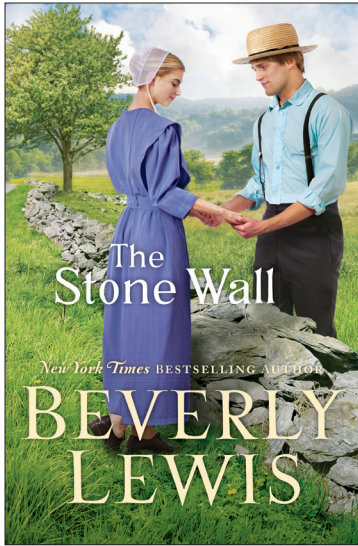


QUESTIONS & ANSWERS WITH BEVERLY LEWIS

The Stone Wall
 by Beverly Lewis

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1. The wall that appears in *The Stone Wall* acts as both a memorable image and an effective metaphor. Where did you find your inspiration?

While there are a few historic stone walls near Strasburg, Pennsylvania, it was actually a coffee table book that originally planted the seed for the wall in my novel. During an autumn stay at a New Hampshire inn, I came across Susan Allport's *Sermons in Stone*, which intrigued me with its many fascinating details about the stone walls of the northeast. As I often do, I filed away my impressions, then later wrote the manuscript titled *The Stone Wall*, with Anna Beachy and her quest for a fresh start.

2. Can you tell us more about Anna Beachy?

Certainly! At just twenty, Anna is beginning a new chapter in her life as a Lancaster County tour guide in the picturesque area where her Plain grandmother once stayed. Unfortunately, due to her grandmother's Alzheimer's, much about her time there is a mystery, other than a vague comment about an old stone wall. As Anna settles into the community, she finds herself befriended by two very different young men—a handsome Mennonite tour guide and a young Old Order widower who manages a horse retreat serving Amish children with special needs.

As Anna grows closer to both men, she's faced with a difficult choice—one in potential conflict with her Beachy Amish parents' expectations. Will she discover true love and the truth about her grandmother's past in Lancaster County? Or will she find only heartbreak?

3. More than two decades have passed since you published your first Amish novel, *The Shunning*, which launched what quickly became a remarkably popular genre of fiction. What has this journey taught you as an author?

The reception for *The Shunning* exceeded my wildest hopes, and it's humbling to see how beloved that novel and its characters remain to this day. Despite the many books I've written in the years since, when I sit down at my desk to write, my prayer remains the same: that my stories bring God glory, as well as lift readers' spirits and touch their hearts. Themes of love and loss; the need for perseverance and hope; the value of friendship, faith, and family—these things are unchanging and universal, and despite their differences from my Plain characters, readers from all walks of life find they can relate to them on that level.

4. What are some themes found in *The Stone Wall* that people will connect to?

Nearly everyone has experienced disappointment and loss, unfortunately, and like Anna, many desire to reinvent themselves and start over as a result. Trusting God for the future and being open to His leading are vital to doing that in a way that helps us to truly grow as people and avoid regrets. We should be ready to prayerfully step out in faith when God brings us opportunities, even when they are unlike anything we might have dreamed up for ourselves.

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5. You are a fixture on bestseller lists like the *New York Times*, and your books have been published in twelve languages. What do you think of your widespread popularity?

I'm honored by the opportunity to get to know so many wonderful readers from around the world—I've met the most delightful people and am so glad to be able to share God's love for them through my books. Truly, only He could have orchestrated the journey I've experienced during my years as a writer, and I'm ever grateful for how He has blessed me. When my first Amish novel was released in 1997, I had no inkling of what lay ahead!

6. Any hints about what you're working on now?

Of course! Presently I'm writing another stand-alone novel, *The Beginning*, which will release in the fall of 2021. Thoughtful and hard-working Susie Mast finds happiness in caring for her sister, Britta, and their widowed mother. Yet nothing about Susie's Old Order Amish existence in Hickory Hollow is simple. A long-ago accident, a family secret, and the one beau that got away . . . Susie's life has been shaped by events beyond her control. But what seems like the end may really be just the beginning.

7. How can we keep up with your latest news and current releases?

Thanks to social media, there are many great ways to stay in touch! To sign up for my newsletter, readers can visit my Facebook fan page, www.facebook.com/officialbeverlylewis, or my website, www.beverlylewis.com. The website also includes book trailers and excerpts, my monthly blog, fun photo galleries, authentic Amish recipes, and the latest news about any upcoming events, whether virtual or in-person!