

Discussion Questions for “The Sisters Weiss”  
Courtesy of Naomi Ragen

1. How are Rose and Pearl brought up? What are the elements you find positive, negative?
2. How would you describe the relationship of the parents to their children? What do they expect from them? In what way is this different, similar to the way in which you were brought up?
3. Given her upbringing, can you envision Rose’s life having turned out very differently? In what way would this have been better for her? In what way would it have been worse?
4. What relationship does Rose have with the men in her life? In what way does her upbringing play a role in these relationships, and in what way is it very different?
5. How would you describe the relationship between Rose and Pearl as children, and then as adults? In what way does this evolve, and in what way does it stay the same?
6. How would you describe the role religion plays in the way the sisters’ lives play out?
7. How would you describe the role of the Kavod Harav in this story? What do you see as the real motivation behind his behavior?
8. In what way are Hannah and her cousin Rivka the same, different? In what way does their relationship mimic that of their mothers? In what way is it different?
9. What is Hannah's thesis trying to say about women? In what way does it relate to the novel?
10. How did you feel about the ending of this book? In what way would you have changed it? In what way did you find it satisfying?

