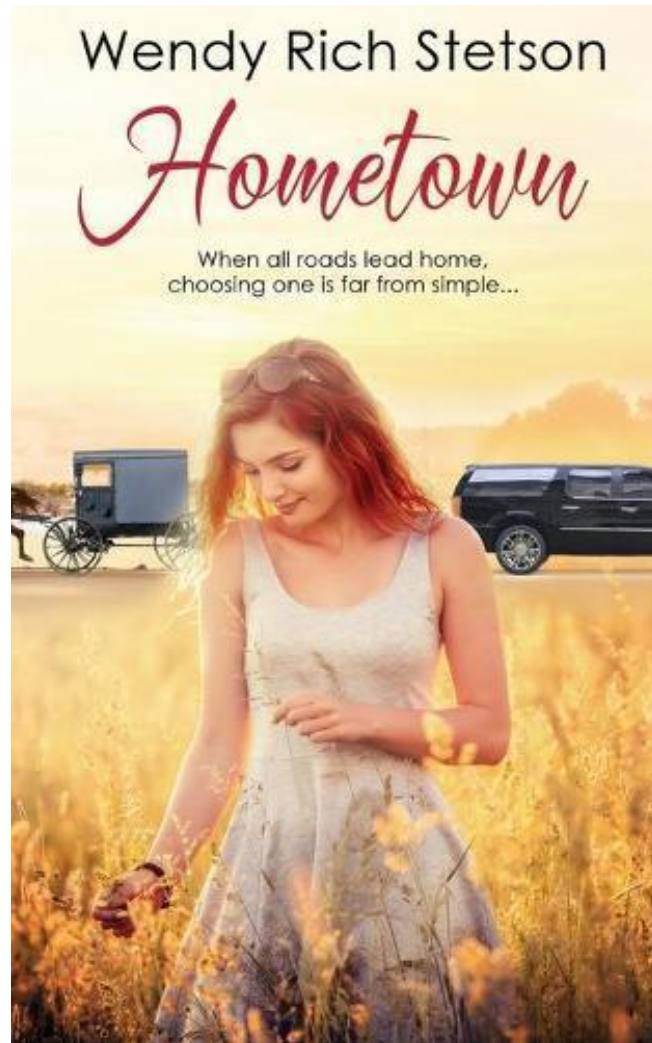


# HOMETOWN

A BOOK CLUB GUIDE



## QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

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1. Tessa's friendships with other women, especially her old friend Jenn and her new friend Claire, are featured prominently in the story. Both women express strong opinions about Tessa's relationships with men. How do these friendships help Tessa during this stormy period of her life? How do they hurt? What does the book suggest about the importance of female friendships?
2. Thomas Wolfe famously wrote, "you can't go home again." Do you think this statement is true? Why or why not?
3. When Jonas chooses to leave the Amish faith and be with Tessa, he is shunned, giving up his family, his community, and his faith tradition. If you were in Jonas's situation, would you make the same choice? What would you give up for love?
4. Tessa's decision to leave Green Ridge and Jonas calls to mind the old saying, "if you love someone, let them go." Do you think this statement is true? Why or why not?
5. Upon moving home to Green Ridge, Tessa finds herself in a love triangle of sorts. Her relationships impact not only herself, but many others, including the two men, their friends and their families. Do you think she made the right choice?
6. When Tessa is fired and her plans to move to New York City fall through, she finds herself back home with no job prospects and no plan. She fears being stuck in her hometown at the same time she's afraid to move to someplace new. Did you move away from your hometown? What was that decision like?

## TESSA'S BLUEBERRY CAKE

1 ½ c flour

1 tsp baking powder

½ tsp salt

2 eggs, separated

½ c shortening

1 c sugar

⅓ c milk

1 tsp vanilla

1 ½ c floured blueberries

Heat oven to 350 degrees.

Sift flour, baking powder, and salt together. Beat egg whites stiff and set aside.

Cream shortening, sugar, vanilla, and egg yolks.

Add dry ingredients alternately with milk.

Fold in egg whites and floured blueberries.

Pour batter into a greased and floured 9" by 9" pan and sprinkle lightly with sugar.

Bake for 34 - 40 minutes.

## A *HOMETOWN* PLAYLIST

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“Homemade” by Jake Owen

“Kinfolks” by Sam Hunt

“Home” by Philip Phillips

“What a Wonderful” World by Art Garfunkel

“My Hometown” by Bruce Springsteen

“All of Me” by Ella Fitzgerald

“IDK” by Ali Gatie

“Golden” by Harry Styles

“Castle on the Hill” by Ed Sheeran

“Kiss Me” by Sixpence None the Richer

“Home” by Edith Whiskers

“Marry Me” by Train

Listen to the *Hometown* Playlist on Spotify:

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/4a0QR3ZrT7BLH7XLGDuQ6w?si=264cb0f2f3924435>

# A PHOTO TOUR OF GREEN RIDGE

## AKA MY HOMETOWN: LEWISBURG, PA

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Tessa's House



Richard's House



# The Green Ridge Farmers' Market



## Green Ridge College Library



## Softee Freez



## Downtown Green Ridge



## Judy's Restaurant





## JONAS RISHEL'S BUGGY



## THE LINCOLN LOG HOUSE



## AN AMISH FARM STAND



## CENTRAL PA FARM AND GREEN RIDGES



*Heartsong Hills*, book 2 in the Hearts of the Ridge series, is coming soon from The Wild Rose Press. Catch up with Tessa and Jonas while you follow Jonas's sister Nora on an unexpected journey to healing and a well-deserved happily ever after.

Here's a sneak peek!

Amish girls don't dance. Dancing is against the rules, and Nora Beiler always follows the rules...until the day a runaway logging truck shatters her world forever. Desperate to heal from the accident, she enrolls in Shuffle off to Fitness, an exercise class at the local senior center. She never dreamed it was a tap-dancing class...or just how much she'd love to dance.

When down-on-his-luck country music star Tucker McClure joins the class in his grandfather's place, Nora's world turns upside down again. Tucker is laughter and music and a quicksilver temper hiding a dark secret. Dancing by his side, she learns just how easily rules can be broken.

Will the past drive Nora and Tucker apart? Or can love bridge the gap between hearts and worlds?

## TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE AMISH

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The following are some wonderful resources to deepen your knowledge of Amish life and culture

To Read: [Amish Women](#) by Louise Stoltzfus

To Listen: [What I Learned from the Amish](#) by Donald Kraybill

To Watch: [The Amish](#) by PBS American Experience

## STAY UP TO DATE

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Keep up to date with all the Hearts of the Ridge news by signing up for my monthly newsletter. You'll be the first to hear book news, participate in exclusive subscriber-only giveaways, be able to sign up for my street team to receive advance review copies of my books, and get fun little messages from me!

Sign up at: <http://wendyrichtetson.com/blog/index.php/contact/>

