

# **The Last Bride, The READING GROUP GUIDE**

***The Last Bride* by Beverly Lewis**

## **Readers' Discussion Questions**

1. How do you think Tessie would have reacted had her father been open about his reason for opposing a marriage to Marcus?
2. Marcus persuades Tessie that it is God's will for them to elope to be together, despite her parents' disapproval. Talk about a time when you decided to do something despite the disapproval of your family or friends. Did you have any later regrets?
3. In some ways, Mandy has allowed dwelling on her past to prevent her present happiness. Has there been an instance where you have found yourself doing that in your own life? Discuss.
4. Despite her pregnancy, Tessie is reluctant to tell the People about her marriage to Marcus in part because she is afraid they won't believe her without proof. Have you ever been in a situation where you found it difficult to be truthful? What did you do?
5. Genetic diseases and birth defects are a very real part of present-day Amish life. What is their view of such things, and how does it compare to your own view? the view of many modern Englisher communities?
6. Describe some of the reactions to Tessie's pregnancy. Were you surprised by anyone's response? Whose?
7. Compare Marcus and Levi. Did you prefer one to the other? If so, which one and why?
8. Like most siblings, Tessie and Mandy have a complex relationship. What are some strengths of their relationship? some weaknesses?
9. Dawdi Dave cautions Tessie to consider the legacy she is creating for her children and grandchildren by being unwilling to confess. How has the legacy of your parents or grandparents affected you?