are Women Human?*
- 8 Adam Schwartz, “The Mind of the Maker: An Introduction to the Thought of Dorothy L. Sayers through Her Letters.” *Touchstone*, May 2000.
- 9 Joy Davidman, *Smoke on the Mountain*, pp. 23–25.
- 10 C.S. Lewis, *The Weight of Glory and Other Addresses* (Revised and Expanded Edition by Walter Hooper), (in the essay on Transposition). NY: Collier Books, 1980, p. 72.

### **Section Four, Chapter Four: Lewis as teacher and servant... and my respectful disagreement on women as priests** *Revd Dr Jeanette Sears*

- 1 C.S. Lewis, “Priestesses in the Church?” was published originally in *Time and Tide* August 1948 and reprinted in Walter Hooper (ed.), *God in the Dock* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Eerdmans, 1970).
- 2 Lewis’ letter of 13 July 1948 to Sayers can be seen in Walter Hooper (ed.), *The Collected Letters of C.S. Lewis*, vol. 2 (HarperCollins, London, 2009), and her response of 19 July 1948 in Barbara Reynolds (ed.), *The Letters of Dorothy L. Sayers*, vol. 3 (Dorothy L. Sayers Society, 1999).
- 3 See, for example, Mary Hayter, *The New Eve in Christ* (London: SPCK, 1987), and Mary Stewart Van Leeuwen, *A Sword between the Sexes? C.S. Lewis and the Gender Debates* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Brazos Press, 2010). (Note that I don’t agree with Van Leeuwen’s idea of Lewis being Arian concerning essence and hierarchy in the Trinity in his early thought.) The arguments around women priests and bishops in the Church of England can be seen in *Women Bishops in the Church of England? A Report of the House of Bishops’ Working Party on Women in the Episcopate* (London: Church House Publishing, 2004) or [www.churchofengland.org/media/38523/gsl557.pdf](http://www.churchofengland.org/media/38523/gsl557.pdf).
- 4 Dorothy L. Sayers, op.cit., to Mrs Robert Darby on 31 May 1948 – Sayers is defending Lewis against the charge of intellectual arrogance, but adds: “...I do admit that he is apt to write shocking nonsense about women and marriage. (That, however, is not because he is

a bad theologian but because he is a rather frightened bachelor.)” In her letter to John Wren-Lewis on Good Friday, March 1954 she refers to Lewis as an excellent apologist but one who sometimes writes outside of his range and in particular is “hopelessly unsafe on sex”, getting his hierarchical view of the genders from Milton.

- 5 C.S. Lewis, *A Grief Observed* (London: Faber and Faber, 1961), p.17.
- 6 Jean-Pierre de Caussade, *Abandonment to Divine Providence*, first published in 1861 and available at [www.ccel.org/ccel/decaussade/abandonment.toc.html](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/decaussade/abandonment.toc.html).

#### **Section Four, Chapter Six: C.S. Lewis on love and sex** ***Dr Holly Ordway***

- 1 “Christian Apologetics.” In *God in the Dock: Essays on Theology and Ethics* (New York: Eerdmans, 1971), 101.
- 2 *The Abolition of Man* (New York: HarperOne, 2009), 70.
- 3 *The Four Loves* (New York: Mariner, 2012), 102.
- 4 *Mere Christianity* (New York: HarperSanFrancisco, 2009), 95.
- 5 *Abolition of Man* 77.
- 6 *The Four Loves* (New York: Mariner, 2012), 94.
- 7 *The Four Loves* 113.
- 8 *The Four Loves* 9.
- 9 *The Four Loves* 113.
- 10 *The Four Loves* 81.

#### **Section Four, Chapter Seven: Mistress for pleasure or wife for fruit?**

##### ***Dr Michael Ward***

- 1 For more on this point, see John Finnis, “C.S. Lewis and Test-Tube Babies” in his *Human Rights and the Common Good: Collected Essays Volume III* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011).
- 2 For more on this theme, see Arthur Mastrolia, *C.S. Lewis and the Blessed Virgin Mary: Uncovering a “Marian Attitude”* (Lima, OH: Fairway Press, 2000); cf. Jason Lepojärvi, “Worship, veneration and idolatry: observations from C.S. Lewis” in *Religious Studies* (November 2014) pp. 1–20.

## ENDNOTES

- 3 A phrase derived from Martin Buber's *I and Thou*, which Lewis read in 1942, not long before the completion of *That Hideous Strength*. Buber writes: "The *Thou* meets me. But I step into direct relation with it. Hence the relation means being chosen and choosing, suffering and action in one; just as any action of the whole being, which means the suspension of all partial actions and consequently of all sensations of actions grounded only in their particular limitation, is bound to resemble suffering."
- 4 For more on Jane's ancestry and her role in bringing to birth the heir of Jupiter, the new Pendragon, see my *Planet Narnia*, pp. 52–53, 174–75; cf. 183–86.
- 5 I discuss this scene in further detail in "Voyage to Venus: Lewis' Imaginative Path to *Perelandra*" in Judith Wolfe & Brendan Wolfe (eds), *C.S. Lewis' Perelandra: Reshaping the Image of the Cosmos* (Kent, OH: Kent State University Press, 2013).

### **Section Five, Chapter Two: On being the father of immortals: lessons from "The Weight of Glory"**

*John Stonestreet*

- 1 *Brave New World Revisited* (New York: RosettaBooks, 2000), 35.
- 2 *The Weight of Glory and Other Addresses*, (San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 2001), 25.
- 3 *The Screwtape Letters* (New York: Macmillan, 1970), 41.
- 4 *The Screwtape Letters*, 101–102.
- 5 *The Weight of Glory and Other Addresses*, "The Weight of Glory," 26.
- 6 "The Weight of Glory," 26.
- 7 "The Weight of Glory," 34.
- 8 Thomas Howard, *Evangelical is Not Enough: Worship of God in Liturgy and Sacrament* (San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 1984), 38.
- 9 Rowan Williams, *The Lion's World: A Journey into the Heart of Narnia* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013), 117.
- 10 *The Weight of Glory and Other Addresses*, "The Weight of Glory," 43.
- 11 "The Weight of Glory," 46.