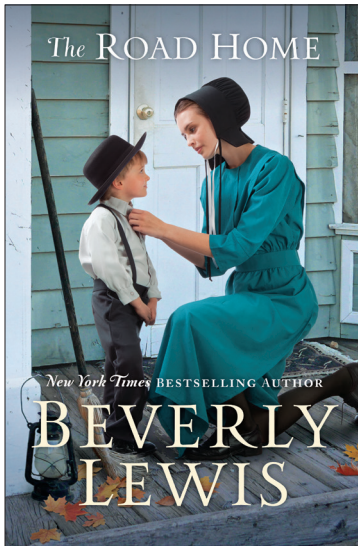




QUESTIONS & ANSWERS WITH BEVERLY LEWIS



The Road Home

by Beverly Lewis

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1. *The Road Home* is your newest stand-alone novel. Can you tell us a little about the story?

After the sudden death of her Amish parents, Lena Rose Schwartz is separated from her nine close-knit siblings and her beau. She consoles herself that her new life in Lancaster County won't be forever. Surely someday soon, she will return to her beloved Centreville, Michigan, and all she has left behind. But even as Lena Rose holds on to hope for a reunion with those she loves most, she discovers that Lancaster holds charms of its own.

2. Centreville, Michigan, is a new setting for you. Why did you choose to anchor part of this book there?

While I have written about many Amish communities over the years, I've never set a book in Michigan, although I had filed away a unique story idea to be set in St. Joseph County, found in the southernmost area of that beautiful state. Then, a year ago, when I became good friends with an Old Order Amish couple from Centreville, I knew it was time to research and write *The Road Home*, which features this thriving Amish settlement established in 1910. The rest is history!

3. Your books truly resonate with readers at the heart level. Does *The Road Home* explore any particular faith themes?

A number of themes interweave throughout this story, but one that comes to mind is the importance of patience and learning to wait on God—difficult for a planner like Lena Rose! Lena Rose wants to return home as soon as possible, but the challenges that arise test her patience, and because she is so far away, she must also learn to trust God to care for her siblings, as well as her own future.

4. Two decades have passed since the publication of your first Amish novel for adults, *The Shunning*. That book launched what became an amazingly popular genre of fiction. In the years since, your name has frequently appeared on bestseller lists like the *New York Times*, and your books—over one hundred and counting!—have been published in twelve languages. What do you think of the widespread appeal of your fiction?

The reception for my writing continues to exceed my greatest expectations. Only God could have orchestrated all that I've experienced as an author; I'm ever grateful for how He has blessed me with the opportunity to share His love through my books. Every day I hear from reader-friends from around the world who relate to my Plain characters and their values of faith, family, and community. As a storyteller, it's a blessing to have such devoted readers!

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

Absolutely! Presently I'm busy writing *The First Love*, which will release in September of 2018. At the tender age of eighteen, sweet-spirited Maggie Esh is in need of some hope. Uncommonly pretty despite struggling with a painful illness, she is used to being treated kindly by the young men of her Old Order Amish church district. Yet no one but Jimmy Beiler ever asks her out, and Maggie wishes she were more like other courting-age girls so she could be sure of his intentions. Does Jimmy truly care for her, or is it pity that moves him?

To make matters worse, Maggie's *Dat* has recently remarried, and while her stepmother is kind, she's much younger than *Mamm*, and she simply doesn't understand Maggie the way *Mamm* did.

When tent revival meetings come to the area, Maggie reconsiders what she knows about faith. Can she learn to trust God even when hope seems a distant dream?

6. What is the best way to keep current on your latest news and book releases?

Social media offers many great ways to stay in touch. To sign up for my free newsletter, readers can visit my website, www.beverlylewis.com, or my Facebook fan page, www.facebook.com/officialbeverlylewis. The website includes story excerpts and book trailers, my monthly blog, photo galleries, authentic Amish recipes, and news about my upcoming Spring 2018 Book Tour, April 4–14, which will take me to bookstores and libraries throughout the Midwest. Touring is something I very much enjoy, since it gives me a chance to connect with my wonderful reader-friends!