



The Wish

Beverly Lewis

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A Compelling Story of Friendship from the Top Author in Amish Fiction

Leona Speicher got the "sister" she'd always dreamed of the day Gloria Gingerich and her family moved to Lancaster County Amish farmland. The Arkansas newcomers seem to be everything a devout Plain family should be, and Leona can't help comparing Gloria's engaging young parents to her own.

Leona's cousin shows a romantic interest in Gloria around the same time as Gloria's older brother expresses his fondness for Leona--it seems likely the two young women will marry into each other's families, remaining close friends for life. Thus, Leona is shocked when the Gingeriches suddenly pack up and disappear after being expelled from the church for reasons no one will discuss. Despite Leona's pleas, Gloria goes with them, leaving more than one broken heart behind.

When Gloria unexpectedly contacts Leona after a silence of several years, Leona makes up her mind to persuade her friend to return to Lancaster County and the Amish ways. Leona's fiancé, the deacon's son, is alarmed when Leona decides to go after Gloria. Will Leona's dearest wish lead to her own undoing?

The Wish Details

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From Reader Review The Wish for online ebook

Laura says

My thoughts: First, the disclaimer. "I was provided a free paperback copy of this book. All opinions are my own." That done, as with most readers of Amish fiction I was introduced to Beverly Lewis by her first books and I fell in love. I couldn't wait for the newest Beverly Lewis books to hit the shelves.

THE WISH is a stand-alone women's fiction Amish story. There is no plot, the story is told and not shown and I felt distant from the characters, and worse, I didn't care what happened to them!

The intro - above - says that Beverly Lewis is the top Amish author, I suggest that Ms. Lewis has lost her title. There are so many better Amish authors out there. I won't name names because if I do, they will be MY favorites, and there are Amish authors out there that are fan-favorites and I won't read their books. But if you tried THE WISH and didn't like it, don't give up on the genre. Try another author. However, if you love Beverly Lewis and women's fiction set in Amish country, then give THE WISH a try. Don't take my word for it because your opinion is the one that matters.

Jessica says

While there is romance in this book, please be advised that the romance is not the main focus, nor is the romance anything that a child should not read! There is no sex, and actually, I think there's only like 2-3 scenes where there is any kissing at all. That is it. It's an Amish book, so it's very clean. I really enjoyed the story line behind it. I'm thinking this is the first book of Beverly Lewis's that I have ever read, and I can honestly say that I'm hooked on her writing and her Amish Stories. The Amish life is something that interests me a LOT. Not necessarily because I want to go to that life, I don't think I would ever be accepted, but it's fascinating.

I enjoyed the friendship between Leona and Gloria. Being the only girl with my siblings, I know how Leona must feel to want a sister. However, I never remember being an only child. The brother of mine that is oldest to me is 2 years 9 months younger than I am, and I just don't ever remember life without him in it.

Things happen and it causes Leona and Gloria to lose contact with one another for approximately 3 years, and when they finally reconnected, it became Leona's biggest wish to get Gloria back to The People and The Plain way of life, instead of the English way of life. Leona made a trip from Pennsylvania to Arkansas to see Gloria and when she got there, they were so happy to reconnect. They were able to talk about everything, and by the end of the weekend that Leona was there, Gloria had decided to drive Leona back out to Pennsylvania. She wanted to try to figure out if it was what she really wanted to go back to the Plain life.

There were several places in this book that I recognized, such as Salem, Arkansas. I have been there. I used to live 20 minutes from there, and it's pretty cool to read about places you've been. All in all, I thought this book was wonderful. I would very highly recommend it to you!

HUGE thanks to Baker Publishing Group and NetGalley for the Advanced Reader Copy of this book!

Julia Wilson says

The Wish by Beverly Lewis is a romantic Amish novel and I really enjoyed it. It explores the differences between the Amish and English way of life. Both exert different pulls in different ways. Life can become confusing as the teens wonder where they fit in. The important thing is to listen to the Lord's calling. "O Lord please guide me in all I say and do."

There are many competing voices in life. Family can exert pressure to conform to the parent's way of thinking but it is not always the correct way for the youngsters. "This family sticks together." Whilst it is important to obey your parents, it is more important to obey God.

