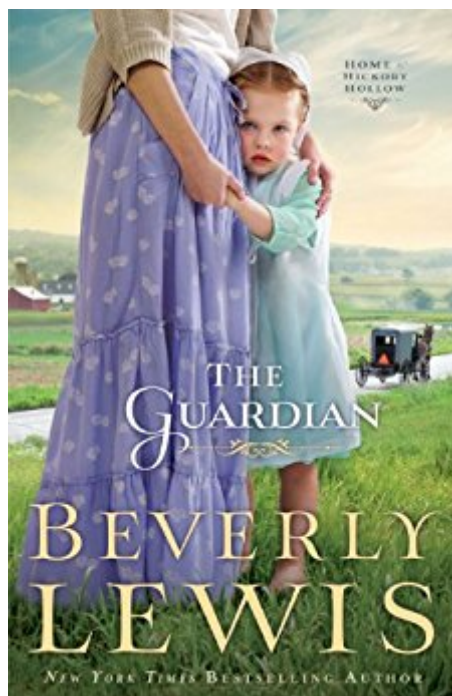


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The Guardian (Home To Hickory Hollow Book #3)



Synopsis

Must-Have Amish Fiction from #1 Bestselling Author Beverly Lewis When schoolteacher Jodi Winfield goes for a morning run, the last thing she expects is to find a disheveled little girl all alone on the side of the Pennsylvania road, clad only in her undergarments, her chubby cheeks streaked with tears. Jodi takes the preschooler home with her, intending to find out where she belongs. But Jodi is mystified when no one seems to know of a missing child, and the girl herself is no help, since she can't speak a word of English. It's as if the child appeared out of nowhere. As the days pass, Jodi becomes increasingly attached to the mysterious girl, yet she is no closer to learning her identity. Then an unexpected opportunity brings Jodi to Hickory Hollow--and into the cloistered world of the Lancaster Old Order Amish. Might the answers lie there?

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Customer Reviews

When Jodi Winfield comes to Lancaster to house-sit, the last thing she expects to find is a disheveled little girl alone on the side of the road. The young teacher is mystified when she learns

there have been no reports of a missing child, and the girl herself is no help, since she can't speak English. It's as if the child appeared out of nowhere. Then Jodi turns her attention to Hickory Hollow--and the cloistered world of the Old Order Amish--in search of answers. This is a story that I wanted to read for some time now. When I was offered a short list of books to choose from to read and write a review for, I chose this one. This author is so popular, it makes her books go really fast and I didn't get it. But I did keep an eye on it regularly and when it went on sale on , I grabbed it. But I was almost afraid to read it. Yes, silly I know but I was kind of afraid of being disappointed if I didn't like it. Its happened before but not this time. I loved every minute of it. Sarah (the little girl who was lost) was a delight. Jodi and her fiancée, Trent were tender even when things got tough. Jodi was so hurt by her sister's death that she wasn't sure she was willing to have children and face the possibility of losing someone else that she opened her heart to that far. She was a teacher at heart and drew children to her like a magnet. That was so much fun to see that unfold. Even people in the Amish community, who often distanced themselves to outsiders just couldn't seem to do it with her. Poor Joshua was head over heels in love with Maryanna. He did try to move on because he was lonely after the death of his wife but he just couldn't stop hoping Maryanna would finally really see him. I really liked him, he was unique and had a kind heart. There was a pretty good immersion into the culture of the Amish community but without being overdone or depressive. The closeness of Maryanna and her family was so heartwarming as was how the community all pitched in to help each other. Something that made me like the story even more was the information (at the end of the book) that this story was inspired by a true event. Beverly Lewis read an article in a Southern newspaper with the attention getting title of "Amish child falls out of carriage and goes missing". The good news was that this child was found 24 hours later but it really got the author's juices flowing to write this story. Personally I really found the cover picture for this book so charming; I think it was a good choice.

The Guardian a joy to read. Here we have a "Romance Novel" with two romances, that keep one's interest with surprisingly believable innocence. The romances are situational in such a fashion that even the Amish romance is easy to identify with and to follow. A missing child found by a stranger turns out to illustrate God's love and will for His own precious one. The author, Beverly Lewis shows how God can tie up all the loose ends combining problems, personalities, and situations. The character are so well thought out that I felt I knew them personally. I cared about them and hoped all would turn out well. How could they with all the complications? Well, you will have to read this book to find out. I loved it. Now to start my next Beverly Lewis book.

