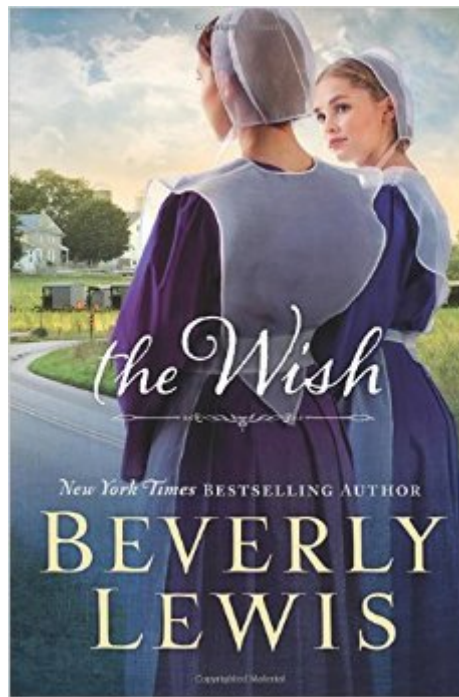


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The Wish



Synopsis

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?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I don't know what's happened to Beverly Lewis' writing. I haven't liked any of her books since The Rose trilogy. Her writing has become one note and very disjointed. The Wish tells the story of a man shunned by the People who moves his family away. His daughter Gloria has become like a sister to the protagonist Leona. The entire book tells of Leona trying to find Gloria. I couldn't finish it and recycled it. It was somewhat in the writing style of Abram's Daughters but not really. Don't bother

buying this book. Beverly, what has happened to you?

A story of a young woman's lust for the other side of the fence, doesn't it always look greener? Leona has a dear friend in Gloria, and as a young girl she wishes she could be a part of her family, everything about them is so much better than hers. When abruptly without so much as a goodbye they are gone, and she doesn't hear from her best friend/sister for over three years, a lifetime, and a grieving time for such a loss. When Gloria finally contacts her, she begs Leona to come to her, and we begin to wonder what is going to happen to our girl? Will she decide she likes what has happened to this family that was so dear to her, will she end up being English? When Gloria comes back to Lancaster with her, will Leona's family let in the door? She is no longer Amish and is driving a car, and carrying a cell phone, or will she look to return to her roots. All of the answers are here and more, a delightful read that you won't want to put down and will be page turning late into the wee hours of the morning. I received this book through Net Galley and Bethany House Publishing, and was not required to give a positive review.

I often buy books based on the back cover summary, and this one drew me in. Unfortunately, the actual book is horrible. It suffers from severe Readers are Goldfish syndrome, using phrases like, "Leona felt surprised that..." or "Tom was so happy that...", directly after showing how the characters feel or react. We're not shown anything about these characters--we're told. However, I could forgive that if *The Wish* were engaging. Sadly, it's not. The characters are undeveloped pieces of cardboard. You know what they're going to do way before they do it, and their motivations are weak at best. For example, Gloria contacts Leona with a desperate letter and teary phone call, begging for her advice. Why is she so upset? Is it because something tragic is happening to her family? Is it because the Amish church is drawing her back, but the emotional stakes are high? No. It's because she wants to go back to the Amish church--but other than her dad being a little ticked off, there are no stakes whatsoever. Another example: we are led to believe Joe Gingrich was shunned for some big, deeply personal reason. Actually, he was shunned because of shady business dealings that barely get a mention, plus "disagreeing with New Testament teaching," which is not developed. What??? The plot of *The Wish* is almost nil. In fact, no plot exists. It's just blocks of text describing events as though through a camera lens. Nothing makes you say, "I care what happens." Nothing makes you ask, "What happens next" because you know what will happen. I skimmed the last hundred pages or so and didn't miss a darn thing. I would've enjoyed this book much more if Beverly had done two things. One, her characters were in desperate need of development. For instance,

what specifically made Leona and Gloria sister-friends? What did they have in common beyond Amish heritage? Why was Joe Gingrich shunned--did he ever fit into Amish life, or was there some event that shook his faith? Was he an actual criminal or just trying to get by--and why? Two, this book needed a plot. For instance, what if Leona had been considering jumping the fence? What if Gloria's boyfriend Darren was abusive and nobody knew it? What if Gloria was pregnant with his kid? What if she had secretly kept in touch with Orchard John all these years and now he was asking for her hand? Anything would have worked better than what existed. I'm extremely disappointed in this book and in Beverly, because she can do better.

This is a beautifully written story. It is not your typical Amish Romance. There is romance in this novel, yet it is not the main focus. This book focuses more on friendship, choices and realizing things may not always be like we think. Beverly Lewis always does her homework and writes very accurately in the Amish culture and develops her characters well. Leona Speicher is a caring Amish girl who has always wanted a sister and maybe parents who were a little different than her own. When Gloria and her family move to town she feels her prayers have been answered. Yet their lives take totally different paths than they ever dreamed possible. Will Leona be able to bring her friend back to the people, or are they too many convinced in the English world to return plain? I loved the relationship between many of the characters in this novel. Leona and Gloria both have lessons to learn throughout this novel and you are not really sure exactly how it will end. I would recommend this novel to anyone who enjoys reading 'Amish' type books.

Many years ago, Beverly Lewis was the first Amish writer I've read, her stories still hit the mark! This book is all about faith, forgiveness, obedience, trusting, family, and a tinge of romance. What you expect from Beverly Lewis! I loved how many roads tend to lead you home. Because that's where the heart is.

I received a copy of *The Wish* by Beverly Lewis from Bethany House (Net Galley) in return for an objective review of the book. I have read many books by this author and have enjoyed all of them. However, I found it took me awhile to really feel interested in this book as compared to all the others of hers that I have read. I did enjoy it, though, and will try to read whatever books follow about the characters in this book. I believe anyone who enjoys Amish fiction will like this book.

This was not one of my favorites by Beverly Lewis, but it was still good. The way it was written made

me fearful that the main character, Leona, would make some poor choices which kept me reading. The book ended the way I had hoped, but I was wishing for some resolution with Gloria's family. Overall a good story and worth the read if you enjoy Beverly Lewis or Amish fiction. I was given a complimentary copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

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