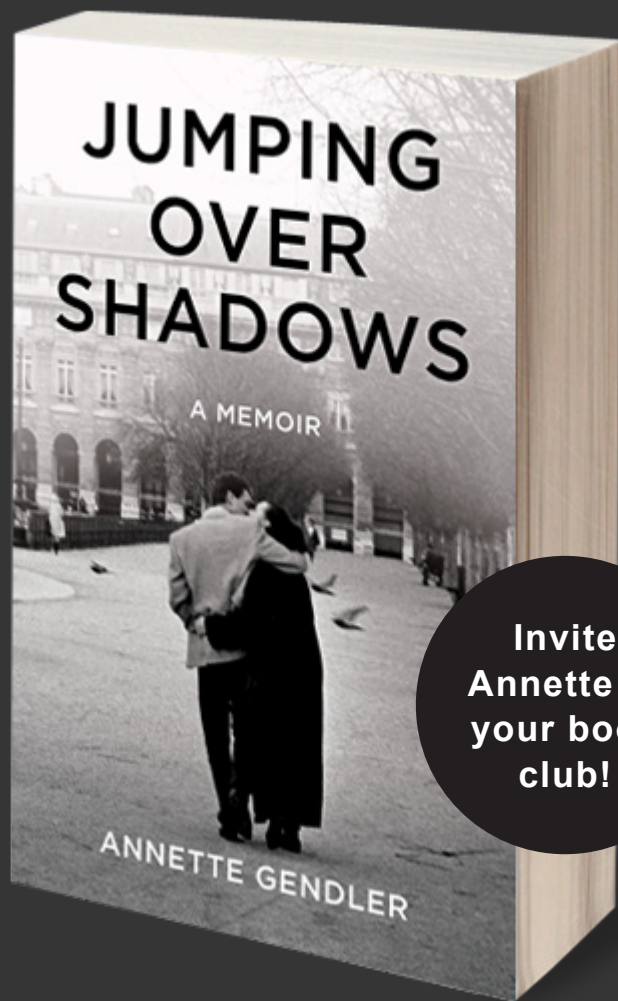


# Annette Gendler

AUTHOR

"In this extraordinary work, Annette Gendler illuminates the borders and meeting points between Judaism and Christianity, Germans and Jews, American Jews and Israeli Jews. Writing with eloquent precision, she reminds us why converts to Judaism are among the most precious gifts to the Jewish people. This book confirms Annette Gendler as an indispensable Jewish voice for our time."

--Yossi Klein Halevi, author of *Like Dreamers*, Senior fellow, Shalom Hartman Institute, Jerusalem



**Invite  
Annette to  
your book  
club!**

## BOOK CLUB KIT

**Discover additional materials from Annette inside this kit to help make your book club a success!**

# Suggested Discussion Questions

## JUMPING OVER SHADOWS

**“The ghosts of the past haunt a woman’s search for herself in this thoughtful, poignant memoir about the transformative power of love and faith.”**

**-Hillary Jordan, author of *Mudbound* and *When She Woke***

### **General**

1. Why do you think this title was chosen for the book?
2. What did you find surprising about the facts introduced in this book?

### **Love & Family**

3. What do Harry and Annette have in common despite coming from different backgrounds?
4. Who do you think made the greater sacrifice to make their love work and why?
5. Presenting parents with a fait accompli is a theme in *Jumping Over Shadows*. Do you think parents should have a voice in their children’s choice of life partner?
6. What similarities do you see between Resi’s love story and Annette’s?

### **Responsibility**

7. Do you think Karl did the right thing regarding Resi’s request in the chapter “A Quarter and a Half?”
8. Is Resi a villain or a hero?
9. What differences do you see between how Annette managed her life and how Karl did?
10. Consider the epigraph by Annette’s grandfather. Why do you think the author chose it?
11. *Jumping Over Shadows* is dedicated to the author’s children. What do you think this dedication implies for the author’s family?

12. What themes come full circle in the epilogue?
13. Have you encountered the phenomenon of history repeating itself in your own life?
14. How have the experiences of your parents and grandparents affected your life?
15. Do you agree with the book's proposition that sometimes keeping a secret is beneficial?
16. There is the saying that when fate closes a door, it opens a window, and Annette experiences this after the death of her father. Have you experienced such an instance?

### **Cultural Identity**

17. How important do you think it is to hold on to cultural heritage?
18. Does Annette really discard her background?
19. How did you relate to the different locations in the book?
20. Annette's grandparents had a strong sense of home. What role does being from a specific place play in your life?
21. Have you ever gone back to where your family is from, or an old neighborhood? Why is this such a powerful experience?

### **For a Jewish audience:**

1. How did Guido seem to think of his Jewish heritage, and how did the next generation, namely Harry's parents, think of theirs? What differences do you see and why?
2. Has the Holocaust defined parts of your life?
3. Annette defines what being Jewish means for her. What does it mean for you?

# Annette Gendler

AUTHOR



ANNETTE GENDLER is the author of the memoir *Jumping Over Shadows*, the story of a German-Jewish love that overcame the burdens of the past. Her writing and photography have appeared in the *Wall Street Journal*, *Tablet Magazine*, *Kveller*, *Bella Grace*, and *Artful Blogging*, among other publications. She teaches memoir writing at StoryStudio Chicago and served as the 2014-15 writer-in-residence at the Hemingway Birthplace Home in Oak Park, IL.

Annette would love to join your book club! Invite Annette at: [agendler@mindspring.com](mailto:agendler@mindspring.com)

## Connect with Annette

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