The novel is about friendship. "Forever friends are sometimes closer than kinfolk." Forever friends survive the test of time and distance. Forever friends always want the best for each other. Forever friends live out 1 Corinthians: 13. Forever friends love each other and do not judge. "It wasn't his place to sit in judgment." Life with God at the centre is a fulfilling life. We all have a hole that only God can fill. "The Lord Gotte calls us one by one." Whilst we are all Christians together, we all have a unique walk with God. It can be tempting to speed up someone else's journey and try to do God's job for Him. There are lessons to be learnt along the way and we must be patient and wait for God's perfect timing. "Waiting for God's timing in hopeful trust." There is the theme of the grass always being greener. Best friends Leona and Gloria both have a secret desire to be part of the other's family. They are dissatisfied with their own parents. As they each journey through life, they realise that the grass is not always greener and their blessings need to be counted.

The theme of steadfastness is in the story. There are some people you just know you can always rely on. They will always want the very best for you and will not let you down. It is a matter of where you place your trust. Our heavenly Father can always be trusted with our one and only life.

The elder statesman Dawdi is a wonderful character, full of love and wisdom. His part in the story is not prominent but it is significant.

Forgiveness and letting go are dual themes. The past needs to be dealt with if it is holding us back.

Forgiveness must be given because without doing so means we may become bitter. God tells us to forgive. It is not negotiable. We have to do it.

Prayer is of vital importance. Sometimes all we can do is pray and then step back and wait for God to act. "God isn't limited by our time frame or expectations."

There is the theme of the prodigals. Sometimes people are "trying to hide from God." There is nowhere to hide, as the psalmist reminds us. There are a great many lost people and we must "never turn our backs on the lost." It is too easy to wander from God as pressures from life intrude. We need to pray and help the prodigals find their way home.

I loved The Wish with its simple Amish life and a great sense of love, friendship and community. God is very much at the heart. Customs are observed. I 'felt' very much a part of the community as I turned the pages. I can highly recommend The Wish and I shall certainly be hunting out more by Beverly Lewis.

I received this book for free. A favourable review was not required and all views expressed are my own.

Kav says

Every time I open a book by Beverly Lewis I feel like I'm coming home. I don't know if it's because she is the first Amish fiction author I ever read or if her distinctive style just lulls me into another world -- maybe a bit of both. But I love it. Love feeling settled in a read, deriving comfort from a story well-told that leaves

me with lots to ponder by the end. And *The Wish* fits that criteria perfectly.

While this is an Amish story, the issues at the heart of this tale are completely relatable to all of us. Leona is intent on helping a friend. She's pure of heart and earnest in her desire to help Gloria come back to the church. And while that journey is fraught with complications and difficulties for her friend, Leona learns an important lesson about being in relationship within her own family.

Gloria has been living a conflicted life -- ripped away from the Amish community she loved by her father's decree, she has been living Englisch for years. Suddenly faced with a pivotal decision she finds herself at a crossroads. Both Gloria and Leona are on a journey of self-discovery and that makes *The Wish* a compelling and thought-provoking read.

A sweet story sure to lift your spirit and fill your heart with the certainty of God's all encompassing love.

Book has been provided courtesy of Baker Publishing Group and Graf-Martin Communications, Inc.

Faith says

5 of 5 stars

Ahh, this was such a satisfying read. :) I hadn't read any Amish fiction since...February? So it was great to be back in the world of Pennsylvania Dutch, horse drawn buggies, and simplistic living. I read the majority of it in three or four days, but if I hadn't had other things to keep up with I could have (and would have!) settled down and read it all at once. :) It had an engaging plot line, lovable characters, and an ending that allowed me to breathe a sigh of contentment and go to bed without a headful of questions.

I know a lot of people think 'romance' when they hear Amish fiction, but this one really wasn't centered on that. Sure, there was mentions of a courtship and a sweet moment or two, but that was really all. :)

> Leona was such a sweet, innocent girl! I enjoyed reading her POV and her loving concern for her friend Gloria made her so endearing. :)

> Gloria was an interesting character. I wasn't sure what to make of her at first, but in the end I loved her too. :) Her struggle with what she wanted with her life was very realistic, and I appreciated how she didn't just wake up one morning and suddenly know what she was going to do – as seems to happen too often in books.

> Tom was a super sweet guy character in the book. I loved he and Leona's courtship!! <3 And while I'm talking about Tom, I just have to mention Danny – Tom's younger, deaf brother. He was a minor character, only mentioned a handful of times, but I really enjoyed his parts. :) (By the way, I would totally love a sequel or a short spin-off story with him and Linda...just sayin'... :))

> Orchard John... Oh goodness, where do I begin?! How he pined over *her* all those years shows how sincere his heart, and he was just such a great guy! I loved his name too. I mean, who doesn't want a cousin named Orchard John who takes walks with his girl and loans books? ;)

And lastly, I just have to say that I loved the character of Dawdi Benueel. Such a sweet grandpa! <3

Overall, this was an amazing book. I would heartily recommend it! :)

****I received a free copy of this book from Bethany House Publishers in exchange for my honest review.****

Karla says

This book is written in typical Beverly Lewis' style giving us a great book in the Amish fiction genre. She takes us right into the world of the Amish faith, immerses us in their very different culture, giving us glimpses of their world as it really is... full of challenges, just like those experienced by you and I. It is how they are dealt with, that makes their lives appear so unlike the "world".

