

JANE'S SECRET

BOOK CLUB KIT



Dear Friends,

With so many books vying for your attention, I am deeply honored that you chose *Jane's Secret* for your discussion. Stories have a way of bringing people together, and it is a privilege to share this journey with you.

One of my greatest joys as an author is connecting with readers. If your group would enjoy a visit, I would love to join your discussion either virtually or, if possible, in person. Feel free to reach out at JETirrell@WritingWithJET.com to inquire about availability.

The people and places within *Jane's Secret* hold a special place in my heart. My prayer is that the story encouraged you, sparked meaningful conversation, and perhaps even reminded you of the faith and legacy woven through your own family history, or a legacy you'd like to begin.

If you enjoyed the book, I would be grateful if you would consider leaving a review on Amazon, Goodreads, BookBub, or your favorite retailer. Even a few sentences can help other readers discover the story and are a tremendous blessing to authors.

Thank you for reading and discussing *Jane's Secret*. May it find a cherished place in your heart and in your home.

Blessings,

Jennifer E. Tirrell



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- BOOK CLUB ACTIVITY
- FAITH DISCUSSION GUIDE
- BOOK DISCUSSION QUESTIONS
- CENTURY-OLD RECIPE
- HOW THE AUTHOR DISCOVERED JANE'S SECRET



BOOK CLUB ACTIVITY

CROSSING THE BRIDGE

A Group Read-Aloud Game

Setting: London Bridge at dusk

Goal: Cross safely—together—
without falling into the Thames

Group Size: Up to 20 participants

Time: 10–15 minutes

Accents: British accents encouraged
(accuracy optional!)

HOW TO PLAY

Each participant reads one line only.
The Leader reads the opening narration.
Read lines in order, listening carefully.

Discuss

Script



Narrator:

“The lamps flicker on London Bridge. The river moves swiftly below. You have only moments to cross.”

Travelers:

(Assign one line per person, or pass the script to group members, each reading one line.)

1. “I don’t care what century it is—I don’t like this feeling.”
2. “Keep walking. Don’t look back. That’s always the rule.”
3. “Did anyone else hear footsteps... or is that just my imagination?”

Narrator: “You’re closer to the edge than you think.”

4. “Stay together. No one crosses the bridge alone.”
5. “The Thames looks colder than it did a moment ago.”
6. “If I fall in, I’m blaming all of you.”

Narrator: make the sound of a bell ringing.

7. “That bell—was that a warning... or a prayer?”
8. “Prayers last longer than fear. Keep moving.”

Narrator: “You won’t all make it across.”

9. “That’s what they always say before they’re proven wrong.”
10. “Look—there are lights on the other side!”
11. “Make a run for the lights.”
12. “Pirates code. She who falls behind gets left behind.
13. “Everyone for themselves is a dumb rule. The group is safer together.”
14. “I’m going to run. Who’s coming with me?”

Narrator: Group scatters. One person is thrown over the bridge.



Reflection

- Which comments helped the group move forward?
Why?
- Which comments hindered the group or increased tension? How did they affect the outcome?
- Why do people react differently under pressure or uncertainty?
- Which line best captured how the protagonist felt just before she was caught and thrown into the river?
- What emotions surfaced for you while listening to or reading the script?

Leader Notes

Faith Discussion Guide



1. The Risk of Prayer in Tudor England

Leader note:

When prayer costs something, it has deeper meaning. In the Tudor world, prayer is not a habit—it is a decision born of tradition and trial. Danger of imminent death strips faith down to its bones. Even the disagreements of that time did not stop faith, only made it more private for some if risk of disobedience meant punishment or death.

Scripture:

“When you pray, go into your room, close the door...” — Matthew 6:6

“We must obey God rather than men.” — Acts 5:29

2. Objects as Silent Witnesses

Leader note:

Objects can carry the touch of hands that held them. They remind us that faith is not necessarily passed down through words, but also by actions. People decide something is important enough to preserve for future generations. The key in Jane’s Secret was the silent witness of Jane’s, and her father’s, faith.

Scripture:

“These stones are to be a memorial...” — Joshua 4:7

“We have this treasure in jars of clay.” — 2 Corinthians 4:7

3. London: Change on the Surface, Continuity Below

Leader note:

Modern freedom can make us forget the cost at which it came. London’s streets and historic artistry remind us that while laws change quickly, souls do not. The questions people ask of God remain remarkably consistent across centuries.

