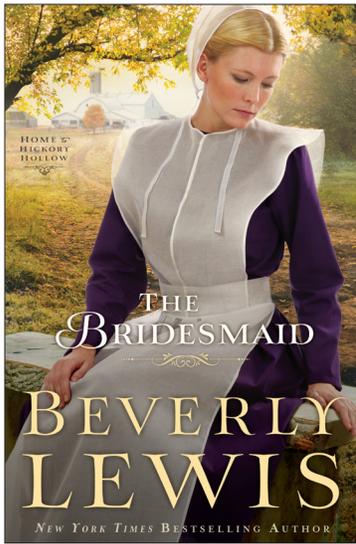




QUESTIONS & ANSWERS WITH BEVERLY LEWIS



The Bridesmaid

HOME TO HICKORY HOLLOW
by Beverly Lewis

Trade Paper ISBN: 978-0-7642-0978-9
\$14.99; 320 pp.

Hardcover ISBN: 978-0-7642-1052-5
\$19.99; 320 pp.

Large Print ISBN: 978-0-7642-1053-2
\$17.99; 416 pp.

Ebook ISBN: 978-1-4412-6039-0; \$14.99
On Sale Date: September 11, 2012

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1. What sets HOME TO HICKORY HOLLOW apart from your previous series?

HOME TO HICKORY HOLLOW is a collection of novels rather than a continuing saga. Each book is a complete story, and readers can read them in any order they choose.

2. HOME TO HICKORY HOLLOW revisits the setting of HERITAGE OF LANCASTER COUNTY—your very first Amish series, and the one that marked the beginning of the “bonnet fiction” craze that continues to this day. Why did you return to that locale?

Hickory Hollow has been very special—and very real—to my readers and me since the 1997 release of *The Shunning*. Thanks to the recent Hallmark movie adaptation of that book, as well as the enormously popular musical, *The Confession Musical*, interest in fictional Hickory Hollow has only grown. This new series offers a window into the lives of some of the most memorable characters from *The Shunning* and its sequels, yet the main characters of each book are new, with compelling stories of their own.

3. Tell us a little about *The Bridesmaid*.

Joanna Kurtz is a young Amishwoman who, in the eyes of her family, typifies the old saying, “Always a bridesmaid, never a bride.” But then Joanna meets handsome Eben Troyer, and the two begin a secret long-distance courtship that is complicated by Eben’s ties to his parents’ farm in Shippshewana, Indiana...and by her own desire to write. (Fiction, of course!) Naturally I could relate to Joanna’s love of writing—it was so much fun to create her!—though her circumstances are unique to someone in an Old Order community.

Readers eager for *The Bridesmaid* can check out the beautiful book trailer my publisher has posted on my website and official Facebook fan page. It offers a wonderful preview of what’s to come!

4. What are some story questions found in *The Bridesmaid*?

How do we balance our dreams with the expectations of people around us? When others put us in a difficult spot with their choices, how might we react gracefully? How can we recognize when it’s time to be patient, and when it’s time to be bold and step out in faith?

5. Your inaugural Amish novel, *The Shunning*, was made into a movie in 2011, as was *The Redemption of Sarah Cain* (titled *Saving Sarah Cain*) in 2007. Are others in the works?

Yes, filming has already wrapped for *Beverly Lewis’ The Confession Movie*, which is scheduled to air mid-May 2013 on the Hallmark channel. Michael Landon, Jr. is once again directing and co-producing this continuation of Katie Lapp’s story from my HERITAGE OF LANCASTER COUNTY series, and I couldn’t be more pleased. Fans who haven’t yet seen the other movies will be glad to know that they are available on DVD.

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6. You have become a fixture on the *New York Times* bestseller list, and your books have been published in eleven languages. How do you feel about your increasing popularity?

Amazed! A general longing for a simpler, less hectic way of life has led to a fascination with the Amish tradition that has surprised and pleased my own Plain relatives. And I'm ever thankful for the opportunity to share God's love through story. Thousands of readers have written to say my novels seem to speak directly to them, that they believe my intimate writing style is for their hearts and eyes alone.

7. What are you working on now?

At present I'm busy writing *The Guardian*, the third novel in HOME TO HICKORY HOLLOW. That book will be available April 2, 2013.

8. How can readers keep up with your work?

They can visit beverlylewis.com or my Facebook fan page, [facebook.com/officialbeverlylewis](https://www.facebook.com/officialbeverlylewis). There they can sign up for my free newsletter, and my website also features my monthly blog, book excerpts, delicious Amish recipes, and news about my September book tour, which will include library and bookstore events in Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan, and Indiana.