



THE AMISH NANNY

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Book Group Discussion Questions

1. Ada often feels invisible and unremarkable. She also frequently compares herself to other women she considers far prettier than she is. Why do you think she does this? Do you feel that she has changed in this somewhat by the end of the book, and if so, what causes the change?
2. Ada has an “inner teacher.” What are positives and negatives about this? Are you this way, or do you know anyone who is like this?
3. Out of the blue, Morgan shows up to stay with Ada and her friends at Amielbach. Why do you think she does this? Do you think her gesture of bringing them food (mutual aid) indicates a change in her feelings about the Amish? If so, what brings about this change?
4. Why do you think Giselle is so cold and unreceptive to Ada’s presence at first? Did you expect this, or did you think she would welcome her with open arms? Was her character consistent?
5. When Daniel declares his intentions to court Ada and presents his plan for her to be an authentic tour guide, how does Ada react? Do you think his idea would have turned her identity into a caricature of an Amish woman? What would you have said in the same situation?
6. Because Daniel and Ada grew up with stories of martyrs, they aren’t emotionally affected by the stories the same way Morgan is. Why do you think Amish and Mennonites focus so strongly on their history of persecution? Why doesn’t Christy want to hear about the violence or death in her ancestor’s stories?
7. In his attempts to keep Elsbeth from becoming a Mennonite, Abraham brings heartache to himself, his daughter, and others—leaving him bitter and isolated for many years. What finally allows him to seek Elsbeth’s forgiveness?
8. Before going to Europe, Ada thinks, *I wanted the full knowledge of what was out there, of who I might be*. What are some things Ada discovers about herself during the journey to Europe? Have you ever traveled somewhere and returned with new insights about your life?
9. At the end of the book, Giselle gives Ada a message for Klara and Alexander, saying, “Tell your parents they did a wonderful job raising you.” Do you think this sentiment is true to the character of Giselle? By calling Klara and Alexander Ada’s “parents,” what is she trying to say? Do her words provide a sense of closure?
10. Ada desires to become an independent adult. What actions and thoughts signify this desire? Do you feel she has achieved this goal by the end of the book?