



The Road Home

Beverly Lewis

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Lena Rose Schwartz hadn't planned to leave her Old Order community in Centerville, Michigan. But then, she could not have foreseen the accident that made her and her siblings orphans. After her parents' funeral, her younger brothers and sisters are farmed out to various nearby relatives. But when the deacon in charge of the arrangements tells her there aren't places enough for everyone, she agrees to go live with her father's second cousin and his family in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.

Beside the fact that Lena has never been more than a few miles from home, she's never met the family she will now be living with. But worse than that is the thought of being separated from her siblings. How will they manage without her to care for them--especially eight-year-old Chris? And what about Hannes Lehman, the beau she was sure would soon be asking her to marry him? It was true that he was not the man her father would have preferred for her. Maybe that was what the deacon was hinting at when he said "a fresh start might do you good."

It won't be forever, she consoles herself. I'll come back as soon as I can to take care of my family--and to make a home with Hannes. But doing so may prove far more complicated than she ever imagined.

The Road Home Details

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Author : Beverly Lewis

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From Reader Review The Road Home for online ebook

Mary Jackson _TheMaryReader says

I was almost finished reading this book the day my daughter unexpectedly passed away. I had one more chapter to read. So I have read the book all but the last chapter. And to say it was a book I will never forget is stretching it. Lena stories is not to be missed. Again Lewis has written a book that caught me from the first chapter. and never let go.

This was a 4 star book and one I hope that you will pick up a copy of.

The Mary Reader received this book from the publisher. A favorable review was not required and all reviews expressed are our own.

RebekahAshleigh says

"The Road Home" is such a lovely book! Beverly Lewis is my favorite author and I usually love all of her books. This one was no exception! I just loved the characters, and the story was great. It was pretty sad at first, but it ended up being a really great, sweet book.

Lori says

Another win win book from Beverly Lewis!! I so enjoy her books!!

Beverly Lewis is my all time favorite author. She almost never disappoints

Her characters are easy to make friends and connect with them.

Her books leave me content and happy.

I love Lena Rose! She's so brave!!

I could not imagine having such a big family!! I'd love to have brothers and sisters but sadly I was disappointed in that area.

My dad came from a family of 8 children. So, I have lots of cousins.

Alicia Ruggieri says

Despite the sober circumstances spoken of on the back cover, The Road Home felt like one of Lewis' "lighter" novels – easy and quick to read, with generally likeable characters, not a lot of strong conflict, few true quandaries. Overall, I enjoyed the sweetness of the story, especially Lena Rose's subtly-depicted journey of spiritual growth as well as seeing the realistic, yet loving relationship she has with her siblings. I will admit that I wished for more true tension; though the description hints at this, in my opinion, Lena Rose never deeply struggles over whether she will return to Michigan or stay in Pennsylvania, only over why God has not provided a way for her to get home. As a result, the ending of the book wasn't quite as satisfying to me as some of Beverly Lewis' other novels (such as The Ebb Tide), though it was still a very enjoyable read.

Cheryl says

Lena is the oldest Amish girl of 10 children and very close to her youngest brother when her parents are killed. The children are split up and Lena has to go hours away to live with another family to find work. Her boyfriend breaks up with her long distance and she keeps wanting to go home. As she works through being away she learns a lot about life and helping others.

Kim says

loved this book and like the author

I won this book

Shirley Chapel says

How I love Beverly Lewis' ability to weave together a warm hearted story that draws the reader in from the first Chapter. The Road Home did just that for me and certainly didn't disappoint this reader. I have always enjoyed her books and how real her stories seem to be. I loved the cover as I was able to imagine what Lena Rose and little Chris looked like as I read the story. I could see the love on Lena's face as she made sure that little Chris was ready for his first day of school.

