



The Amish Seamstress

By Mindy Starns Clark
and Leslie Gould

1. Izzy is a sought-after caregiver, even when she is personally struggling with the notion of death. What is it about her personality that makes her so gifted at caring for others? How is this shown in the story?
2. Izzy describes herself as a square peg in the round hole that is her family. Why do you think this is? Will this ever change for her, and, if so, how?
3. Why does Izzy have so much trouble accepting death? In her conversation with Ella, she describes her problem with the randomness of tragic events as a spiritual issue. Do you agree? How would you advise her to overcome this fear?
4. One thing Izzy loves about working with the elderly is hearing their stories. Why do you think this appeals to her? Have you ever had any family lore passed down to you that was unique and compelling?
5. Izzy finds herself drawn to the Lantz women and feels more at home with them than with her own family. Why do you think this is? How is it that a family that has had so many issues and areas of dysfunction can also be a symbol to her of emotional health and acceptance?
6. When Alice visits with Frannie and Izzy observes their close relationship, she wonders why she has no close female friends of her own. Do you believe such a thing is important? What could Izzy do to expand her circle of friends? What impact does her mother's pattern of friendship with others have on Izzy's own choices?
7. Zed aspires to be a filmmaker, and he sees Izzy as an important part of that. How does this work, given that she has been raised Amish and doesn't even go to the movies? Do you see her as a useful helpmeet to him in this way?
8. When Izzy finds the chapbook written by Abigail, she feels compelled to track down the rest of her story. How did you imagine Abigail's story had played out? Were you surprised by the facts once they came to light?
9. Giselle is a complex character with an interesting back story woven throughout this series. Now that she finally returns to Lancaster County, how do you think she will find healing and growth? Does her story play out the way you expected it to?
10. When Abigail and Gorg are faced with a difficult situation, they make some radical choices. Did you agree with their actions? How you would you have handled things in their position?