



1. How does Sarah's relationship with her own mother affect the relationship she forms with Emma?
2. Put yourself in Sarah's shoes. What would you have done after seeing Amy's treatment of Emma at the airport? In Emma's backyard?
3. Why does Sarah risk so much to save a child she doesn't know? Did she save Emma? Or did she carry out her own brand of vigilante justice?
4. Does Amy deserve to have her daughter taken from her?
5. Is it fair to label Sarah a kidnapper, or is there such a thing as a positive kidnapping?
6. What do you think is the main or central source of conflict between Amy and Emma? Does there have to be one to trigger Amy's reactions or to justify Sarah's actions?
7. Compare the relationships of Sarah and Ethan, and Amy and Richard. How do the relationships differ based on romantic partnerships versus parental obligations? Would Amy and Richard be happy without children? Would Sarah and Ethan have been committed if Sarah had gotten pregnant before they broke up?
8. Because Emma brings out the worst in Amy, do you think she will eventually bring out the worst in Sarah, or are children different with different caretakers?
9. Do you think Emma will have a better life with Sarah, even though she's not her biological mother?
10. How does Sarah change fundamentally as a character from a career-focused woman to someone who's willing to risk everything for a child? How does Amy change through the absence of her daughter?
11. Do you empathize with Amy?

*Discussion
Questions*



12. What bearing does Amy's supposed past lives have on her current one? What makes her obsessed with her past, as opposed to her present and future?
13. So much of *Not Her Daughter* is centered around mothers, but what role do the fathers—Sarah's father, Richard; Ethan's grandfather; and Amy's nonexistent one—play in shaping those they parent/ed? What does having one predominant parent in each character's life say about the influence and effect in raising a child?
14. Did Ethan make the right judgment call in turning in Sarah? If not, in what way do you think he should have handled it?
15. In this technologically advanced age, are you surprised Sarah doesn't get caught?
16. Where will all the characters be in ten years? What does Sarah's, Amy's, and Emma's life look like?
17. Do you think Emma will grow up knowing Sarah kidnapped her, or will she see it differently? Will Sarah ever tell her what really happened, from an adult's point of view? Should she?
18. Does Sarah deserve to get away with what she's done?
19. Do you think Sarah kidnapped Emma as a means to save herself as an abandoned child?
20. What do you think of Amy's decision to let Sarah keep Emma? Is this the right decision for her life, or the ultimate selfish (or selfless) act? Does Amy's permission erase Sarah's "act" of kidnapping?
21. What does it really mean to be a mother?
22. Who is Emma's real mother and why?