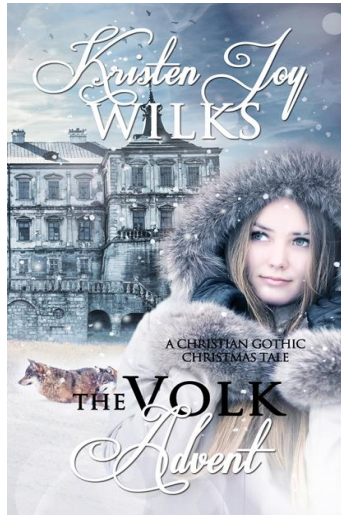


Discussion Questions



THE VOLK ADVENT

Christmas Extravaganza 2015

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About the Book

An orphaned Siberian teen loses her job and home on Christmas Eve. Left on the streets to freeze, Faina flees to an abandoned castle for shelter. At the castle, she discovers the animal-torn body of a local recluse. No wonder Eurasian wolves are not recommended for the first-time pet owner.

Can a girl with no past, preserve her future from accusations of murderer and a pack of escaped wolves?

TITLE: The Volk Advent

Discussion:

Question 1: What was unjust about the situation that Faina found herself in?

Answer 1: She lost her family, lived in an unloving environment, and was accused of crimes she did not commit.

Question 2: How did Faina serve God within something she didn't understand?

Answer 2: Although she didn't have the training or research to tell her what should be done, Faina followed her heart and rocked babies at the orphanage because it felt like the right thing to do.

Question 3: Can you follow and serve God when you don't understand what is going on?

Answer 3: Yes, my sweet grandmother is suffering from dementia. But that doesn't stop her from offering me a hug and a cup of tea when I stop by. Even if she can't actually make tea anymore (I get to do that part now) and forgets my name, I always feel God's love shining out through her.

Question 4: You may never have been chased by wolves, but have you ever found yourself in peril?

Answer 4: Yes, I got lost with my five-year-old son once. It was a sunny day and we were barefoot, suddenly it got cold enough to snow (we were visiting Colorado) and we got lost walking home from the park. Walking past house after house and knowing that we didn't belong in any of them was terrifying.

Question 5: Have you ever seen God at work in the middle of a scary situation?

Answer 5: Yes, in the case of being lost with my son, the Lord was with us until we finally found our way home. But beyond that, He brought me an understanding of how terrible it is not to have a safe place to go. How horrible it must be when there is no one to take you in out of the cold. God helped me appreciate that He is the home for my soul and that I am so blessed to have safety for my family. God pushed me to give real help those who find themselves in danger, whether in other countries or right here in the U.S. of A..

Question 6: How did Liev unknowingly wound Faina when they were children?

Answer 6: When Liev grew weary of helping out at the orphanage, tired of the huge feeling of impossible sorrow that clung to the place, Faina thought that he was weary of her.

Question 7: Can you think of a situation where you have unknowingly wounded another?

Answer 7: So many times, but whether it is with my own kids, a stranger, or a friend, I am reminded that what I say and do as well as how I say and do those things truly matters. It matters to God and to those around me. But God can even use our failures, asking forgiveness of another can be a chance for God to show His love as well.

Question 8: Does God quit working wonders when we mess everything up?

Answer 8: No, He seems to just gather up the shattered pieces that are left and do beautiful things despite our sin and the sin of those around us.

Question 9: How does God work wonders out of heartache in Faina's story?

Answer 9 Faina's parents' death was the result of someone else's bad decision. The terrible conditions in the orphanage and other people's choice to show hate, were beyond her control. But God took the mess the people had made and brought miracles from even that. He used Faina to show love to forgotten children and grew her into a young woman with a fierce and tender heart.

Question 10: Have you ever seen God preform such a miracle? Have you ever seen Him bring beauty out of the ashes of something terrible?

Answer 10: Yes, I have watched two loved ones die. My father, when I was fourteen, and more recently my step-dad. A sudden accident and an impossible disease, not things of beauty or triumph. But God walked with me in that terrible place. I do not know why these things happened, but I know that God is good and He showed me His power and love every day. Little miracles within the darkness and strength that I did not have before.

