



QUESTIONS & ANSWERS WITH BEVERLY LEWIS

1. Two decades have passed since you published *The Shunning*, your first Amish novel, and established an amazingly popular genre of fiction. What have the years since taught you?

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

2. *The Proving* is your first novel set in a bed-and-breakfast, and a more charming location than the Butterfly Meadows Amish Inn would be hard to imagine! Are you a frequent guest at B and Bs?

Oh, there's nothing like a peaceful bed-and-breakfast in an out-of-the-way place—the more rural, the better! Setting a novel in a fictional Lancaster County B and B has long held a great deal of appeal to me. And once I conceived of the idea of a daughter deciding to return from the English world to run her mother's cherished inn...well, I knew I had a real story to tell.

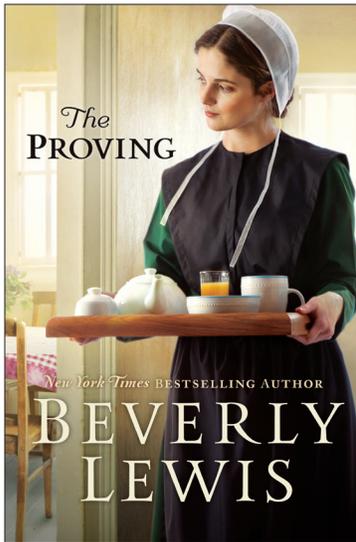
3. Can you share a little more about the plot?

Twenty-three-year-old Amanda Dienner has lived in the English world for five years, so she is shocked to learn her mother has passed away and left *her* Lancaster County's most popular Amish bed-and-breakfast. What's more, the inn will only truly be hers if Mandy can successfully run it for twelve months. Despite misgivings, Mandy accepts the challenge, no matter that it means facing the family and the Old Order community she left behind—or that the inn's clientele expect an *Amish* hostess!

4. Your stories often feature faith themes. Are there any that stand out to you from *The Proving*?

Forgiveness and reconciliation have been a thread throughout many of my books, and this one is no exception. The need to move beyond a difficult past to find healing and hope is a theme that resonates with so many readers at the heart level.

Another strong theme in this book is the need for courage. Both Mandy and my secondary protagonist, Englisher Trina Sutton, find themselves in a place where they need to step outside of their comfort zones. When it comes down to it, it's their willingness to do so that sets the story in motion!



The Proving

by Beverly Lewis

Trade Paper ISBN: 978-0-7642-1966-5

\$15.99; 352 pp.

Hardcover ISBN: 978-0-7642-1990-0

\$22.99; 352 pages

Large Print ISBN: 978-0-7642-1991-7

\$17.99; 448 pages

Ebook ISBN: 978-1-4934-1185-6

On Sale Date: September 5, 2017

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5. Your name makes frequent appearances on bestseller lists like the *New York Times*, and your books have been published worldwide in twelve languages. What do you think of the widespread appeal of your fiction?

Honestly, I still pinch myself! I'm ever grateful for how God has blessed me with the opportunity to share His love through my books; only He could have orchestrated all I've experienced as a writer. Every day I am touched to hear from wonderful reader-friends from around the world. As a storyteller at heart, it's a blessing to have such faithful readers!

6. Can we hope for another novel in the near future?

Definitely! *The Road Home* will release in the spring of 2018. Lena Rose Schwartz never planned to leave her Old Order community in Centerville, Michigan. But then, the nineteen-year-old could not have foreseen the accident that orphaned her and her many siblings. When they are farmed out to various families, Lena Rose learns that it will fall to her to live with relatives in distant Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.

The thought of being separated from her beloved siblings and her beau, Hannes Lehman, is almost more than Lena can bear, but she reassures herself that the arrangement is only temporary, and that she will one day return to her brothers and sisters—and to make a home with Hannes. But doing so may prove far more complicated than she ever imagined.

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

There are many great ways for me to stay in touch with my delightful reader-friends! Readers can visit my Facebook fan page, www.facebook.com/officialbeverlylewis, or my website, www.beverlylewis.com, to sign up for my free newsletter. The website also includes book excerpts and trailers, photo galleries, my monthly blog, authentic Amish recipes, and news about upcoming appearances, in particular my Fall 2017 Book Tour, which will take me to library and bookstore events throughout North and South Carolina beginning September 7. Touring is always a highlight for me because it gives me an opportunity to meet so many wonderful readers!