

Thin Places

 By Mary DeMuth | Zondervan | softcover | 224 pages | \$

In *Thin Places: A Memoir*, Mary DeMuth traces her life's influences, both positive and negative. The title refers to the times and places throughout her life when the everyday and the spiritual world seemed close enough for her to reach across and touch Jesus.

Although the book is autobiographical, it is not chronological. Each chapter traces a particular facet of her character through various seasons of her life when she experienced kissing, low self-esteem, dancing and so on. One chapter, for example, chronicles the three divorces of DeMuth's mother and how the loss of each successive father seemed to rob DeMuth of something. Then she skips ahead to a troubling season with her own husband, showing how her childhood struggles gave her the strength to restore her marriage for the sake of her children.

Some of the chapters are disturbing—as DeMuth has experienced childhood sexual abuse, child pornography and worse. Still, *Thin Places* offers a poignant look at the development of a well-known Christian writer.

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