As the story begins shocking news comes to Lena Rose and her sister Emma. Both of their parents had been killed instantly in an accident. This left 10 children orphans . Lena Rose being the oldest at 18. Her Aunt and Uncle thought Lena was too young to keep the family together. It was impossible to find a home for all ten kids where they could live together. The family had to be split up in different homes with Lena Rose moving to Lancaster County Pennsylvania to live with her aunt and uncle whom she'd never met.

Lena worries about her siblings and especially little Chris who has taken his parents death and the separation from her and his brothers and sisters the hardest of them all. She believes something will open up for her back home in Centreville Michigan in a few months so she can return there to be close to her family. But time passes and she begins to wonder if she will ever get back home again. It's not that her Aunt and Uncle haven't made her feel welcome . Everyone in Lancaster County has been so very kind , but oh how Lena Rose misses her sisters and brothers.

The shock of her parents death and then the separation from her family and having to move away to a new and unfamiliar community has been the hardest thing Lena Rose has every had to face in her 18 years. Will she ever get to go back home ? Why does it seem that God doesn't hear her prayers ? She left behind a beau in Michigan . Will her beau wait for her to return.

Fans of Beverly Lewis will not want to miss reading this book. All readers of Amish Fiction will enjoy the story. I personally feel that it is one of her better books. I highly recommend it.

I was fortunate enough to win a signed copy of The Road Home from the author who did an interview on Amish Wisdom . I was not asked to do a review but because I enjoyed this book I was more than happy to do so. I have been honest here with my opinion of the story.

Susan says

The Road Home

Beverly Lewis

Provided by Bethany House

THE ROAD HOME is a beautiful story that takes place in 1977. Lena is eighteen years old and lives with her parents and ten brothers and sisters. That is until the day the police arrive to tell her that her parents were in a tragic accident and are dead. Since her family is so large, the children are split up and Lena goes to live her Daed's cousins, Harley and Mimi. Since no one else has room for her back home, Lena reluctantly leaves to help Mimi and Harley. She doesn't want to leave, especially since she has a beau, Hans, and her youngest brother, Chris who she has practically raised since he was born. Once Lena is in Pennsylvania, she realizes how much she is needed as Mimi is very lonely since her daughter, Tessa got married and moved away. Will Lena ever find her way back to Michigan and her siblings?

While Lena is in Pennsylvania helping Mimi with her sewing business, she never stops dreaming of returning home to her brothers and sisters. All the while, she never loses hope or her faith. THE ROAD HOME finds Lena struggling with staying with Hans even though they are many miles apart and he writes less and less as time goes by. Lena also has a new friend, Arden, who is instantly taken with Lena, but Lena tells him she can only be friends with him as she has a beau back home. Will Arden accept Lena's conditions or will he wait patiently to see what happens?

THE ROAD HOME is about Lena trying to get back home to her family. My heart broke for Lena and her siblings and I kept hoping they would all be together once again. Not only did they lose their parents, but their brothers and sisters as well. Why couldn't they all just stay together in their family home? Their story is so heart tugging and filled with faith, devotion, and love that the reader can't help but cheer for this broken family. Beverly Lewis grabs hold of the reader's heart and never lets it go! She made me sad, then the next moment I was smiling and giggling out loud! You can never go wrong with a Beverly Lewis book if you are a fan of the Amish genre. THE ROAD HOME is a heart tugging story that will hold you hostage until the very last page. Once you start reading, it will be very hard to put down!

Laura says

THE ROAD HOME is the most recent in a long line of best selling Beverly Lewis novels. I've read all of her books to date, and like most fans of Amish fiction, hers was the first I read.

THE ROAD HOME is written mostly in Lena Rose's point of view with a few in other male points of view, such as her dad's cousin Harley, or an uncle. None of the points of views are from the hero, though this is

more women's fiction than a true romance. Lena Rose's journey home is the focus. The romantic relationship is not necessary for the story line but it is tacked in there to satisfy readers who want a romantic angle. And I have to admit I did find myself skipping ahead to find mentions of said hero and read about their romance.

