

# Book Club Kit



**"...a journey of crime and passion, faith and surrender...Wright's extraordinary storytelling offers an intense, page-turning experience."**

**--Michelle Shocklee, author of *Count the Nights by Stars***



# About Jennifer L. Wright

Jennifer Wright has been writing since middle school, eventually earning a master's degree in journalism from Indiana University. However, it took only a few short months of covering the local news to realize that writing fiction is much better for the soul—and definitely way more fun. A born and bred Hoosier, she was swept off her feet by an Air Force pilot and has spent the past decade traveling the world and, every few years, attempting to make old curtains fit in the windows of a new home.

She currently resides in New Mexico with her husband, two children, one grumpy dachshund, and a herd of overly demanding guinea pigs.

**Follow Jennifer L. Wright**



[Facebook.com/Jennifer  
WrightLit](https://www.facebook.com/JenniferWrightLit)



[@jennwright82](https://www.instagram.com/@jennwright82)



[@JennWright18](https://www.twitter.com/@JennWright18)

## A note from

Jennifer L. Wright

Welcome, readers!

I am thrilled you've chosen *The Girl from the Papers* for your book club read. It's my hope that this story both challenges and encourages you as you journey with Beatrice from the plains of central Texas to the slums of West Dallas and eventually to her life on the run across the southwestern United States. Along the way, I hope you discover the depths of God's love for you, no matter who you are and what you've done. We are never too far gone for His grace.

Blessings,

Jennifer L. Wright

# ALLY'S BOLOGNA SALAD

## SANDWICH SPREAD

"With Emmett gone, I've had to stretch things a bit further than normal, even with only one mouth to feed now...Nowadays, I eat more bologna sandwiches than I care to admit...But I try to mix it up. Fried bologna, pickled bologna, bologna casserole, bologna salad. Emmett's going to be blown away when he gets home with just how many ways you can use bologna." --Ally, *The Girl from the Papers*

### INGREDIENTS:

- 1 (16 ounce) package bologna
- 4 large hard-boiled eggs, peeled and chopped
- 1 cup creamy salad dressing (such as Miracle Whip®), or to taste
- ½ cup sweet pickle relish, or to taste

### DIRECTIONS:

Chop bologna and eggs into fine pieces. Or, if not making in the 1920's, use a food processor--it's much quicker. Transfer ground mixture to a large bowl; stir in salad dressing and relish until well combined. Cover and refrigerate until chilled, 2 or 3 hours. Serve on bread, crackers, or chopped vegetables.



**During the Great Depression, people had to get creative with their uses of cheap staples. Bologna became a go-to protein source in lieu of more expensive beef, chicken, or pork. This recipe, courtesy of Allrecipes.com, was a common way people in the 1920's and 1930's would have attempted to "jazz up" the otherwise bland lunchmeat.**

# 5 Moments from *The Girl from the Papers* to Discuss with Your Book Club

1.) In chapter three, Charles attempts to "save" Beatrice through violence. How do you think that experience affected the way she viewed God and, ultimately, herself? Have you ever been confronted with skewed theology that impacted your faith? If so, how did you reconcile past negative experiences with the truth of God's love?

2.) Beatrice's mother is a hard and unquestionably flawed character. But, in chapter nine, we begin to see a little bit of the pain behind her cold exterior, when she tells Beatrice "...you'll die without a single soul remembering your name. Same as me." What role do past hurts play in the motivations of the book's characters, especially those like Beatrice's mother who serve an antagonistic role? Does this make you feel more or less sympathy for them?

3.) In Chapter Twelve, we discover it is Beatrice who actually pushes Jack to pursue bigger and more risky crimes, rather than the other way around. Why do you think this is? Do you believe she acted out of selfish ambition, genuine love for Jack, or a combination of both? In what ways do her and Jack's weaknesses feed off of each other?

4.) After Jack's release from Eastham, Beatrice decides it's her responsibility to "save" him from both a life of crime and his own brokenness. How do you think her past plays into this decision, and how does this choice factor into their later struggles with the law and each other?

5.) What did you think of the ending of the book? Do you believe Beatrice can truly find redemption? What role does an honest view of ourselves play in faith?

**My discussion questions:**

Jot down some questions you had about the story here.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



# Q&A with Jennifer L. Wright

## 1. This is your third historical fiction novel! How does this story differ from your other books?

Both 'If It Rains' and 'Come Down Somewhere' were born out of historical events, the Dust Bowl and the Trinity Test respectively. On the other hand, 'The Girl from the Papers' was inspired by historical figures. Although the time period in which Beatrice and Jack live is a huge part of their story, it is much less of a central focus than my other two novels. Instead, the narrative revolves around the hopes and dreams of the two main characters--and the choices those ambitions lead them to make.

