

# Between: An Amish Boy's Odyssey

**Book Background:** John Yoder traces the arc of a life journey that takes him into worlds so far removed from his Amish boyhood that he could scarcely have imagined them. The journey would take him from Virginia's pastoral farmlands to the remote wildness of Ontario's far North, from the sands of Southern Africa's Kalahari Desert to Central Valley of California and the nearby Sierra Nevada mountains, then to the wide-open spaces of the Kansas prairies before returning "back east," nearer to the place of his childhood.

The arc of his inner journey takes him farther still: from his one-room Amish high school (from which he never graduated) to graduate degrees and to teaching and leadership roles in universities in the US and abroad and to lecturing and consulting across the globe. Though still rooted in the identity inherited from his rural Amish forebears, he has carried those roots into worlds they couldn't have imagined. Places and people are both important to Yoder as he traces the threads of his origins through a life of borders and border crossings and of negotiating the spaces in between them. His story explores how we are shaped by the worlds in which we live, yet how, paradoxically, our personal identity can change but remain the same in a universe of multiple worlds.

**Biography:** John Yoder is retired from a career as a professor, dean and chief academic officer at universities in Africa and several American states. He has traveled widely as a consultant and lecturer in the United States and abroad. Since retirement his interests have shifted, among other things, to genealogical research and writing. He has a bachelors degree from Eastern Mennonite College (now University) and a masters and Ph.D. in Psychology and Education from the University of Virginia. He and his wife now live in a retirement community in a suburb of Baltimore, MD. They have two sons and a daughter and four grandchildren.

**Endorsements:** During one of his myriad moves, Yoder stated: "[I feel] somehow being nowhere in the middle of somewhere." From a shy but curious Amish boy to a high-level administrator at two Universities, Yoder crosses cultural boundaries that leave him almost always feeling outside looking in, "somehow being nowhere in the middle of somewhere." From Red Lake, Canada, to Botswana, Africa, Yoder paints beautiful pictures of his experiences and his thought processes in vivid and intriguing detail. This memoir really captures the interest of any reader who wants to understand intercultural relationships and knowledge. I highly recommend it.

*Don Clymer (Writer, cross-cultural educator. Eastern Mennonite University faculty emeritus)*

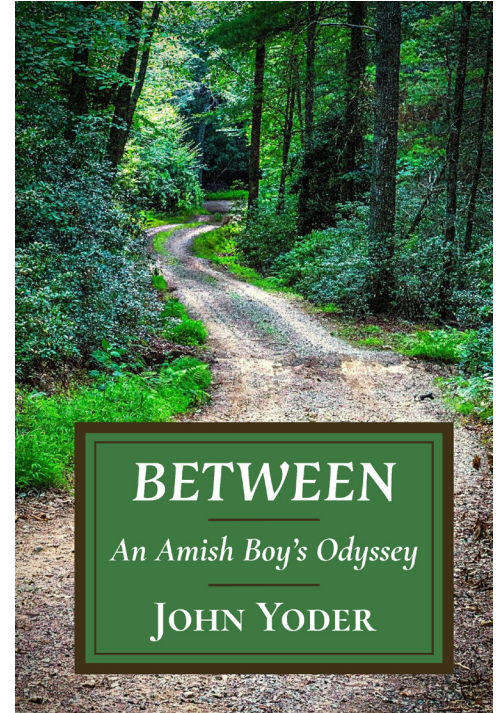
**Publication Date:** May 23, 2025

**EAN:** 9798992890730

**Price:** 18.99 (US); 26.27 (Canada)

**Page Count:** 186

**Format:** Paperback and Ebook



**BISAC:** RELIGION / Christianity / Amish; EDUCATION / Administration / Higher; Biography and Autobiography / Cultural and Regional