This is a story of forgiveness and inspiration. Two women, the main characters, have a valuable friendship which neither wants to forget, even though life situations cause their belief in each other to fumble at times. They have to take the time to examine and attempt to show the forgiveness that Christ has portrayed for each of us. This a lesson that we all need to remember. I easily identified with these women, making this book a super read. Their problems and challenges quickly engaged me in the story, pulling me into the Amish community.

The plot moves at a steady pace with just enough twists and turns to keep the reader on the edge of her seat. I found myself reluctant to deal with everyday tasks as I became more immersed in the tale as it progressed. I could not put this book down. Surprising twists and turns appeared at unexpected times, just when you think life is settling down.

I rate this a five star book. It is a story that we can all take and apply to our lives. We all need to learn to forgive and trust!!

Connie says

I love the books of Beverly Lewis. I have read them all. All the books are quick reads, but they make the reader feel like they are in the story, in the little towns, in the lives of the characters. Great.

Tiffany Jones says

Leona Speicher found the "sister" that she'd always dreamed of having on the day Gloria Gingerich and her family moved to the Lancaster County Amish community. The Arkansas newcomers seem to be the very model of everything that a devout, old Order Amish family should be. Leona can't help but compare their lively family and engaging, young parents to her own family. When the girls get a little older, Leona's cousin shows his romantic interest in Gloria around the same time that Gloria's older brother expresses his fondness for Leona. It looks likely that the two girls will marry into each other's families, cementing the bonds of their friendship and "sisterhood." But, suddenly, to Leona's shock the entire Gingerich family packs up and disappears after their father finds himself expelled from the church for reasons nobody is willing to discuss. Despite Leona's heartfelt pleas, Gloria accompanies her family, leaving more than one broken heart in their wake. When Gloria unexpectedly reaches out to Leona, after a silence of several years, Leona makes up her mind that it's up to her to convince her old friend to return to both Lancaster County and her Amish faith, even though her fiancé, the deacon's son, is concerned about her going into the English world after her friend.

I've always loved Beverly Lewis's Amish books. She has such a knack for storytelling and for writing characters that you can't help but love. *The Wish* is another example of her immense talent. It's a beautiful story of love and the bonds of friendship, and that blood isn't always what makes a family. It also makes a strong case about not comparing your family to anyone else's because, no matter how close you are, you don't always see everything as clearly as you do from inside the other family. I enjoyed every moment of reading this book. There are so many positive, uplifting themes to this story, but that's definitely the norm for a Beverly Lewis novel.

Jeanie says

I was sure I was born into the wrong family. I wanted to belong to yours.

Leona Speicher and Gloria Gingerich were the best of friends. Leona being only child, longed to have the family that Gloria had. They shared as friends do, their secrets, their longings, and their hopes. But one day Gloria's family suddenly moved away. Leona not knowing the details only that Gloria's father had a falling out with the elders of the community. Instead of desiring to work it out, he took his family far away from the Amish community and from then on lived as an English man with all the trappings of the world. Gloria had promised Leona that she would write but Leona never heard from her or where her family decided to settle. She missed her good friend and the ties that they shared. Life went on for Leona as she always wondered and prayed for her friend until her friend sent her letter requesting to visit her in the town where family now lived.

When Gloria and Leona reunite, the friendship continues as Leona see's how Gloria's heart is in turmoil between the Amish and the English. How Gloria carries the sins of her father and learns to trust God again with her own faith.

It is a wonderful narration of friendship and the pull of the heart. Where a friend walks alongside as you walk thru your feelings to know your true desires and heart. It is a friendship that is based on truth and finding yourself back into God's will. I appreciated the pull of Gloria's heart and the faithfulness of Leona's heart. A true friendship not based what is easy but what is hard. A friendship that takes the time to listen to the groaning's of longings not met. A true blessing to read.

A Special Thank You to Bethany House Publishers and Netgalley for the ARC and the opportunity to post an honest review.

