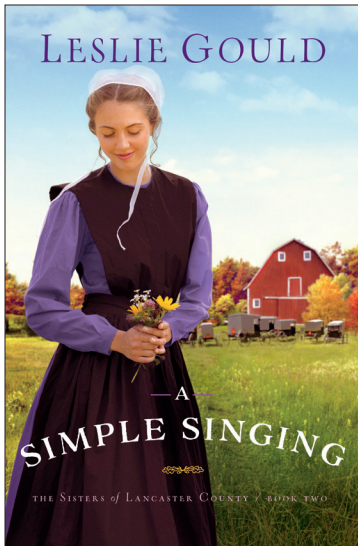




**QUESTIONS & ANSWERS WITH LESLIE GOULD**



**A Simple Singing**

THE SISTERS OF LANCASTER COUNTY #2  
by Leslie Gould

Trade Paper ISBN: 978-0-7642-1970-2  
\$15.99; 368 pp.

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**1. A *Simple Singing* is the second dual-time novel in the SISTERS OF LANCASTER COUNTY series. Who are the protagonists in this story and where do the two parallel stories take them?**

Marie, the middle sister in the Bachmann family, is the heroine of this novel. She's a little self-absorbed at the beginning of the story, but as she hears the historical account of Annie Bachmann, who cared for soldiers after the Battle of Gettysburg, Marie learns from her relative's experience and ends up examining her own life.

**2. The historical thread of the story is set in several different places in Pennsylvania—Lancaster County, Peach Bottom, and Gettysburg. What research did you do to get the chapters set in 1863 right?**

On a trip to Pennsylvania, with my research assistant and driver (who also happens to be my husband), we gathered as much information as we could find on the Amish in the area during the 1860s. I also researched the Underground Railroad in the county and the history of Peach Bottom, along with visiting the present-day village. Next, we traveled to Gettysburg and stayed in a historic inn, visited the cemetery, and spent time on the battlefield. Specifically, we visited a living history exhibit about field hospitals and learned all sorts of information that was very helpful in writing the scenes set in Gettysburg right after the war.

**3. Along with being self-absorbed, Marie is also known for her self-righteousness. Besides Annie Bachmann's story, what else steers Marie away from judgment and toward grace?**

Marie has a good friend, Gordon Martin, who is Mennonite and works as a farmhand for her brother. He also volunteers at a homeless shelter and convinces Marie to visit it with him, which finally opens her eyes to the suffering of others. Although she's courting Elijah Jacobs, the bishop's bad-boy son, Marie can't help but be drawn to Gordon and his empathy, selflessness, and dedication to serving others.

**4. Who is the link between the historical and contemporary threads of the story?**

Aenti Suz, the paternal aunt of the three sisters, is the oral historian of the family. She is the keeper of the stories and chooses carefully when it comes to who and what to tell, being intentional about teaching her nieces just what they need to know to move forward with their lives.

**5. What is the next book in the series and when will it release?**

*A Faithful Gathering*, the third and final book in the series, will release in February 2019. It's about the youngest sister, Leisel, who has left the Amish and Lancaster County to become a nurse. When she returns home, she's faced with several life-changing decisions. As Aenti Suz tells her the story of her Amish grandfather and his time during World War II with both the Civilian Public Service and the American Field Service, Leisel comes to see her own life and her current challenges with more clarity and hope.

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