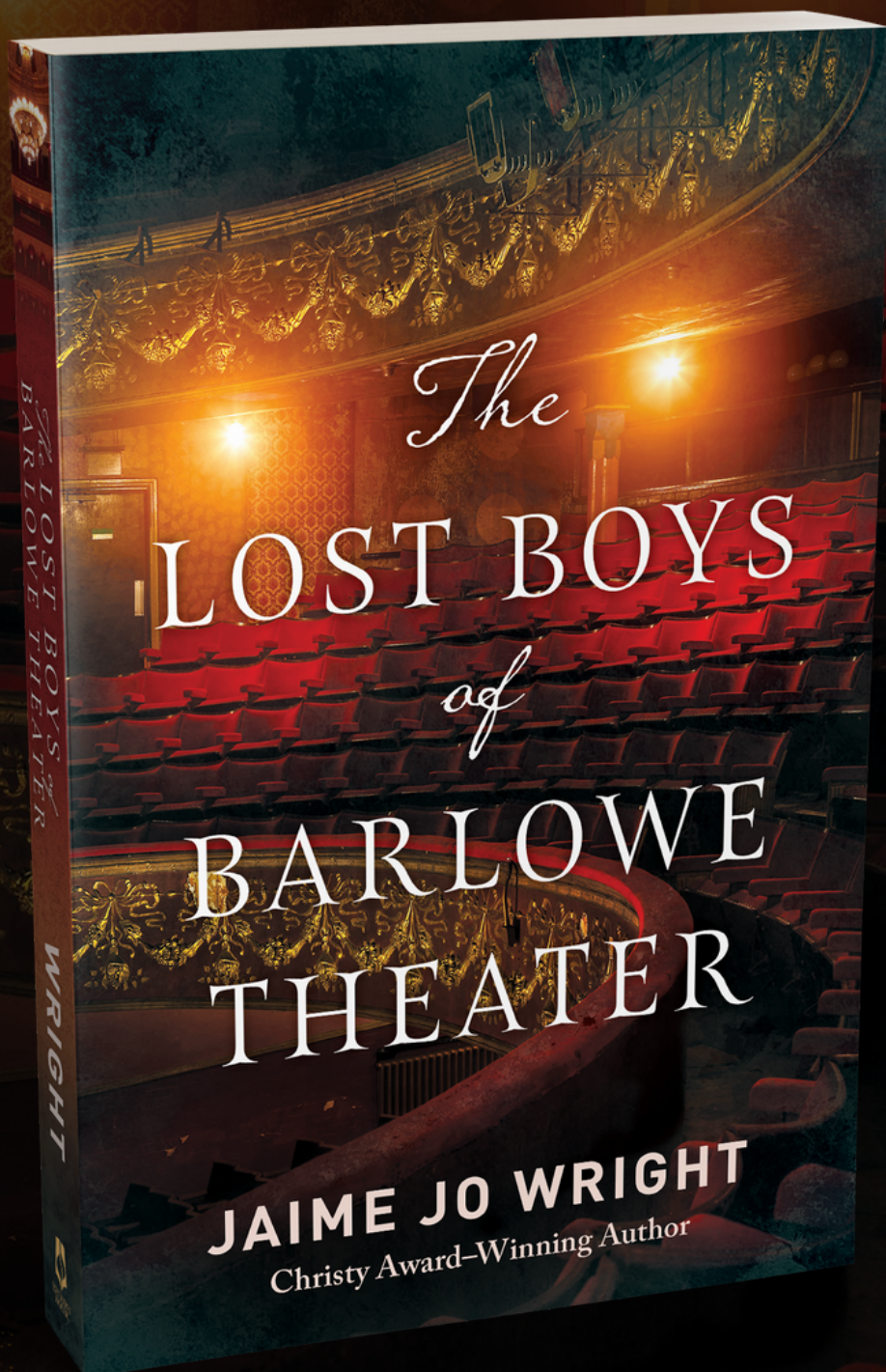
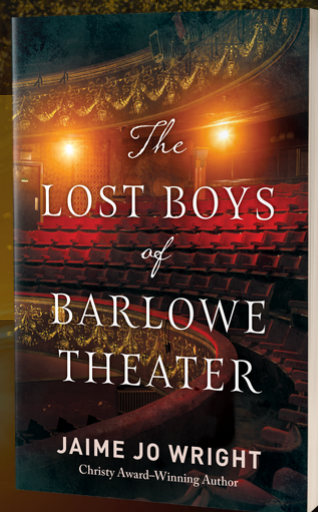


# Book Club Guide



# From the Author



Dear Book Club Coordinator,

I am so thrilled you've chosen, or are considering choosing, *The Lost Boys of Barlowe Theater*. This was such a fun book to write because it was based on a theater almost in my backyard! In fact, the two primary "ghost stories" featured in the novel—the lost boys and the woman in white—are loosely based on the true-life ghost stories that are still heralded today at the Al Ringling Theater in Baraboo, Wisconsin.

