

Wanda E. Brunstetter

Lose Your Heart in the Amish Life.

New York Times best-selling author.



### Discussion Questions for *Dear to Me*

1. Melinda's concern for her animal friends caused problems between her and Gabe. Have you ever allowed something like an animal or material possession to come between you and a friend or family member? If so, what did you do to resolve the problem?
2. How did Melinda's desire to become a veterinarian threaten the survival of her relationship with her family? Under what circumstances would it be right to choose a vocation over one's family?
3. Do you think the six years Melinda lived in the English world as a little girl had any influence on her considering going English? How do the early years of our life affect our future decisions?
4. Why did Melinda call her stepfather, "Papa Noah?" Do you think it bothered Noah or affected their relationship in any way?
5. Do you think Melinda felt cheated out of the education she could have had if she'd remained living in the English world during her growing up years?
6. How did Melinda's mother feel when she found out Melinda was considering leaving the Amish faith? Did she think her own choices from the past were coming back to haunt her?
7. Have you ever tried to influence your children's choices? Have you ever blamed their poor choices on yourself? If so, how did it affect your relationship?
8. Was Gabe wrong for not wanting to leave the Amish faith in order to marry Melinda? Did it mean he didn't love her enough, or were his reasons for wanting to remain Amish justified?

9. Was Dr. Franklin wrong in encouraging Melinda to leave the Amish faith so that she could get the necessary training to become a vet? Would it have helped if he'd had a better understanding of the Amish way of life?

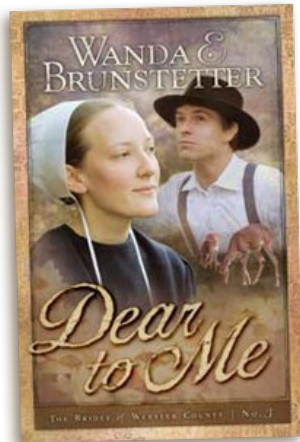
10. Both Melinda and Gabe did some growing in this book, both spiritually and emotionally. List some ways you saw them grow.

11. Since Melinda was an animal lover, and Gabe liked to hunt, his hunting put a strain on their relationship. If they had come to some kind of a compromise about this sooner, do you think it would have affected Melinda's desire to leave the Amish faith?

12. Did reading this book, set in a small, very plain Amish community, teach you anything new about the Amish way of life?

13. What spiritual lessons did you learn by reading *Dear to Me*?

14. What was your favorite passage of scripture from the book and why?



Wanda Brunstetter is an award-winning romance novelist who has led millions of readers to lose their heart in the Amish life. She is the author of almost 50 books with more than 5 million copies sold. Many of her books have landed on the top bestseller lists, including the *New York Times*, *Publisher's Weekly*, *CBA*, *ECPA*, and *CBD*. Wanda is considered one of the founders of the Amish fiction genre, and her work has been covered by national publications, including *Time Magazine* and *USA Today*.

For more information, visit [www.WandaBrunstetter.com](http://www.WandaBrunstetter.com)

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