Sarah says

This was a book club pick and I'll be the first to admit that this isn't a book I necessarily would have chosen to read on my own, so maybe I have no business reviewing it. The author clearly has a following and I don't want to take away from that. This book just did not work for me on a very fundamental level. Lewis has allegedly written enough books (more than 90 according to her author bio) that I would think she might know to inject some actual conflict into her stories. The only times this book approached having any, it was so quickly and pleasantly resolved that it felt entirely contrived. The characters had almost no depth (I assume even the Amish have personalities) and I really felt like the entire book was more superficial sketch of Amish culture than it was novel with a plot. Again, I don't like leaving negative reviews in general and

readers who are fans of Lewis's work will probably enjoy this perfectly pleasant little read, too. It definitely wasn't for me and if Lewis is a book club pick in the future, I'll probably skip it.

Hanne T says

I don't think I've read Beverly Lewis books before (aside from probably a couple that I just don't remember XD), but if this book is an indicator, I'm going to love her books!

This book is so sweet. It's about two girls who become "sisters" and have a super strong bond...until one of them, Gloria suddenly moves away.

Three years later, she suddenly contacts Leona (the other girl), because she is in trouble. Leona decides to go after Gloria and help her.

I really appreciate how God-centered the book is: they are constantly praying and hoping for return to the church.

I like how this book was so different from all other Amish fiction, whether romance or not. It's not very romantic (although there is some, which I guess apparently is a crucial part in all Amish teenage life?), but focused instead on the friendship between Gloria and Leona, and the storyline is just so good.

There was a beautiful ending, everything resolved, without any more questions as to "what next?"

Thank you to Bethany House Publishing Group for sending me a free print copy for my honest review; I was not required to write a positive review.

Kristi says

In a genre in which stories can seem similar to one another, Beverly Lewis has penned a unique and interesting story of friendship, family, and forgiveness. *The Wish* was a quick read that kept this reader wondering what was going to happen next.

The characters in this book were realistic. Leona is everything that one would expect of an Amish person. She put others first, was a true and loyal friend and an obedient daughter. She was very kindhearted and I found her to be very transparent. On the other hand, there was an air of mystery and aloofness among the Gingerich family. I often wondered what was really going on with Arkansas Joe and the rest of his family. They seemed peculiar and distant. I found these things added to the story as it made me wonder all the more what secrets this family had. It also helped me connect to Gloria more.

It is evident while reading that Beverly Lewis has spent time among the Amish. Her attention to detail, whether it be in the description of clothing or work on the farm, added to the authenticity of the story and made me feel as if I were there and part of the story.

At times the flow of the story seemed a bit choppy, especially at the beginning. I felt like I was reading snippets of the characters lives instead of really getting to delve in completely. The story seemed to even out

and flow more smoothly as the story progressed.

I wished more would have been revealed about Arkansas Joe and the troubles he had with the church. I wanted to learn more about this and why he really pulled up stakes and moved the family without so much as a goodbye. I felt like there were more secrets to be revealed about the family and felt a little let down that this part of the story wasn't explored more in depth.

Fans of Beverly Lewis and Amish fiction should take the time to read this book. With the realistic characters and strong themes of family and friendship, this book personifies the spirit of the Amish. This is definitely a book for the keeper shelf.

I received a free copy of this book from the publisher in exchange for my honest opinion which I have given.

Marianne says

It has been a long time since I picked up a Beverly Lewis novel, and since hers were the first Amish books I read, I wondered how this one, also an Amish novel, would compare. As always, her books tell a gentle tale of “us” and “them”. There are no grandchildren in God’s family, meaning that each one of us has to have our own living faith in God, and not rely on our parents’ faith. And though not all roads lead to God, He is more interested in that we have a close relationship with Him, than in what church we belong to. As I our lives, there are times of betrayal, misunderstandings and discouragement, but through the story is woven a strong faith and forgiveness.

Thank you to Ellen of Ellen Graf-Martin through her Nuts about Books program, and BethanyHouse, division of Baker Publishing Group for the opportunity to read this novel. I was given a free book .The opinions are my own.

Jazzy says

So, y'all should know that I did read this practically in a day. That said, it was interesting enough to get me to plow through, but not interesting enough for me to love. I'll explain in a second.

Little bit of history: I've enjoyed several of Beverly Lewis' books, like "The Shunning", "Saving Sarah Cain", and "The Sumemrfield Secrets." I'm familiar with her writing style and plot techniques, so when I saw this on the list of books I could review, I grabbed it in a heartbeat. But while it kept me occupied for 10 hrs., unfortunately it just didn't meet the cut for me. Now I'll explain... in list form!... Read the full review on my blog: <http://thrivinghope.blogspot.com>

Leah says

This was a sweet story about friendship and family with a little bit of romance.
