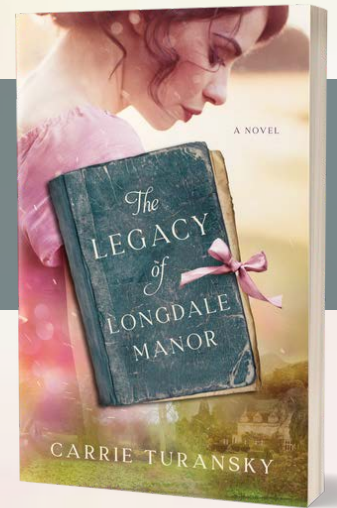


Book Club Guide



From the Author



Dear Book Club Coordinator,

I'm excited to share *The Legacy of Longdale Manor* with you! This dual-time novel is a stand-alone story that is set in England's beautiful Lake District. In 2012, art historian Gwen Morris is evaluating paintings and antiques at Longdale Manor when she discovers a connection to the father she never knew through a one-hundred-year-old journal and an intricately carved shepherd's staff. In 1912, Charlotte Harper struggles with a painful family secret that she can only confess in her journal. It shatters her faith and leaves her wondering if she can ever trust and love again. With the help of a kind and handsome shepherd, she finds the way back to faith and forgiveness.

I'm a romantic at heart, and I love to write English historical novels set in the Edwardian Era. All my novels include family drama, inspiration, and heartwarming romance. And since this is a dual-time novel, there are two romances! After overcoming challenges and learning how faith is woven into everyday life, I will always give readers a happy and satisfying ending.

I enjoyed touring the Lake District on one of my research trips to England. Visiting Beatrix Potter's Hill Top Farm was a highlight for me, and I came home with all kinds of Peter Rabbit treasures! I fell in love with the shimmering lakes, rugged mountains, and quaint villages, as well as Grasmere gingerbread! I've included that delightful treat in the novel, and I'm happy to share the recipe for you to enjoy with your book club friends.



I hope you'll consider choosing *The Legacy of Longdale Manor* for your book club. I think readers will relate to the heroines' journeys as they seek to resolve past hurts and move toward forgiveness and healing.

I would be happy to join your book club for a virtual chat if our schedules align. If you're interested in inviting me, please fill out the request form here: <https://www.bethanyhouseopenbook.com/author-teleconference-request>

Finally, thanks for helping reading friends find books they'll enjoy. I appreciate your kind support.

Blessings and happy reading,

Carrie

Carrie Turansky
carrieturansky.com

About Grasmere Gingerbread

When I visited the Lake District with fellow author and friend Cathy Gohlke, we stopped in the village of Grasmere. People lined up down the street to purchase little paper-wrapped packets of gingerbread. We'd read about this treat when we prepared for the trip, so we were eager to try some for ourselves. It was sweet and spicy and a little chewy, sort of like a cross between cake and a cookie, but even better! My characters in *The Legacy of Longdale Manor* enjoyed this delicious gingerbread, and I hope you'll try it for your book club meeting.



From [Kavey Eats](#)

Grasmere Gingerbread

Recipe from [Kavey Eats](#)

Ingredients:

1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
1/2 cup brown sugar
2 tsp ground ginger
1/4 tsp nutmeg
1/4 tsp baking soda
Pinch of sea salt
1/2 cup (1 cube) of butter at room temperature, plus extra for greasing the pan
Flour for dusting the pan

Instructions:

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees.

Prepare the 8-inch square cake pan by lining it with a parchment paper that covers the bottom and extends slightly over on both sides, allowing for easier removal of the gingerbread after baking. Apply a thin layer of butter and evenly coat the bottom and corners of the parchment paper in the pan. Dust the lined pan with flour, then tap the pan over the sink to remove excess flour.

Put all the dry ingredients in a bowl and rub the butter into the mixture until it is the consistency of breadcrumbs. This is best done in a food processor or blender. The dough won't come together as with other cookie doughs—it will remain as crumbs.

Set aside 2½ oz (70 grams) of the crumb mixture. Press the remaining crumb mixture into the pan using a mini rolling pin or push the crumbs down firmly with a piece of parchment paper. Spoon the reserved crumbs over the top and press very lightly to distribute the crumbs over the surface of the dough.

