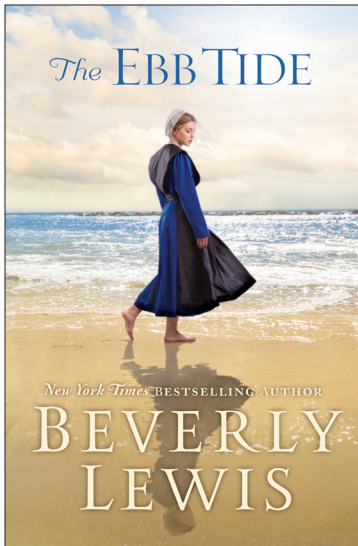




QUESTIONS & ANSWERS WITH BEVERLY LEWIS



The Ebb Tide

by Beverly Lewis

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1. Twenty years ago, you published your first Amish novel, *The Shunning*, which established a remarkably popular genre of fiction. What has this writing experience taught you?

The reception of *The Shunning* truly exceeded my every hope, and it's humbling to see how popular it remains to this day. At its core, every book I write is for God's glory, as well as about lifting the spirit and stirring the heart. Themes of love and loss; the need for courage and hope; the value of friendship, faith, and family—these things are universal, and despite their differences, readers from all walks of life relate to my Plain characters.

2. *The Ebb Tide* is set in a New Jersey beach community—not your typical setting for Amish fiction. What inspired the unexpected location?

During my childhood in Lancaster County, I fell head over heels for the Jersey Shore, where I spent some wonderful summer weekends. Cape May in particular was a favorite destination. While on a recent book tour, I revisited this most charming seaside town and felt compelled to claim it as the setting for this book.

Readers may be surprised to realize that Cape May and other eastern coastal towns are popular vacation destinations for the Amish and other Plain visitors. The Amish may travel less frequently than we Englishers do, but that doesn't mean they don't take the occasional short trip outside of farm country—although the protagonist in this story would like to travel *much* farther than that!

3. Intriguing! Can you tell us more about that main character?

Sallie Riehl has long dreamed of seeing more of the world beyond her cloistered Paradise Township, Pennsylvania, community. At nineteen, Sallie is at the age of baptism into the Old Order church, and her family is eager to see her settle down. But when a well-to-do family offers Sallie an opportunity to nanny for the summer in Cape May, she accepts, even though it means forgoing baptism yet another year, as well as leaving behind a would-be beau. Sallie leaves home anticipating a summer unlike any she has experienced before . . . one that will challenge her in ways she hasn't anticipated.

4. Your books have a wonderful gift for resonating with readers at the heart level. Does *The Ebb Tide* explore any particular faith themes?

Yes, I suspect one or two may have worked their way into this story!

All of us bump into those moments in life when we are uncertain about our next step. No matter how uncertain we are, God is always there as a constant, even when we aren't aware of His presence. If we put our faith in Him, we can trust Him not only with our future but with the smaller matters of daily life.

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5. Over the years of your successful writing career, your books have been fixtures on bestseller lists like the *New York Times*, and to date you have been published in twelve languages. How do you explain the widespread appeal of your fiction?

Honestly, only God could have orchestrated all I've experienced as a writer. There are no words to express how touched I am by the opportunity to hear from so many wonderful readers from around the world and to be able to share God's love for them through my books. I'm a storyteller at heart, and it's a blessing to have such dedicated reader-friends!

6. Any hints about what you are working on right now?

Of course! I have another stand-alone novel in the works, one that will release this September. *The Proving* tells the story of Amanda Dienner, who hasn't spoken to anyone in her Old Order family in years, including her twin sister. Now an Englisher, Mandy is shocked to learn that her mother has passed away and left her Lancaster County's most popular Amish bed-and-breakfast. But naturally there's a catch: The farmhouse inn will only truly be Mandy's if she is able to successfully run it for one year. Not one to be deterred, she accepts the challenge, then has to deal with the potential fallout when she realizes the inn's loyal clientele expect an *Amish* hostess!

Also, *The Beverly Lewis Amish Coloring Book*, complete with Scripture passages and gems of Amish wisdom, will be available in September, as well.

7. Is there an easy way to keep up to date on your current news?

Thanks to social media, there are many special ways for me to stay in touch with my wonderful reader-friends! To sign up for my free newsletter, readers can visit my Facebook fan page, www.facebook.com/officialbeverlylewis, or my website, www.beverlylewis.com. The website includes book excerpts and trailers, my monthly blog, fun photo galleries, authentic Amish recipes, and news about special appearances, in particular my upcoming Spring 2017 Book Tour, which will take me to library and bookstore events throughout North Carolina and Virginia, beginning April 7. Touring is something I very much enjoy!