



DISCUSSION GUIDE

Beside Still Waters

By Tricia Goyer

Courtesy of www.TriciaGoyer.com and B&H Books

1. What is one thing you learned about the Amish lifestyle that you didn't know before?
2. What do you think was Marianna's main reason for deciding to move with her family?
3. Marianna discovered that the Englischers were different than she imagined. What were some of these differences?
4. Even though Marianna is an Amish character how are you similar to her?
5. What secondary character did you connect with the most? Why?
6. In the course of this story, Marianna realized that her gifts and talents could help others. How do you think using her gifts changed Marianna in ways she never expected?
7. How is the quilt a symbol of Marianna's journey?
8. God calls us to honor our father and our mother. Do you think Marianna honoring them benefited her? Was there any way it hindered her?
9. Marianna planned to live in one place her whole life, marry and have children, yet the move to Montana changed her plans. Has there ever been a time in your life when things didn't go as you imagined? What did you learn during the process?

10. What do you think is one of the major themes of this novel?
11. The Montana setting is unique to Amish novels. What did you appreciate most about this setting? Is it a place you'd like to visit?
12. Isaiah 43:18-19 says, "*Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?*" How does this verse apply to Marianna's physical circumstances? How does it apply to her spiritual transformation?
13. Through the course of this novel, Marianna learned that God cares more about her heart than her tasks. Has God ever called you to focus more on Him than the things you're doing for him? When? What was the result?
14. Romans 12:2 says, "*Be not conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind that ye may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*" What do you appreciate about the Amish being separate from the world? What do you question about their choices?
15. Marianna wrote circle letters to keep in touch with her friends. If you could write a letter to a friend sharing about this book, what would you say?
16. Marianna's relationship with her parents was strained over something that happened before her birth. What types of things have influenced your family in the way they interact with each other?
17. Marianna's emotions are torn between two very different men. What are some of the differences between Aaron and Ben?
18. Over time, Ben points Marianna to the gentle love of Christ. Who has been a positive spiritual influence in your life?

Find more discussion guides, download sample chapters, and get information on new releases at www.TriciaGoyer.com!