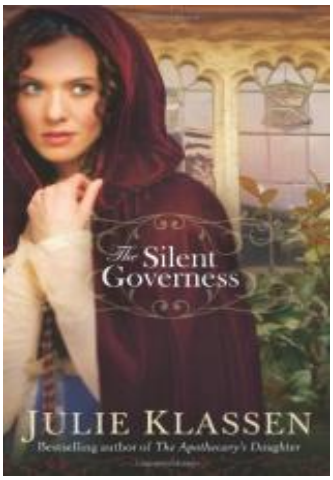
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The Silent Governess

by Julie Klassen



About the Book

Olivia Keene is fleeing her own secret. She never intended to overhear his. But now that she has, what is Lord Bradley to do with her? He cannot let her go, for were the truth to get out, he would lose everything --- his reputation, his inheritance, his very home. He gives Miss Keene little choice but to accept a post at Brightwell Court, where he can make certain she does not spread what she heard. Keeping an eye on the young woman as she cares for the children, he finds himself drawn to her, even as he struggles against the growing attraction. The clever Miss Keene is definitely hiding something. Moving, mysterious, and romantic, **The Silent Governess** takes readers inside the intriguing life of a 19th-century governess in an English manor house where all is not as it appears.

Discussion Guide

1. Which character in the novel did you most like or relate to? What drew you to that character?

2. The book's opening quote says, "The best proof of wisdom is to talk little, but to hear much?" Do you agree? Have you ever wished too late you had followed this advice?

3. Has a childhood regret remained with you into adulthood? What have you learned about getting past such regrets?

4. What did you learn about the life of governesses which surprised you? Do you think you would have enjoyed being a governess in the early 19th century? Why or why not?

5. Governesses were expected to teach literature, poetry, French, Italian, geography, the sciences, religion, arithmetic, needlework, dancing, and drawing, and to play a musical instrument. How does this compare with your own (or your children's) education? Anything on the list you wish you'd had the chance to learn?

6. How might discovering that your origins are different from what you've always believed affect you? Would you have reacted differently than Edward?

7. Legal adoption as we know it was not practiced in Regency England. Unless a child was a peer's natural son born in wedlock, he might be left some money but could not inherit his father's title or estate. Women could not usually inherit either. Did this surprise you? Strike you as unfair?

8. Where do you get your identity? From your parents, your profession, your kids, your church, your relationship with God? How has the source of your identity changed over the years?

9. Has your view of God been influenced by your earthly father or another person? Positively or negatively? If negatively, what ways have you found to overcome that influence?

10. Did any character or happening in the novel surprise you? How so? And did you enjoy the twist?

Author Bio

Julie Klassen loves all things Jane --- JANE EYRE and Jane Austen. Her books have sold more than 1.5 million copies, and she is a three-time recipient of the Christy Award for Historical Romance. THE SECRET OF PEMBROOKE PARK was honored with the Minnesota Book Award for Genre Fiction. Julie has also won the Midwest Book Award and *Christian Retailing*'s Best Award and has been a finalist in the RITA and Carol Awards. A graduate of the University of Illinois, Julie worked in publishing for 16 years and now writes full-time. She and her husband have two sons and live in St. Paul, Minnesota.

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