Lightly score the top of the gingerbread, first dividing it into four squares and then dividing each square in half.

Bake the gingerbread for 25 minutes, then immediately remove it from the oven. Cut the gingerbread into portions along the marked lines while it is still hot. Enjoy!

Interview with Carrie Turansky

Can you please tell us a little bit about your new novel, *The Legacy of Longdale Manor*?

Carrie Turansky: *The Legacy of Longdale Manor* is a dual-time novel set in England's beautiful Lake District where two women, a century apart, are seeking healing, faith, and forgiveness. The contemporary story focuses on Gwen, a young art historian, who travels to Longdale Manor to appraise paintings for the owners who want to raise funds to save the crumbling manor house. The historical heroine, Charlotte, and her family suffer a tragedy and betrayal, and they travel to the Lake District hoping to find refuge with Charlotte's grandfather at Longdale Manor. The two stories are tied together by an old photograph, the discovery of a hand-carved shepherd's staff, and Charlotte's one-hundred-year-old journal, which holds healing words for Gwen's wounded heart.

One of your main protagonists, Gwen, must earn her grandfather's respect after a past mistake threatens her professional reputation. Can you tell us more about Gwen's relationship with her grandfather?

CT: Gwen's grandfather is the no-nonsense owner of a prestigious London auction house. Gwen never knew her father, so she looks to her grandfather to fulfill that role and has had a difficult time winning his affection and approval. Gwen becomes an art and antique appraiser at his auction house, but when she makes a mistake and catalogs an original painting as a copy, he sends her off to the Lake District to avoid repercussions because of the error. She's embarrassed and determined to do the next job well to regain his trust. They love each other, but both have a difficult time showing those feelings.

Playing a prominent role in both timelines in the novel, what do readers need to know about Longdale Manor?

CT: Longdale is a beautiful lakeside estate overlooking Derwentwater. The old manor house is surrounded by lush hillside gardens. Built in the 1850s, it has remained in the same family for more than one hundred and fifty years. But time has taken a toll on the house and property, and our contemporary hero and his grandmother decide they must sell many of the paintings and antiques to finance their plan to turn Longdale into a luxury hotel, while retaining private areas for the family. Longdale has many unique design elements that add to its beauty and historic importance. Gwen is determined to see those features are preserved. This causes a conflict with the owner's grandson, but eventually they come to a compromise and find ways to save much of what is unique and beautiful about Longdale.

Why did you choose to set this novel in England's Lake District?

CT: On my last research trip to England, I visited the Lake District and fell in love with the natural beauty and the history of the area. I enjoyed visiting artist and author Beatrix Potter's Hill Top Farm, and the poet William Wordsworth's home, church, and school. Christians have gathered in that area for the Keswick Convention for many years, and that also inspired me to set my novel there and include the Convention in the story. I think readers will enjoy learning more about this special area in England.

One major theme that is addressed in *The Legacy of Longdale Manor* is the restoration of faith after betrayal—especially by a parent. How does this present itself in the book, and what advice would you give someone currently walking that same path?

CT: Charlotte discovers a painful secret about her father after his death, and she must decide if she should tell her mother and siblings or keep that information to herself. I hope her struggle to work through this heartbreaking issue will make the story more meaningful and give readers a chance to consider how they might handle a situation like this. Charlotte is helped by several characters who offer support, friendship, and practical advice. Watching the examples of others and renewing her faith also help her find acceptance and peace. In the contemporary story, Gwen has never met her father, but an old photograph of him holding a shepherd's staff and a notation on the back makes her believe he lives in the Lake District. When she reads Charlotte's journal, Gwen can easily relate to Charlotte's painful secret and her struggle to forgive her father. Charlotte's entries inspire Gwen and give her courage to reconnect with her father and forge a relationship with him. I hope readers will find that same peace and acceptance as they relate to Charlotte's and Gwen's stories.

You've written in several different genres over the course of your publishing career. What do you love about writing historical fiction compared to other genres?

CT: I enjoy stepping back in time and learning about social customs, dress, homes, family life, and inventions, and I especially love learning how Christians lived out their faith in their time. History was not one of my favorite subjects in school because we studied a list of events and then memorized a timeline for those events. When I homeschooled my children, I learned more about individuals and their unique stories, and that brought history to life for me. Reading historical fiction aloud to my five children also stirred my interest and planted a desire to write historical fiction.

