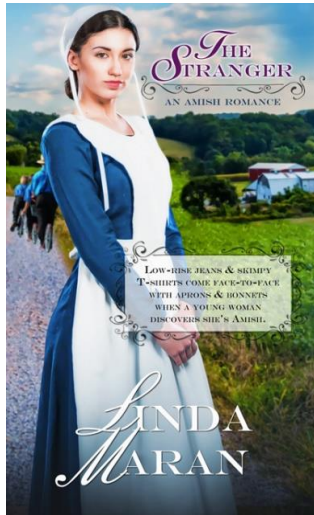


Discussion Questions



THE STRANGER

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About the Book

When Kristen Esh loses her mom in a tragic accident months before her eighteenth birthday, she suddenly finds herself among Amish relatives she never knew she had. The dramatic change from the Jersey Shore to the remote Stone Arabia in upstate New York is difficult enough, but abiding by the Amish rules and lifestyle is a challenge unlike any other.

When anonymous notes begin to arrive for her to go back to where she came from, Kristen longs for her past life and her mom. As she discovers secrets that unravel her true identity, she finds an unlikely ally in John Wagler, the step-son of her aunt. He lessens Kristen's fears and encourages her faith.

Interwoven with gradual revelations is the growing love between Kristen and John. One that encourages forgiveness and helps seal Kristen's fate.

TITLE: The Stranger
Discussion:

Question 1: Have you ever felt like a stranger? When?

Answer 1: At a new job. In high school when I didn't always fit in. With a group of people who do not share the same values or faith.

Question 2: What steps did Kristen take to deal with feelings of not fitting in?

Answer 2: She did her best to adapt and learn from the differences around her.

Question 3: Kristen takes the chance to trust in John. What brings her to this point?

Answer 3: She sensed that John was tuned into her feelings and truly cared about her. His faith-filled thoughts about life and kind character portrayed a trustworthy person.

Question 4: How would it feel having to suddenly adapt to an entirely different life style and place?

Answer 4: Shocking. Scary. Surreal.

Question 5: Can you sense Kristen's urgency to leave her new unfamiliar home? How?

Answer 5: Yes. She continues to hope that her boyfriend, Derick will come and take her back to her former life. When he doesn't come through. She hopes for an inheritance to free her from her situation once she is of age.

Question 6: How did her new family affect Kristen's feelings about her situation?

Answer 6: Their example of gratitude and hard work for God and one another allowed her to see the value of a real family and community.

Question 7: Kristen didn't pretend to be what she wasn't. How did she portray that trait?

Answer 7: She wouldn't wear Plain clothes until she felt true to herself, God, family and John.

Question 8: Why did Kristen begin to feel useful in her Amish lifestyle?

Answer 8: She saw that everything she did or did not do affected others. Her chores counted for everyone, not just herself.

Question 9: How did Jacob's forgiveness of his sister's past actions affect Kristen?

Answer 9: Jacob's forgiveness gave witness to a true Christian spirit. He didn't let resentment rule his life.

Question 10: Could 'home' be about a place as much as its people? Was this Kristen's realization?

Answer 10: Yes. Kristen knew that her former home by the ocean would not be the same without her mom and friends. She learned that 'home' was where people cared for her and she them.

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