Scripture:

“There is nothing new under the sun.” — Ecclesiastes 1:9

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.” — Hebrews 13:8

4. The Pull of Place

Leader note:

Certain places awaken us because they remind us that we are part of a longer story. To stand where others once prayed is to feel—perhaps uncomfortably—that our own lives, too, are being woven into something larger than we can see. For Kaitlyn, that happened at Thornton Manor.

Scripture:

“Remove your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.” — Exodus 3:5

“Our citizenship is in heaven.” — Philippians 3:20



5. If This Story Were Seen, Not Read

Leader note:

A screen adaptation would need places that hold memory, like the chapel St. Michael and All Angels, and Thornton Manor. Faith grows thin when it forgets its past. It grows strong when it remembers that God has been at work long before we noticed—and will be long after.

Scripture:

“Remember the days of old; consider the generations long past.” — Deuteronomy 32:7

“One generation commends your works to another.” — Psalm 145:4

6. How do the prayers of earlier generations shape the present-day storyline?

7. Did the novel change how you think about legacy—not just material, but spiritual?

8. What does “inheritance” mean in this story—and in your own life?



Book Club Discussion Questions:

1. Adherence to Biblical teachings, and Holy reverence was prevalent during the Tudor period. What, if anything, changed, and why?
2. Jane's early losses could have affected her negatively. What influences shaped her character? What might have happened if she'd rebelled against the teachings of her elders?
3. Tell us about something you, or someone you know, found that was hidden.
4. Jane is in love with one man, but betrothed to another. Did her upbringing make it easier for her to "do the right thing?" What would you have done?
5. Kaitlyn hears about a generational blessing. Do you believe prayer can bring blessing to future generations? Do you believe prayer can break generational curses? What are your thoughts on curses in the world today?
6. Kaitlyn leaves her home and family to uncover the secrets behind the key. Could you summon the courage to fly to a foreign country and start a search like she did?
7. James handled his budding relationship with Kaitlyn very carefully. What did you like? Dislike? Discuss pros and cons of dating practices today verses the medieval era.
8. What was your favorite character in Jane's Secret? What appealed to you?
9. Do you like stories "tied with a bow" at the end? Why or why not?

Tirrell Thanksgiving Pudding

This recipe is over 100 years old. The original was \$.05 for a loaf of bread. Crusts can be cut from bread, if desired. The pudding is very thick and freezes well. The recipe is from Aunt Mae Tirrell, born in 1855.

Ingredients

SOAK UNTIL BREAD SOFTENS AND BEAT FINE:

- 3/4 lb white bread
- 1 3/4 quarts milk
- 3 eggs, beaten

ADD:

- 1/2 cup molasses
- 1/2 lb. suet - ground
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. cloves (round up)
- 1 tsp. cinnamon (round up)
- 1 lb. raisins

Bake 3-4 hours in slow oven, stirring occasionally, at about 325 degrees.

Heat may be lowered to 300 degrees after a while.

Serve with whipped cream or ice cream.

If pudding gets too stiff, milk may be added.

How I Discovered Jane's Secret

Did My Ancestor Pray for Me? The Story Behind Jane's Secret

Have you ever wondered if your ancestors prayed for the generations that would come after them—prayed for you?

A Chapel and a Book

I felt a sense of history in a very personal way when my daughter and I visited the small chapel just outside London where my ninth great-grandmother is buried. On her stone memorial she is carved wearing a garment with a book hanging from it—The Book of Common Prayer. Seeing that image made me pause and wonder what prayers she might have spoken for the generations that followed.

During the Tudor period, life was lived much closer to death than it is today. Illness, hardship, and uncertainty were constant companions. Because tomorrow could never be assumed, eternity felt very near. Faith was not tradition; it was something tested daily. Times of testing help us understand what is valuable and worth keeping.

Tea in the Drawing Room

Just across from the chapel stands Thornton Hall, where she once lived.

When my daughter and I

were welcomed inside as ninth and tenth generation

Tirrell descendants and ushered into the drawing room for tea,

the weight of that history descended on me in a real and lasting way.

I couldn't help but imagine the lives

that had unfolded there centuries before.



Inside the house, a memorial window for Jane Ingleton shows a woman wearing a mantle bearing the arms of the Tyrell family—our name later spelled with an “i”—and holding both a red and a white rose. That image captured my imagination.

From a Spark to a Novel

Jane's Secret is a completely fictional story inspired by those moments. The historical record left only fragments, but sometimes fragments are enough to spark a story. From them grew a fast-paced suspense novel that weaves together history, faith, and the enduring power of prayer—and the possibility that blessings offered long ago with a faithful heart may ripple farther than we realize.