Which character would you say you relate to the most—Gwen or Charlotte?

CT: I loved stepping into the shoes of both Gwen and Charlotte as I wrote this novel. But I think I'm most like Gwen. She loves art, antiques, and beautiful old manor houses. That's true of me as well. Both my mother and grandfather were gifted painters, and they put a paintbrush in my hand when I was five years old. My desire to have a close relationship with them motivated me to pursue art and choose that as my major in college. I still enjoy drawing and painting occasionally, but now I pour my creativity into writing, gardening, decorating my home, and arranging flowers for events.

What lessons do you hope readers gain by picking up *The Legacy of Longdale Manor*?

CT: I hope readers will be swept away to England and enjoy the family drama, romance, and inspiration in the story. I also hope they will see the importance of their faith in overcoming hurt and betrayal and be willing to do their part to bring healing and forgiveness to broken family relationships. The theme of God being our loving father, who is always there for us, is also one I hope readers will take to heart. Maybe this story will even motivate some readers to travel to England's Lake District and see that beautiful area for themselves.

Can you share what you're working on next?

CT: I'm busy writing my next English dual-time novel set in Victorian and contemporary London. It's based on the history of the Foundling Hospital, which was one of the first homes in England for abandoned babies. It is also inspired by the life of Josephine Butler, a woman of deep faith, who led a movement to change laws to protect women and girls. It will include the search for a missing young girl, a mystery, and romance, as well as faith and inspiration. I'm excited to share that next story with reading friends.

How can readers connect with you?

CT: I enjoy connecting with readers through my website and on Facebook (facebook.com/authorcarrieturansky) and Instagram @carrieturansky. I send out monthly newsletters with writing updates, giveaways, reading recommendations, recipes, and encouragement. I offer a free short story to all who sign up for my newsletter at carrieturansky.com.





Discussion Questions

1. As the story opens, Gwen learns she has made a major mistake that tarnishes her reputation at work and with her grandfather. She determines to do whatever is needed to regain her grandfather's trust. What lessons did Gwen learn from making that mistake?

2. David's goal was to help his grandmother save Longdale, but he ran into several problems as he worked toward that goal. What were those problems, and how did he overcome them? What did you notice about the way David went after his goals? How did that impact his relationship with Gwen?

3. Gwen and David did not get off to a good start in their relationship. What were the issues that came up for them early in the story, and how did they work through those? Have you ever learned that your first impression of someone was not correct?



4. Gwen grew up without a father in her life. How did this impact her? What did she gain by connecting with her father? Fathers play an important role in our lives. What is one lesson you learned from your father?

5. Charlotte's journal entries had a great impact on Gwen. What were some of the lessons she learned from Charlotte, and how did they help her resolve the issues she was facing? Have you ever kept a journal or read someone else's journal?

6. Charlotte deeply admired her father, but after his death, she learned he had been carrying on a secret affair. Throughout the story, she struggled with hurt, confusion, and bitterness. How did she work through those feelings? Who helped her, and what did they do to guide and comfort her?

7. Ian was torn between staying at Valley View and working with his family, or returning to Oxford and pursuing an archaeology career. What was drawing him toward archaeology, and what was pulling him to stay at Valley View? What did you think of his decision at the end of the book?



8. Forgiveness is a theme woven through both the contemporary and historical plots. What made forgiveness difficult for Charlotte? What made it a challenge for Ian? How did the need for forgiveness touch Gwen's and David's lives? Did their journeys toward forgiveness motivate you to think about the need to offer forgiveness to someone in your life?

9. The setting for the book is England's beautiful Lake District in the northwest section of the country. Have you read any other books or seen any movies set in that area? Did the descriptions motivate you to want to learn more, look up a map, or even plan a visit? What would you like to see if you went to the Lake District?

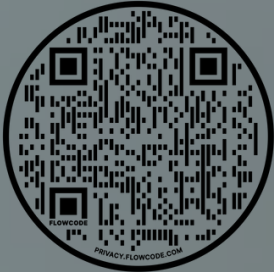
10. The role of fathers and the fatherhood of God are important themes in this story. What stood out to you about the fathers in this story? How can a relationship with God help meet needs that our human fathers might not have met?

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