

tors are women and that some women certainly have these jobs, but I still think the percentage of females to males driving heavy-duty trucks is misrepresented. Nor have I ever seen little girls looking through these books at the library: it's always little boys who are clamoring to check them out.

De Jong, Kathleen. *His Mercy Endureth Forever*. Jenson, Michigan: Reformed Free Publishing Association, 2018.

I just ordered and received a copy of the RFPAs newest children's book, *His Mercy Endureth Forever*, which is illustrated by Kathleen DeJong, a young member of Peace Protestant Reformed Church in Dyer, Indiana. Like the earlier RFPA children's publication, *It's for Tree*, this book is generously sized—8½ by 11¼ inches—and features the same glossy, hardback cover and smooth, shiny pages. The text of the book is comprised of the 26 verses of Psalm 136, as they are rendered in the King James Version of the Bible. (The simple glossary in the back of the book defines some of the terms, places, and people that appear in the psalm.) Where Psalm 136 recounts God's merciful acts in history, Miss DeJong's colorful paintings depict biblical scenes: the pillar of fire in the wilderness, an ancient battle, a father and child harvesting abundant fruit in the promised land. Where the psalm recounts God's merciful acts in

lever-loving, button-pushing boys in

your family like we do? A street sweeper has all kinds of levers and buttons that raise and lower its brooms, move trash into the hopper, and control the water that sprays beneath the sweeper, keeping dust at a minimum. What happens to the trash that a street sweeper sweeps up? It moves up a conveyor belt inside the truck and falls into the hopper. When the hopper is full and ready to be emptied into a dump truck or landfill, levers lift the hopper into the air, move it to the side, and tip out the trash. Street sweepers keep our streets looking tidy. Tidy streets not only look nicer, this book notes that keeping streets free of the trash that rodents and insects love helps prevent diseases that those pests would otherwise spread.

*I Drive a Street Sweeper* is one of 12

books in the "Working Wheels" series. You can also read about driving an

ambulance, bulldozer, crane, fire engine or garbage truck. I find the illustrations of these books very utilitarian, but they seem to include just the right amount of detail to keep my boys busy looking even when I'm not reading. Each book includes a truck diagram, glossary, fun facts, and list of further references at the back. One minor detail I find rather annoying is that about half of the books feature female drivers. I understand that the author and two of the illustra-

noon sharing a long-kept family secret. Like all World War II stories, this secret involves a lot of heartache: the loss of Gran's best childhood friend, a Jewish girl named Esther, and division, sadness, and distrust in Gran's family. One of Gran's brothers worked for the Dutch Resistance, while her other brother fought for Germany on the Russian front. To the dismay of his wife and daughter, Gran's father, a Dutch police officer, collaborated with the Nazis.

*A Family Secret* is a 62-page, full-color graphic novel; that is, it's written and illustrated like a comic book. I don't enjoy comic books as much as some of my sons do, but I found the medium surprisingly well-suited to this story. The author doesn't shirk from terrible realities like the Holocaust or the hunger that plagued the Netherlands toward the end of World War II, but the format makes confronting those realities a little easier, especially when one's confronting them as a child or while reading to a child. Like all World War II stories, this story is gripping. What makes it especially gripping is the fact that it's the tale of an ordinary family that finds itself in the extraordinary circumstance of war, a war that forced them to keep secrets. As it turns out, some secrets were unknown to Gran, even many years later.

creation, the illustrations are contemporary: a person and telescope silhouetted by the Milky Way, a hiker awestruck at the Northern Lights, a present-day family praising God in a church building. The illustrations are well done: several elicited "ows" from my children. All in all, *His Mercy Endureth Forever* is a simple, successful book.

Perhaps you plan to memorize a new Bible passage with your children at the start of this new year. This book might be an enjoyable aid to memorizing Psalm 136.

Heuvel, Eric. *A Family Secret*. New York: Farrar Straus Giroux, 2009.

April 30 is Queens Day in the Netherlands. People celebrate this holiday with live music and good food and by buying and selling secondhand goods. Secondhand goods—that sounds like a truly Dutch celebration, doesn't it? In *A Family Secret*, young Jeroen stops by his grandmother's house to see if she has anything he could sell. While perusing her attic, he comes across an old scrapbook full of newspaper clippings. When Gran joins him upstairs, he learns that the scrapbook is hers: she began following the headlines in 1938, when she was Jeroen forgets all about items to sell for Queens Day as Gran spends the after-