



The Body and the Book: Writing from a Mennonite Life (Center Books in Anabaptist Studies)

Professor Julia Kasdorf

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"When I think I can't bear to trace / one more sorrow back to its source, /... I think of how they tell these stories: / honestly, without explanation, / to whoever will listen. -- "Thinking of Certain Mennonite Women," by Julia Kasdorf, from *Eve's Striptease* (University of Pittsburgh Press)

This collection of essays by nationally known poet Julia Kasdorf "probe," in her own words, "the tangled threads of gender and cultural/religious identity as they relate to the emergence and exercise of literary authority." Her ten essays, accompanied by forty-two engaging illustrations (from a nude by Titian, to family photos, to a famous image of Marilyn Monroe) and a dozen of her poems, focus on specific aspects of Mennonite life. Often drawing from historical episodes or family stories, Kasdorf pursues themes of martyrdom, landscape, silence, the body, memory, community, and the struggle to articulate experience with a voice that is both authentic to the self and a conversation with her traditional Mennonite and Amish-Mennonite background.

Praise for Julia Kasdorf's previous book, *Eve's Striptease*:

"Crosshatched by body, spirit, and the relation between them; animated by bright instinctive exchanges between carnal and religious zones of experience; driven by an honest, explicitly female consciousness of what 'animal' and 'soul' might mean, the poems in *Eve's Striptease* keep pace with a considered life in its search for some consoling 'homeliness' in the world."--Eamon Grennan, author of *Relations: New & Selected Poems*

"Most readers will be grateful for the gift outright of Kasdorf's achingly beautiful language of desire and of a "full store" of unavoidable passings from discovery to dark discovery and from expectations and surprises of childhood to retrospections and surprises of adulthood."--*Mennonite Quarterly Review*

"Her poems have an immediate quality that illustrates her ability to explore emotions... Kasdorf's poetry tends to illustrate small situations that have larger implications... Kasdorf also exhibits a keen sense of place in her work, with some lovely descriptions of her birthplace and the magical hold Pennsylvania seems to have on its native sons and daughters."--*Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*

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From reader reviews:

Larry Parrish:

Playing with family in the park, coming to see the ocean world or hanging out with friends is thing that usually you might have done when you have spare time, subsequently why you don't try point that really opposite from that. A single activity that make you not experiencing tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you are ride on and with addition of knowledge. Even you love The Body and the Book: Writing from a Mennonite Life (Center Books in Anabaptist Studies), you are able to enjoy both. It is fine combination right, you still need to miss it? What kind of hang-out type is it? Oh can occur its mind hangout folks. What? Still don't understand it, oh come on its named reading friends.

Arlene Wilson:

This The Body and the Book: Writing from a Mennonite Life (Center Books in Anabaptist Studies) is brand new way for you who has curiosity to look for some information mainly because it relief your hunger associated with. Getting deeper you onto it getting knowledge more you know or you who still having small amount of digest in reading this The Body and the Book: Writing from a Mennonite Life (Center Books in Anabaptist Studies) can be the light food to suit your needs because the information inside this book is easy to get simply by anyone. These books create itself in the form that is reachable by anyone, yeah I mean in the e-book form. People who think that in guide form make them feel tired even dizzy this e-book is the answer. So there is absolutely no in reading a book especially this one. You can find what you are looking for. It should be here for you actually. So , don't miss that! Just read this e-book sort for your better life in addition to knowledge.

Marie Slaughter:

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