For those who like it sweet, there is no sexual tension so it should satisfy the most conservative of readers. And there is a lot of Amish information set in both Centreville, MI (which is near Indiana) and in Lancaster County. Ms. Lewis does mention the difference in dress styles, kapp styles and dialects so she did her research. It isn't dwelled on though.

If you are a huge fan of Amish fiction and Beverly Lewis or Wanda Brunstetter you will want to read THE ROAD HOME.

This book is a LOT more telling than showing, but the story does get through and despite the wall between the character and the reader I did grow to care of Lena Rose by the end of the book.

I was given a copy free. All opinions are my own.

Amanda says

I used to read a lot of books by Beverly Lewis...they are what I think of as comfort reads. The characters are usually kind and peaceful and provide a nice escape from the stressful "Englisch" world that we live in.

I enjoyed this story but found it to be a bit dull. There wasn't a lot to the plot and I found the pacing to be slow. The characters were sweet, especially Lena, and I really felt for her with the difficult situation she found herself in. The scenes of Amish life were fun (another part of Lewis's books that I enjoy), but I would have enjoyed more of them. I also loved the descriptions of yummy food that are always found in these books.

Overall, this was not my favorite of Beverly's books but it did remind me why I enjoyed reading them...I really enjoy visiting the Amish community every once in a while.

My Rating: 2.5 stars

I received this book from the publisher to review. All thoughts and opinions are my own.

Cathy Cermele says

This is my all time favorite book by Beverly Lewis! From start to finish, this book had my undivided

attention. I didn't answer the phone or allow any outside interference to interrupt my time with Lena Rose Schwartz.

The story is as beautifully written as I've come to expect from the author, but more importantly, the characters had heart, making them seem so real to me. My heart broke for Lena Rose as she had to say goodbye to her younger siblings after their parents died in an accident. They were a large family and there was not any one family that could accommodate all of the children, so they all must go to families that can care for them.

Lena Rose is sent far away from her brothers and sisters, grandparents and community to Lancaster County, Pa. She also leaves behind the young man who she's planning to marry. What I loved about Lena Rose was her ability to fit in with her new community and helping her aunt and uncle that so kindly provided her with a home. It was always her plan to return to Michigan, which helped ease her homesickness.

As she became more engaged with the youth and started attending singings', various gatherings and church, she becomes more attached to the community and her new friends. I was so excited when she finally had the opportunity to go home, even though I was just as conflicted as she was when it was time to leave. I loved that this isn't necessarily all about romantic entanglements, although there are a couple of those, but it's more about family and home. I respected that Lena Rose kept her promise to stay in touch with her siblings, while honoring her commitments to her new-found family, friends and having faith that it would all work out in the end.

I teared up a few times while reading this, but I was smiling at the glorious ending.

I received a copy through Netgalley and have given my honest opinion.

Becky says

Sometimes location is a big draw for a book. I will read anything Beverly Lewis writes, but I was tickled pink to see that the novel starts out in Centerville, MI!! This is a place not far from me, and I looked for nuggets of familiarity. I was happy to see that the covered bridge, unusual for this area, merits a mention.

I was also happy to see the inclusion of the "Blizzard of '78." Possibly mistimed to fit the story, the blizzard is infamous around these parts for its ferocity and unusual intensity, even here in Michigan.

Lewis has a warm, welcoming writing style that pulls the reader into the story and makes her/him feel part of the family or community described.

It can be easy to adapt the attitudes of those around you. Indeed, immersed in the world of Lena and her family, I first felt love; then heart-wrenching sadness; a strong yearning for loved ones, and desperation borne of that love.

I loved the way that Lena decides, miserable as she is, to "bloom where she is planted." She has such a positive effect on others around her, even though her heart is breaking inside.

In her own gentle way, Lewis weaves her faith message seamlessly throughout the book. It never seems

forced, only natural, presented in small, tasteful bites.

