

Wanda E. Brunstetter

Lose Your Heart in the Amish Life.

New York Times best-selling author.

### Discussion Questions for *On Her Own*

1. It's never easy being on our own, but sometimes we choose to do it. What do you think was the main reason Barbara Zook wanted to provide for her boys on her own?
2. What does the Bible say about trying to do things in our own strength?
3. How can we know when it's time to ask others for help?
4. Barbara's friend, Faith, realized that Barbara was going through postpartum depression and wanted to help, even though Barbara hadn't asked for help and seemed to want to do everything on her own. How can we know when our friends have a need if they don't ask, and what are some things we might do to offer support and ease a new mother's burdens?
5. Because of the negative way some children reacted to Paul Hilty over the years, he was convinced that he wouldn't make a good father. Therefore, he'd decided that he would probably never marry. How can the response of other people affect the way we see ourselves? Is there anything we can do to help bolster our self-confidence?
6. When Paul went to work in Barbara's harness shop, he thought he would be in charge of things. But often, when Barbara came out to the shop, they ended up in a disagreement. What do you think was the main reason for this? Was it because Barbara didn't like Paul's ideas, or was Barbara afraid of being forced to give up the harness shop she'd fought so hard to keep?
7. Zachary and Joseph, two of Barbara's boys, took an immediate liking to Paul. But from the beginning, there was conflict between Paul and Barbara's oldest, Aaron. What do you think was the source of the problem? Did it have to do with Paul's inability to relate to children, or was it that Aaron resented Paul, who he thought was trying to take his father's place in the harness shop?

8. When a child loses a parent, he or she will often feel angry and abandoned. What are some ways we can reach out to children who have lost a parent?

9. Bishop Frey, a recent widower, was looking for a wife and mother to help raise his daughters. He saw Barbara as the perfect candidate, since she had been left to raise four children of her own and needed someone to care for her and the boys. However, the bishop was not in love with Barbara, nor she with him. Is it ever a good thing for someone to marry merely for the sake of convenience?

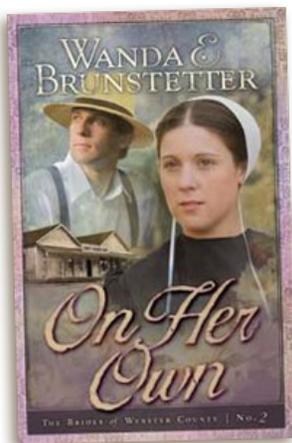
10. What happened to make the bishop finally realize that Barbara wasn't the woman he should marry?

11. How did Barbara finally come to realize that she needed to give up the control she'd been fighting to keep and accept help from others?

12. How did Paul's decision to quit doing farm work and move to Pennsylvania to learn the harness trade several years ago affect his relationship with his father?

13. Sometimes, when grown children don't do what their parents expect them to do, relationships are torn apart. How can parents of grown children express their disappointments without ruining their relationships or making the grown child feel as if the parent disapproves of everything they do?

14. What truths or lessons from life did you learn from reading *On Her Own*? What passages of scripture used in the story spoke to your heart?



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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