

A Light So Lovely: The Spiritual Legacy of Madeleine L'Engle, Author of A Wrinkle in Time

by Sarah Arthur



About the Book

Bestselling and beloved author Madeleine L'Engle, Newbery winner for *A Wrinkle in Time*, was known the world round for her imaginative spirit and stories. She was also known to spark controversy --- too Christian for some, too unorthodox for others. Somewhere in the middle was a complex woman whose embrace of paradox has much to say to a new generation of readers today.

A LIGHT SO LOVELY paints a vivid portrait of this enigmatic icon's spiritual legacy, starting with her inner world and expanding into fresh reflections of her writing for readers today. Listen in on intimate interviews with L'Engle's literary contemporaries such as Philip Yancey and Luci Shaw, L'Engle's granddaughter Charlotte Jones Voiklis, and influential fans such as Makoto Fujimura, Nikki Grimes and Sarah Bessey, as they reveal new layers to the woman behind the stories we know and love. A vibrant, imaginative read, this book pulls back the curtain to illuminate L'Engle's creative journey, her persevering faith, and the inspiring, often unexpected ways these two forces converged.

For anyone earnestly searching the space between sacred and secular, miracle and science, faith and art, come and find a kindred spirit and trusted guide in Madeleine --- the Mrs Whatsit to our Meg Murry --- as she sparks our imagination anew.

Discussion Guide

1. What's your favorite Madeleine L'Engle book, if any? Why?
2. How does *A LIGHT SO LOVELY* define the idea of a paradox? In what ways did Madeleine embody a both/and approach to life?

3. Madeleine and her lifelong friend, Luci Shaw, often disagreed sharply but still remained friends. What does it take to maintain that sort of bond, particularly in today's polarizing cultural discourse?
4. In Chapter 3, what are the four different approaches to myth? What are some examples of each category?
5. What is something that surprises or intrigues you about Madeleine's spiritual journey, particularly as it's described in Chapter 4?
6. What are some examples from Chapter 5 of Madeleine's influence on writers and artists?
7. How did Madeleine change the conversation among people of faith about the role of art in their lives and congregations?
8. How does Chapter 6 describe the challenges Madeleine's family faced regarding her handling of facts versus fiction?
9. What does it look like for Madeleine's family to "give her the dignity of being human," as her granddaughter Charlotte put it? How might that translate to other relationships in our lives?
10. In Chapter 7, what are some of the spiritual habits Madeleine practiced, even when she was struggling? Why were those practices important?
11. What does Madeleine's quote "Believing takes practice" mean?
12. If Madeleine were still alive and you could ask her one question, what would it be?

Author Bio

Sarah Arthur is the author of over 12 books ranging from bestselling devotionals to critical engagement with literature. A graduate of Wheaton College and Duke University Divinity School, she's a founding board member of the annual C.S. Lewis Festival and served as writer-in-residence for the Frederick Buechner Writers Workshop at Princeton Theological Seminary. She's also the preliminary fiction judge for the Christianity Today Book Awards, through which she grades on a L'Engle-inspired curve. She can't wait till her two little boys are old enough to be read aloud *A WRINKLE IN TIME*.

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