

Wanda E. Brunstetter

Lose Your Heart in the Amish Life.

New York Times best-selling author.

Discussion Questions for *The Hope Chest*

1. Rachel Beachy had been in love with her sister's boyfriend for some time, and even though Silas showed no interest in her, she continued to hope that he would eventually love her, too. How did hoping for something such as Rachel did affect her relationship with God? With her sister, Anna? With Silas?

2. Do you think Rachel would have longed for Silas's love if she hadn't seen that Anna didn't care for him? Was it wrong for her to hope for a relationship with Silas?

3. Why didn't Silas realize sooner that Anna wasn't in love with him? Was there something he could have done to keep Anna from falling in love with Reuben and leaving the Amish faith?

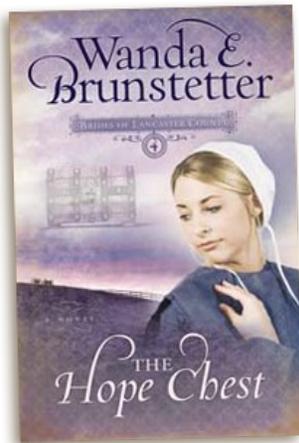
4. Did Anna leave the Amish faith because she really wanted to, or because she loved Reuben and knew it was the only way to be with him? Have you ever done something you really didn't want to do in order to please someone else? Were there any consequences, good or bad, from that decision?

5. Was Anna justified in hiding the truth about her and Reuben's relationship from her family? How might someone in a similar situation handle things so that less people would be hurt?

6. Was Rachel a better choice for Silas than Anna? What were the things about Rachel that made him disinterested at first? What finally made him realize he was in love with Rachel?

7. Was Anna's father justified in not speaking to her, even though the shunning didn't require that of him? Have you ever felt shunned by a family member? How did it make you feel? What steps did you take for reconciliation?

8. What caused Rachel to see that she had been hoping for the wrong thing? How did Rachel grow spiritually once she realized where her hope should be?
9. How did the death of Rachel's youngest brother bring the family closer? Have you ever experienced a similar situation, in which God used a bad situation for His good?
10. Which character grew the most, Rachel or her sister Anna? What specific ways did that character grow?
11. What was your favorite passage of Scripture in this book?
12. What line from *The Hope Chest* caused the greatest reaction in you, whether positive or negative?
13. What lesson from life did you learn from reading this book?



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

© 2011 Wanda Brunstetter. All rights reserved.