<https://www.alringling.org/>

Yes, the Ringling Bros. Circus originated in my hometown, and Al Ringling was a pivotal figure in our community. He built the Al Ringling Theater at the turn of the century, which wasn't without its construction challenges and accidents that cost some people their lives. The theater still stands today and is a venue for stage plays, movies, and concerts. It is also said that if you are performing there, do not turn your in-ear monitor on until the moment you need it or you will hear the woman in white wailing for her infant or the lost boys pounding on the pipes in the walls, begging to be found and released from their prison.

I am so proud to have this history on which to base a story. But in truth, the other elements in this book will hopefully resonate in your hearts as readers. The theme of each person's worth despite the circumstances of one's birth, and standing for those who cannot stand on their own, are threads of the human journey that should never be broken.

May your reading be blessed!

In His grip,

*Jaime Jo*  
Jaime Jo



# Ghostly Tales of the Ghost Hunter

Here's a fun little trip to set the stage for your book club gathering. Whether you believe in ghosts or not, it's always deliciously fun to turn down the lights, turn on a flashlight, and start your book club with some eerie tales. Because, after all, whether in our imagination through story, or whether from personal experience (let's hope not!), we are all ghost hunters in a way ... dun, dun, dun!

Not-so-scary ghost hunts:

<https://www.countryliving.com/life/g3793/scary-ghost-stories/>

More scarier ghost hunts:

<https://www.rd.com/article/ghost-stories/>

Shivers-up-your-spine ghost hunts:

<https://www.buzzfeed.com/alliehayes/ghost-stories>

\*\*Disclaimer: Read with a grain of truth and a lot of imagination.

# Barlowe Theater Book Club Menu

Print and use this fun menu to serve yummies at your book club gathering!  
This is typical "Wisconsin fare," so enjoy and bon appétit!  
(see next page)



BARLOWE  
THEATER

# MENU

## A P P E T I Z E R

Popcorn  
Wisconsin Cheese

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## M A I N C O U R S E

Wisconsin Brats & Natural-Casing Hot Dogs  
or  
Chili with Cornbread and Cheddar Cheese

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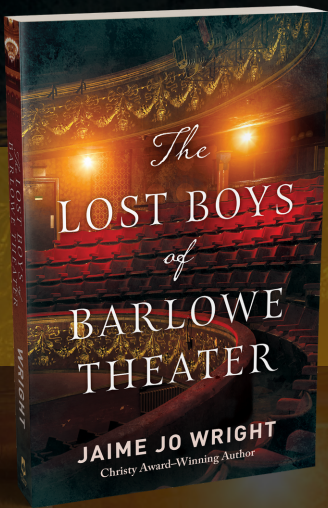
## D E S S E R T

Ice Cream Sundaes  
or  
Ice Cream in a bowl

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[www.jaimewrightbooks.com](http://www.jaimewrightbooks.com)

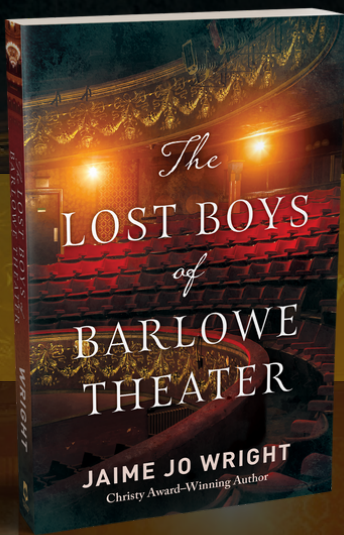




# Discussion Questions

1. In this story, a distinct division exists between lower- and upper-class citizens in the town. What are current parallels to this division?
2. Kit's struggles with the fear of abandonment stem from a background of adoption and the belief that eventually people run out of grace and will take their leave. What other life experiences could cause an individual to struggle with that fear? How could such a concern affect one's behavior toward others?
3. Greta's deep sense of loyalty to her family propels her into situations she wouldn't otherwise have found herself in. Do you express loyalty by rushing into a circumstance regardless of the consequences? Or do you tend to be cautious in your approach when defending a loved one? What are the pitfalls of both responses?





4. While poorhouses were employed to shelter impoverished individuals through much of English history, few people are aware that this construct was also a part of America. How are poorhouses from the past similar to the ways in which society now responds to issues of homelessness and underprivileged families?

5. Barlowe Theater was loosely based on an actual theater built in Wisconsin by Al Ringling of the Ringling Bros. Circus. In what ways did the theater's design, structure, and state of maintenance lend themselves to the spooky elements of the story?

6. Which scene or scenes in the story added unexpected twists for you and kept you guessing?



# An Open Book

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