

The Missing Discussion Questions

Despite her eagerness to learn the whereabouts of her missing mother, Grace Byler is initially reluctant to call the inn where she suspects her mother is staying. Why do you think that is? How would you feel in her place?

Heather Nelson typically finds it difficult to connect with people, yet she forms an almost immediate attachment to Wannalive. Why do you think this might be?

Grace's longtime friendship with Becky Riehl prevents her from immediately reciprocating Yonnie Bontrager's obvious interest in her. Can you think of an instance where a friendship has prevented you from pursuing something you might otherwise have pursued? How did that affect you? your friendship?

Contrast Yonnie to Henry ... and then to Judah. Which character traits do you think make for a good husband? Do you think an Amishwoman might hope for traits similar to those on your wish list? Why or why not?

Roan Nelson quickly throws himself into building his new Lancaster-area home, something his daughter attributes to the changes wrought in him by grief. What are some ways in which Heather's grief has affected her? Have you known someone who was radically changed following the loss of a loved one or another traumatic life event? If so, describe.

Grace is surprised to realize she has completely misread Yonnie and the reason for his interest in Becky. Have you ever misread someone, either romantically or in another context? What was the result of that mistaken impression?

Minnie suggests that Lettie has been selfish in searching for her firstborn child, that she's been "holdin' on to the past, embracing it longer than necessary." Would you agree or disagree? Why?

Roan reacts negatively to his daughter's intention to forgo conventional medical treatment, at least for the time being. Can you understand his hesitations? Why do you think he ultimately chooses to support and even finance Heather's stay at the Wellness Lodge?

Adah forced Lettie to give up her baby, something Lettie has never been able to forgive. And she's "unready to wipe away the painful memory even if she could muster up the forgiveness." Has anyone ever done anything to you that you found difficult to forgive? Have you found a way to move past that? Do we need to be able to forget in order to forgive?

Susan Kempf becomes a sort of ministering angel to Lettie during her time of searching. Has someone played a similar role in your life? How?

Talk about some of the marriage relationships in this series: Judah and Lettie's, Jakob and Adah's, the Spanglers', even Susan and Vernon's. How do they differ? How are they alike? What do you think the author hopes to tell us about marriage?

When Judah directly confronts Jakob about Lettie, Jakob refuses to reveal his daughter's secret, even though it might help his son-in-law to understand why she left. Why do you think he does so? Do you think Jakob is right to guard Lettie's secret?

Throughout the book, we see instances of how well Grace interacts with others: her father, Jessica Spangler, Yonnie—even Heather. Why do you think others are so receptive toward Grace? What personality traits make you feel comfortable opening up to another person?

Were you surprised that Judah granted Grace permission to go after her mother with Heather? Why or why not?