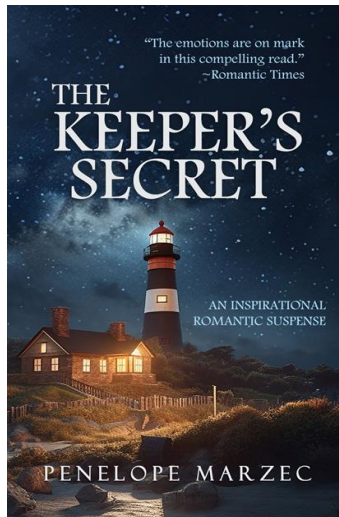


## Discussion Questions

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### **THE KEEPER'S SECRET**

None

Author: Penelope Marzec

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Publisher: Pelican Book Group

Pages: 312

eBook SRP: 6.99

### **About the Book**

Shucker's Point, New Jersey never had a murder until now. Jack St. Marie, a well-known research scientist is missing, and Trooper Bryce Johnson believes the worst of Jack's wife, Evie.

In high school, Bryce loved Evie--enough to want to marry her, but that was before he witnessed her phone in a bogus bomb scare. And only two months before Jack disappeared, Bryce saw Evie aiming a gun at her husband. Can Bryce believe in Evie's innocence when her husband's body is found in a fishing dredge twenty miles out at sea? Could the most beautiful woman in Shucker's Point be capable of such a heinous crime? He doesn't want to believe it.

Bryce refuses to let his heart guide the investigation...until someone shoots at Evie. Then he must protect her. But can he protect his heart?

TITLE: The Keeper's Secret

Discussion:

Question 1: Bryce has already judged Evie as guilty. Is it because he has hardened his heart that God seems so distant to him? That he no longer has faith in prayer?

Answer 1: Bryce has locked the door of his heart in condemning Evie. We are not to judge. The Lord is aware that Bryce has set himself up as judge and jury. Bryce's faith in prayer will only be restored when he allows God into his heart.

Question 2: Bryce believes the Lord made a beautiful world, but people messed it up because they are always breaking the rules and getting away with it. How can Bryce see the good in those around him?

Answer 2: Bryce needs to remember that the Lord loves everyone, even those who commit sins. The Lord has compassion for all. Bryce is aware of Tommy's stepfather and miserable living conditions, but he doesn't give him any slack. Evie asks him to show Tommy some kindness.

Question 3: Why didn't Evie report her husband's abuse?

Answer 3: Her husband harangued her until she lost her faith in herself. He accused her of doing everything wrong. He kept her away from her friends. He was angry when she became pregnant. He accused her of being a bad mother. He threatened to hurt her and their daughter.

Question 4: Evie is a new Christian and really doesn't know if she can get through the crushing ordeal ahead of her since she is charged with her husband's murder. What does Jessica say and do to help her?

Answer 4: Jessica tells her to be patient and wait, trusting in the Lord who will not abandon her. But Jessica also makes calls to get the funeral arrangements set up as well as orders sandwiches and helps in taking care of Evie's daughter.

Question 5: In high school, Bryce saw Evie call in a bomb scare. It was wrong. She asked him to promise not to tell on her and he never did. But after that, he broke up with her. He did not want to marry someone who broke the law. Could Bryce have reacted in a different way and saved their relationship?

Answer 5: Various answers...

Question 6: Evie considers who should get custody of her daughter if she goes to jail. Vance and Patty offer to take care of the child, but they are not Christians. Would you want your child to be raised by someone who was not a Christian?

Answer 6: Answers could vary.

Question 7: Bryce admits to Evie that he believes his prayers are a waste of time. He thinks the Lord is punishing him. But bad things happen to good people and good things happen to bad people all the time. What do you think?

Answer 7: There could be various answers, but refer to 2 Corinthians 1:3-7 and discuss.

Question 8: Evie tries to explain to Bryce about the way God prompts people to do His work on earth. Bryce doesn't believe it. He tells her he's not doing the Lord's work. He's just a soldier in a war that can never be won. What do you think about Bryce's opinion?

Answer 8: There may be various answers. As a reference read Colossians 3:23-24 and discuss.

Question 9: In the beginning of the novel, Bryce is exacting, detached, and assesses everyone from a negative viewpoint. He upholds his image as a tough trooper. Do you think his experiences have truly changed him by the end of the story? Has he allowed the Lord into his heart? Will he see people in a different light? Or can he?

Answer 9 Answers may vary.

Question 10: In the beginning of the book there is a quote from Psalm 37, verses 23 and 24. It reads: Those whose steps are guided by the Lord; Whose way God approves, May stumble, but they will never fall, For the Lord holds their hand. In what way does this psalm apply to Evie and Bryce?

Answer 10: Answers may vary.

