

THE KOMMANDANT'S GIRL

Book Club Discussion Questions

1. What do you think about Emma's choices in the book? Were they believable, given the circumstances she faced? What were her other options?
2. Do you think the ends that Emma was seeking justified the means, i.e., her choices and actions?
3. Despite being only nineteen years old, Emma seemed wise beyond her years. Did her character change throughout the story? How?
4. What was the most difficult challenge faced by Emma? Do you think you would be capable of making such decisions if you were in her shoes?
5. What role does Krysia play in the story? Lukasz? How do you think they affected Emma, and how might her situation have turned out without them in her life?
6. Do you agree with Emma's decision to keep the paternity of her unborn child a secret from her husband? Why or why not?
7. Emma kept secrets from both of the men in her life—the Kommandant and Jacob. Do you think real intimacy is possible in such circumstances?
8. In a perfect world, what do you think Emma genuinely wanted to happen between her and Georg, and between her and Jacob?
9. How do you think Marta felt about Emma? Do you think her feelings for Jacob compromised her mission with the resistance? Do you believe that there was more to her relationship with Jacob than she let on to Emma?
10. At the end of the book, Emma and Lukasz were escaping to freedom. In your mind, how do their lives turn out? Where do you think Emma winds up one month after the end of the book? One year? Five years?
11. Pam Jenoff is careful to portray the Kommandant as a sympathetic character, despite his allegiance with the Nazi party. Did you like his character? Were you able to look beyond his political ties and feel sympathy for him? Why or why not?

