

Lillie M. Evans Library District Book Club

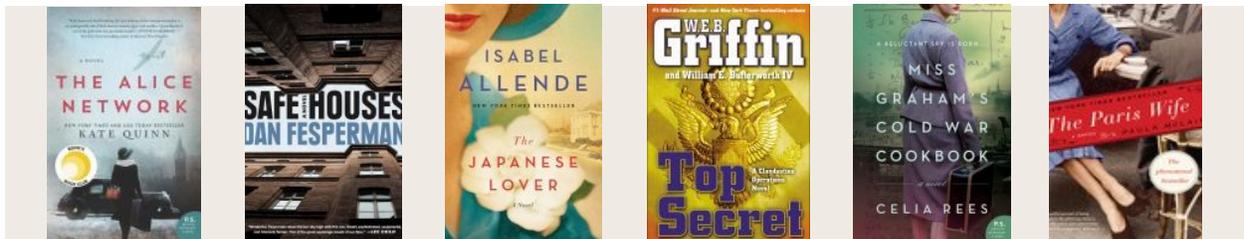
November 30, 2020

Biography:



Lara Prescott is the author of *The Secrets We Kept*, an instant *New York Times* bestseller and a Hello Sunshine Reese Witherspoon Book Club Pick. *The Secrets We Kept* is Lara's debut novel and has been translated into over 30 languages and adapted for television. Lara received her MFA from the Michener Center for Writers at the University of Texas. She studied political science at American University in Washington, D.C. and international development in Namibia and South Africa. Prior to writing fiction, Lara worked as a political campaign consultant. Lara's writing has appeared in *The Southern Review*, *The Hudson Review*, *Crazyhorse*, and more. She lives in Austin, Texas with her husband, son, cats, and dog. (www.laraprescott.com)

Similar Resources:



Discussion Questions:

1. How do Sally and the other women in the book transform themselves in order to keep so many secrets? How are these guises reflected in the structure of the novel itself?
2. Major historical events, including Stalin's death and the launch of Sputnik, are recalled through the eyes of the characters in highly charged environments. If you lived through these events yourself, how did their depiction in the novel impact your understanding of them? If you didn't, how did their depiction shed light on what it was like to experience them first-hand?
3. Did you agree with Boris's decisions first to share the novel with the Italian publisher, and then decline the Nobel Prize? Why or why not?
4. Did you get the impression that Teddy really knew what he wanted out of his life? How are his passions for literature (and Russian literature in particular) satisfied or disappointed by what unfolds during the course of the novel?
5. Olga's children, Ira and Mitya, are both victims of their mother's choices in love and politics. How does she navigate her identity as a woman and a mother, and the obligations and desires that come with it? Would you have made the same choices she did when it came to staying with Boris?
6. Discuss the author's choices to use first-person, second-person, and third-person narrators for different chapters in the book. What do those choices suggest about the relative importance of the characters, and how close she wants us to get to them? (*Questions are issued by the publisher.*)