Silverview

by John le Carre

1. What do you think this book is saying about truth and how we perceive and use it?
2. Have you ever read a book about Intelligence services before? If not, how was it different from what you expected? If you have, did anything stand out?
3. This book was published posthumously and was edited by the author’s son. If he had been able to see it through, what changes do you think the author himself would have made? What changes would you have made?
4. Loyalty is a major theme in this book. How would you define loyalty? Would anything be able to change your view of it?
5. The writing feels very retrospective at times. Do you feel that this was because of the author’s age at the time of writing (89) or does it have some other meaning? Did it cause you to think about your own past?
6. One reviewer states: “There were major characters and events to follow, but it seemed to me like observing stick figures being moved about atop a shoebox theatre. Yes, it's about spooks, but these spooks are unusually spooky.” Do you agree with this assessment? Why or why not?
7. In your opinion, what does the title have to do with the story?
8. Tell the group something you thought was interesting about or learned from this book.