

**David
Lewis**



QUESTIONS & ANSWERS WITH DAVID & BEVERLY LEWIS

1. Can you tell us a little bit about the inspiration behind *Child of Mine*?

Some time ago, we stumbled upon several real-life stories about black market adoptions. Both of us were stunned and saddened by the heartbreaking anguish these mothers must endure, and we decided to explore a fictional tale of one such mother, eager to demonstrate her relentless courage, hope, and faith in the search for her little girl.

2. This is your second writing collaboration with your husband, David. What are some of the challenges and rewards of working together on a book?

One of the greatest rewards is being able to brainstorm ideas together—Dave brings a whole new level of life experience and ideas to the writing process, and it's wonderful to have his perspective. Of course, blending our individual writing styles is a challenge, just as it would be for any two writers. It helps that Dave has been a "first reader" for my solo books for many years now, and while I love to write, I also really enjoy the role of editor.

3. Even though this story takes place outside the Plain community, an Amishwoman plays a central part in *Child of Mine*. Tell us more about Laura Mast and her role in the family.

Laura has been with Natalie since she was an infant, and her gentle spirit and Plain ways are Natalie's lifeline during tumultuous times: Laura's much more than a nanny in young Natalie's eyes. But Laura is keeping her own troubled past a secret, and as that mystery unfolds, she has some important decisions to face about her Old Order community and her future.

4. What are some of the themes woven through *Child of Mine*?

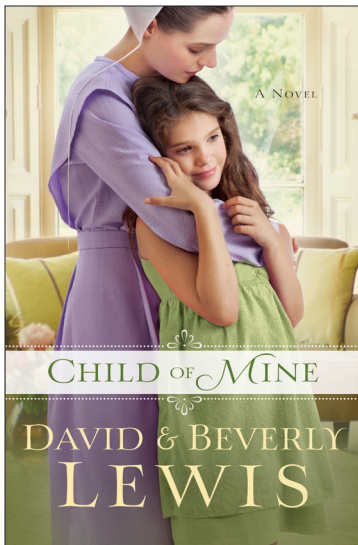
There are parallel themes for several of the characters, but some of the primary ones are forgiveness and redemption, as well as learning to trust God and see where He leads. Even when we fear that God's plans may be different from our own desires, we are wise to follow His lead and rest in the knowledge that He is our best guide.

5. Kelly Maine's search for her daughter has been long and difficult, but she is never without hope. What keeps her going?

Kelly refuses to give up on finding her darling little Emily—her mother-heart would never allow it! Kelly has also learned that the size of her faith doesn't matter as much as the fact that her faith is still alive, like a seed. She leans heavily on the promise in the Gospel of Matthew: "If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you." It's Kelly's job to believe that God will provide when He sees fit.



**Beverly
Lewis**



Child of Mine

by David and Beverly Lewis

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6. We hear that Jack Livingston, one of the main characters in *Child of Mine*, and your husband are both pilots. Do you share that passion for flight?

Uh, not really. Ha! But I DO love to fly commercial—you know, in big jets with more than one engine. I'll leave the excitement of flying single engine to my hubby!

7. You have won dozens of awards and are a regular on the *New York Times* bestseller lists. Why do you think readers are so enthralled with your stories?

The simpler life enjoyed by the Amish has a timeless appeal. In today's hectic world, readers seem to find a real inspiration and peace in that. My fans also tell me how much they appreciate my characters and how they come to life on the page. Readers feel as though they are really getting to know these people through my stories, as if the books are written just for them. That sense of connection is something I strive for in every book, and I thank God for His hand of blessing on my writing journey. I couldn't do it without Him!

8. You've had a busy year! *The Last Bride*, from your popular HOME TO HICKORY HOLLOW series, released in April, and now your fans get to enjoy *Child of Mine*. What are you working on next?

My next stand-alone novel, *The River*, will release September 2. Tilly and Ruth, two formerly Amish sisters, are plagued by unresolved relationships when they return to Lancaster County for their parents' wedding anniversary. I love writing about sister relationships, and the bond between Tilly and Ruth is a particularly deep and memorable one.

Of course *The River* isn't the only novel I'm working on right now. I'm also very busy writing *The Love Letters*, my spring 2015 novel. Like *The River*, it will be a stand-alone story, with a wonderful new cast of characters for readers to get to know.

9. What is the best way for readers to stay current on what you have coming up?

To sign up for my free newsletter, readers can visit my website, www.beverlylewis.com, or my Facebook fan page, www.facebook.com/officialbeverlylewis, where I answer questions related to my writing life and Amish culture. The website includes my monthly blog, book trailers and excerpts, authentic Amish recipes, fun photo galleries, and news about upcoming book tours. I've just returned from a wonderful time meeting readers in Texas and Louisiana, and this fall I will be returning to beautiful Lancaster County as a part of my tour of Pennsylvania and surrounding states. I hope to see many more of my dear reader-friends there!