This was excellent, I have read several of her books and each one has a special surprise. Love always wins out, whether it be is accepting God's love or us giving love to someone else. The greatest of these is love.

The Guardian is the 3rd book in the Home to Hickory Hollow series, but totally stands on its own. It's a beautiful and warm story about a school teacher, Jodi Winfield, who is house sitting for her cousin in Lancaster County, and the dual narrative about Maryanna, an Amish widow raising four children on her own. Jodi is struggling with the recent death of her sister and the fact that there is some tension between her and her fiance over the issue of having children in the future. With a broken heart over her sister's death, she feels herself slipping away from God and wondering if her fiancée's desire for children is beginning to drive a wedge into their wedding plans. Separated from Trent by an ocean since he's teaching English to students in Japan, she has time to mull over the path her life is taking amidst the peaceful setting of farms and fields during the sultry summer weeks she spends at her cousin's home. Jodi's life takes a new twist when she finds a little Amish girl on the side of the road in just her underpants with a bruise on her forehead and brush burns. Finding little Sarah is the beginning of finding herself. I won't share any spoilers so I'm not going to go further into the story. I can say that I really enjoyed Jodi's journey and her eventual acceptance and friendship with her Amish neighbors in Hickory Hollow. Maryanna's story (Sarah's mother) was also an interesting one. Maryanna's parents (and circumstances surrounding her children) are gently pressuring her to remarry and there is a bit of humor with the resulting widowers who come courting. I enjoyed the big, sweet slice of Amish life wrapped around Jodi and Maryanna's stories and loved learning after reading the novel that many of the places (and some of the events) described in the book are real. This is the first time I've read a book by Beverly Lewis and I must say I was pleasantly surprised. I expected it to be syrupy and maybe even boring, but it hooked me right from the cover to the very last word. The descriptions were beautiful and it's hard to explain but there was just a different pace to this book than almost anything else I've ever read. The pacing of the book was steady and yet leisurely at the same time with a subtle tension throughout where you just HAVE to know what happens. It took enough time to really flesh out the main characters and make you care about what happened to them. I thought the portrayal of the Amish felt realistic and wasn't phoney or overdone. These are "real" people with their own troubles and joys. I can say though that it did make me feel like packing up my stuff and moving to Lancaster, Pennsylvania, LOL. ;-) I was inspired afterwards to watch some documentaries on the Amish and do a bit of research on my own.

I highly recommend looking up the BBC documentary on YouTube called: Amish - A Secret Life about Miriam and David Lapp. It's set in the same area at The Guardian and will give you a deeper and beautiful glimpse into the Amish life that perfectly supplements this novel. The ending of The Guardian wrapped everything up and doesn't leave you hanging. The whole reading experience reading was so pleasant that I know this won't be my last foray into Beverley Lewis territory. One thing I want to note is that The Guardian is the most clean and wholesome book for adults I've come across in....well ever. There is no swearing or inappropriate situations. While there is a mention of courting, it's so sweet and appropriate, I'd hand this book over to an elementary student (or a Christian family who is against dating) with no problems. That isn't to say the book is childish though! It's an excellent read that is so good and satisfying that I highly recommend it! One last thing I want to mention is that the cover is just SO beautiful. It's a perfect representation of the book itself. That's the reason why I wanted to read the book in the first place, even though this is NOT my usual reading fare AT ALL. The cover totally sucked me in with the delicious colors and that sweet pink cheeked baby girl. I had to read it. I almost didn't care what it was about, lol. Fortunately, this was one of those situations where you CAN judge a book by it's cover. The inside doesn't fail to deliver what is represented on the outside. I'm really glad I chose to read The Guardian. I'm sure it will please Beverly Lewis fans as well as new comers to Amish fiction or just someone looking for a wholesome, satisfying read. Highly recommended! *I was provided a free copy of this book in exchange for my honest review - and no, I don't always give out good ones, LOL...I always write up my opinion good or bad! :-)*

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