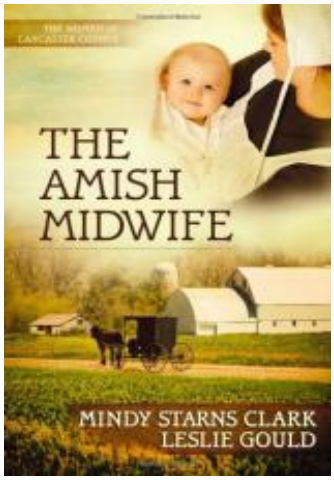
The Amish Midwife: The Women of Lancaster County, Book 1

by Mindy Starns Clark and Leslie Gould



About the Book

A dusty carved box containing two locks of hair and a century-old letter regarding property in Switzerland, and a burning desire to learn about her biological family lead nurse-midwife Lexie Jaeger from her home in Oregon to the heart of Pennsylvania Amish country. There she meets Marta Bayer, a mysterious lay-midwife who desperately needs help after an Amish client and her baby die.

Lexie steps in to assume Marta's patient load even as she continues the search for her birth family, and from her patients she learns the true meaning of the Pennsylvania Dutch word ?demut,? which means 'to let be' as she changes from a woman who wants to control everything to a woman who depends on God.

A compelling story about a search for identity and the ability to trust that God securely holds our whole life-past, present, and future.

Discussion Guide

1. Lexie is surprised to find that her father withheld parts of her adoption story. What was her father?s motive? Do you think he was right or wrong in doing so?

2. What role does Sophie play in Lexie?s life? Does Sophie reveal too little information about the past to Lexie? Or too much?

3. According to the Benchmark Adoption Survey (1997), sixty percent of Americans have a personal experience with adoption, meaning that they, a family member, or a close friend was adopted, adopted a child or relinquished a child for adoption. Many other Americans have an indirect connection. Do you have a connection to adoption? If so, what is it?

Has this story changed the way you view adoption?

4. Lexie has a long-standing fantasy about her birth family. How did her fantasy help her through the years of not knowing the truth about her past? Have you ever held onto a childhood fantasy or known someone who has? What were the benefits? What was the harm?

5. How does Lexie?s Mennonite community in Oregon compare to the Amish community she encounters in Pennsylvania? What does she find attractive about the Amish? What do you find attractive about the Amish?

6. Who is Marta trying to protect by not being forthright with Lexie? Why does Marta think it?s better to leave the past alone? What does Marta have to lose if the truth is discovered?

7. The Amish practice of ?letting be? is at odds with the individualism central to most modern cultures. When do you think Christians should ?let things be? and when do you think they should be more proactive?

8. James tells Lexie there is no shame for her in her story. Is there an area in your life that you have experienced false shame? How did you overcome it?

9. Lexie finds comfort in Psalm 139:16. Is there a particular verse that has brought you comfort? What is it and why?

10. Lexie is intrigued with the both the word ?kinship? and its concept. Have you found kinship in any unexpected places? What impact has it had on your life?

Author Bio

Mindy Starns Clark is the author of many books, which include the popular *Smart Chick Mysteries*, WHISPERS OF THE BAYOU, SHADOWS OF LANCASTER COUNTY and UNDER THE CAJUN MOON. In addition, Mindy?s plays and musicals have been featured in schools and churches across the United States.

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