## 2. What about this book excited you while writing it?

Like many people, I find the story of Bonnie and Clyde fascinating, but it's also heartbreaking. As I was reading their history, I saw so many opportunities for their lives to have gone in a different direction, had they only seized the opportunity. It was extremely satisfying as a writer to be able to create a world in which at least a few of those alternate decisions were made. I can't change the past, but this novel gave me a chance to pretend I could.

## 3. What drew you to the history of Bonnie and Clyde? What research went into this book?

Naturally, I'd heard about Bonnie and Clyde many years ago, but I first dove deeper into their story during my time period research for 'If It Rains.' What was most fascinating to me was that both Bonnie and Clyde, but Clyde in particular, were raised in Christian homes. Both prayed nightly, even during their time on the run. When I decided I wanted to write a story mirroring theirs, I knew this was going to be a central focus: The roots were there; so what made the plant wither? I read everything I could get my hands on that would tell me more about Bonnie and Clyde as people, rather than just their crimes. 'Go Down Together' by Jeff Guinn and 'My Life With Bonnie and Clyde' by Blanche Barrow Phillips (Clyde's sister-in-law) both heavily influenced the manuscript.



#### 4. How does your own faith inform this story?

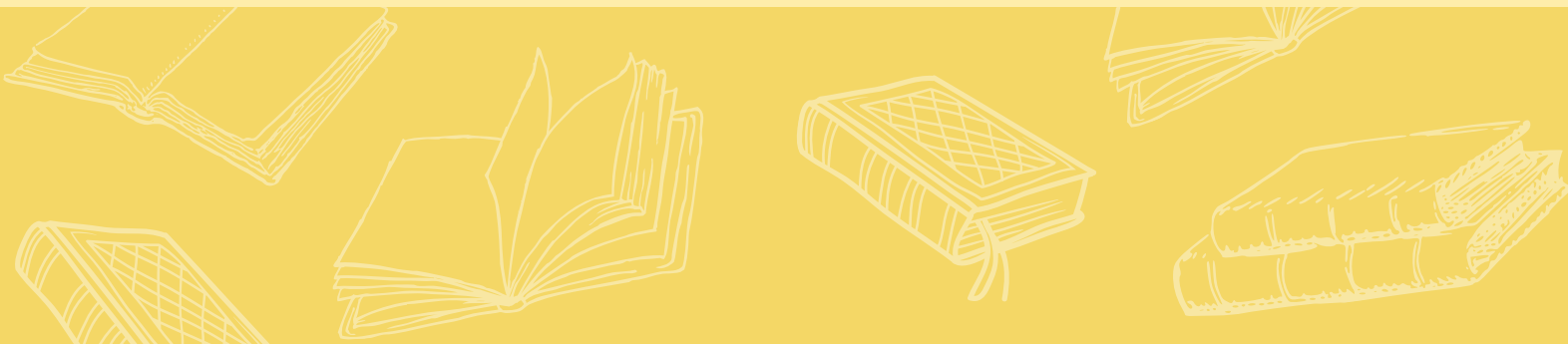
Like many, I've gone through my own struggles with identity, especially when something I thought "defined" me was suddenly no longer a part of my life. And, although I've never robbed a bank, I certainly have regrets and things I wish I could change about my past. With all of these issues--and many more--it always comes back to Jesus. As my Maker, He is the only One who can ever truly define me. As my Savior, He is the only One who can take away the shame of the past. I don't believe you can have a story about authentic change without it whispering the name of Jesus on every page.

#### 5. What do you hope readers take away from Beatrice and Jack's story?

At the heart of this story is tragedy, not only of its outcome, but of its roots: the lie that any relationship, possession, or status can ever achieve more the death of a humble carpenter on a cross thousands of years ago. I hope readers take away the knowledge of just how much Jesus loves each and every one of them. It is a love no one can earn, but also one nobody can out-sin. If you find yourself walking along a path in which the only view of Jesus is over your shoulder, it's not too late to turn around. You will find everything you ever needed in His presence.

#### 6. Do you have any new projects in the works?

I am currently editing a manuscript scheduled for release in 2024. I can't say too much other than that it's a story of revenge set in the Civilian Conservation Corps camps in the mid-1930s. I also recently began research for another story idea, so we'll see what develops along the way. I always say I'm going to rest after each new book, but my brain invariably has other plans.







**Thanks for choosing**



**for your book club!**