



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS WITH BEVERLY LEWIS

1. What can you tell us about your new book?

The Telling is the third and final book in the SEASONS OF GRACE series—a series I’ve thoroughly enjoyed writing and sharing with readers. Grace Byler’s story has been percolating in my mind for at least three years now. It is the conclusion to the story of a young Amish woman’s efforts to locate her 40-year-old mother, who left home to search for a child she gave up for adoption more than twenty years ago.

2. Where is the story set? Will *The Telling* take readers beyond Lancaster County?

The majority of the story takes place on Beechdale Road, in the village of Bird-in-Hand in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, not far from my childhood home in Neffsville. The Bird-in-Hand Family Inn, as well as the Farmers’ Market is also featured, right there on Route 340 in Bird-in-Hand. Yes, a quaint name, but an actual place—a few miles west of Intercourse Village—deep in the heart of Amish country.

But main characters Grace and Heather begin the book by taking a road trip to Ohio Amish country as they search for Grace’s missing mother. I had the wonderful opportunity to visit Baltic, Ohio recently and enjoyed incorporating some of those places (like Miller’s Dutch Kitch’n) into the pages of *The Telling*.

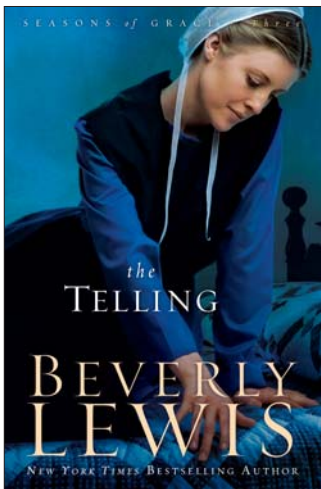
3. Can you give us a hint about what the “telling” refers to; what is told?

Several secrets are revealed in this series conclusion. Not only Lettie Byler’s story of the birth and adoption of her infant daughter years ago, but also her parents’ role in the deception of Lettie’s future husband and the entire Amish community. There are confession and redemption scenes that my editors tell me are powerful, and will bring tears to even the most jaded eye. I trust my readers will be moved by Lettie’s homecoming and heartwarming reunions on several levels.

4. One of the book’s subplots deals with Heather, an “Englischer” who has come to Amish country to find answers for a grave medical prognosis. Tell us about that.

Heather isn’t content to go along with the harsh treatments her own mother endured before her death. Instead, she decides to pursue alternative cancer treatments under the care of a naturopath. I am not suggesting that conventional medicine isn’t valuable, but I would like readers to know there are alternatives. In writing this series, I’ve interviewed certified naturopaths and visited a wellness lodge, similar to the one mentioned in this series. I also conducted extensive interviews with several cancer patients who have been greatly helped by their alternative approach to cancer treatment.

Continued on next page



The Telling

SEASONS OF GRACE - 3

by Beverly Lewis

Trade Paper ISBN 978-0-7642-0573-6

\$14.99; 336 pp.

Hardcover ISBN 978-0-7642-0770-9

\$19.99; 336 pp.

Large Print ISBN 978-0-7642-0771-6

\$17.99; 432 pp.

On Sale Date: April 6, 2010

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5. Now that you've completed the series, can you tell us if anything surprised you in writing it—did anything turn out differently than you'd planned at the outset? Were there any surprising responses from readers?

Initially, Heather Nelson was a bit more sophisticated and sporting an attitude. After rethinking her character, I found that she began to mellow in my mind and on the page. As for my readers' responses, it's remarkable how many women have shared with me their "secret" urge to escape from the hectic life of mothering and working—"even for a single day would be great," one reader told me. So, Lettie Byler's storyline seems to be resonating with many readers, even though her "escape" to Ohio was not motivated by the need for a "sanity day," but to find her long-lost daughter.

6. What are you working on next?

I have begun a brand-new series called THE ROSE TRILOGY. Book One is titled *The Thorn*, and it is scheduled for release on September 7, 2010.

7. How can readers meet you?

I tour different parts of the country with the release of each new book. For example, I will be visiting North Carolina from April 8th-16th to meet readers and sign copies of *The Telling*. Visit www.beverlylewis.com for specific locations and dates, and to sign up for my free newsletter.