

# Things Left Unspoken

by Eva Marie Everson

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## About the Book

**Every family --- and every house --- has its secrets.**

Jo-Lynn Hunter is at a crossroads in life when her great-aunt Stella insists that she return home to restore the old family manse in sleepy Cottonwood, Georgia. Jo-Lynn longs to get her teeth into a noteworthy and satisfying project. And it's the perfect excuse for some therapeutic time away from her husband.

Beneath the dust and the peeling wallpaper, things are not what they seem, and what Jo-Lynn doesn't know about her family holds just as many surprises. Was her great-grandfather the pillar of the community she thought he was? What is Aunt Stella hiding? And will her own marriage survive the renovation?

Jo-Lynn isn't sure she wants to know the truth --- but sometimes the truth has a way of making itself known.

## Discussion Guide

1. In your way of thinking, what is the difference between renovation and preservation?
2. What is Jo-Lynn's memory of Uncle Jim connected her to his spiritual life?
3. Have you ever felt like Jo-Lynn: totally in the world and yet completely out of sorts with it. How'd you get through it?
4. Describe Jo-Lynn's relationships between her and various members of her family.
5. What "characters" in **Things Left Unspoken's** cast of characters did you feel as though you connected to?
6. Do Jo-Lynn and Evan really love each other or is theirs a marriage of convenience and comfort? Where do you think

their marriage went wrong?

7. Why do you think God never allowed Stella and Valentine to come back together?

8. Do you think you could love a child in the way Stella chose to love Bettina? What characteristic of God do you see in the way Stella chose to handle her situation?

9. Why was the discovery of Cottonwood's secrets so important/devastating to Jo-Lynn?

10. Jo-Lynn felt the issue of 'legacy' to be very important. What kind of legacy do you hope to leave?

11. What prejudices have you had to overcome in your life? What sacrifices have you had to make? What secrets have you had to keep?

12. At the end of Things Left Unspoken Jo-Lynn and Evan have reached a compromise of sorts. Describe it from both points of view. Is Evan really the mayor of Cottonwood?

## Author Bio

Eva Marie Everson is a multiple-award-winning author and speaker. She is the president of Word Weavers International, vice president of BelieversTrust, director of Florida Christian Writers Conference, and enjoys coaching new authors through her company, Pen in Hand. Eva Marie and her husband are the parents of three fabulous children who have blessed them with the world's greatest grandchildren.

## Critical Praise

"A lovely and deeply moving story. I didn't just read this story, I lived it!"

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