..."Lena wondered if she ought to pray about something so minor. Cousin Mimi likely would. She talks to God about practically everything..."

If you like Christian Amish stories recounted by one of the best, pick up your own copy of Beverly Lewis's *The Road Home*. I received a complimentary copy from the publisher and NetGalley. This in no way affected my opinions, given voluntarily, for which I am entirely responsible. Also, I am not related to the author.

Jen. says

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I'm happy to say this book is another win for Beverly Lewis! This book is told by a master storyteller through her warm and gentle voice. I truly felt like I was in Lancaster County with Lena Rose Schwartz, experiencing everything along side her.

I loved this book. Simply just loved it. I loved its warmth. I loved its heart. I loved seeing people genuinely care for each other. I loved its wholesome, prayerful and beautiful story.

This story wasn't without its share of sadness. Poor Lena Rose is displaced from her younger siblings after the tragic loss of her parents, sent to live with cousins she's never met. However, it's what Lena did with the situation that made all the difference. She never lost hope. She never gave up her faith. She prayed, held on tight to God and stayed faithful as she hoped God's plan for her was the one she was praying for. She's an excellent role model for us all.

This story was refreshing with very little English (non Amish) influence. It was also void of most modern technology, not just because it was an Amish story, but because it took place in 1977 - with no cel phones or computers. What a lovely change of pace!

It's sometimes hard to write a glowing review for a book you loved because you don't want to give away the story. I highly recommend this book to fans of Beverly Lewis, fans of Amish fiction and fans of well written, good books!

The Road Home by Beverly Lewis is available nationwide on April 3, 2018.

I received a complimentary copy of this book from Bethany House Publishers though NetGalley. Opinions expressed in this review are completely my own.

Please visit my blog for this and other Christian fiction reviews: <https://jengalaxy4.wordpress.com/>

Lindsey (Books for Christian Girls) says

About this book:

“As the sun began to rise, Lena Rose leaned against the cool pane of the bus window and gazed out at the familiar landscape of her life. I’m leaving my family and everything I know behind. She sighed, trying to keep her composure.

Grieving the death of her Amish parents and the separation from her nine close-knit siblings, Lena Rose Schwartz consoles herself that her new life in Lancaster County won't be forever. Surely someday soon she will return to her beloved Michigan settlement, including her beau. But even as she holds on to hope for a reunion with those she loves most, she discovers that Lancaster holds charms of its own. Will she find the courage to open her heart to other possibilities?"

Series: As of now, no. (I'm also pretty sure it's not connected to any other books.)

Spiritual Content- Scriptures are mentioned, quoted, read, & remembered; Prayers; Talks about God; 'H's are capital when referring to God; Many mentions of God & God's will; Many mentions of prayers, praying, blessings over food, & thanking God; Mentions of Bibles, Bible reading, & devotionals; Mentions of churches, church going, services, youth activities, & ministers; Mentions of Amish beliefs & values; Mentions of Christmas, Nativity plays, & hymns; Mentions of blessings & being blessed; A couple mentions of those in the Bible; A couple mentions of a prayer list; A couple mentions of godsend; A mention of sins.

Negative Content- Minor cussing including: a form of ‘dumb’; A bit of eye rolling; Mentions of a car accident & deaths; Mentions of drinking, an alcoholic, & wine; Mentions of hunting & shooting/killing animals (barely-above-not-detailed); A few mentions of gossip & rumors; A couple mentions of blood/bleeding; A couple mentions of jail & jail time; A couple mentions of an animal part in a food (that wasn’t supposed to be there).

Sexual Content- A (married couple) cheek kiss, two cheek kisses, and a barely-above-not-detailed kiss; Touches, Embraces, Hand Holding, & Flutters; A bit of Noticing; Mentions of winks; A couple mentions of a kiss & kissing; Light love, falling in love, & the emotions.

-Lena Rose Schwartz, age 18-19

P.O.V. switches between Len & Harley (Prologue & Epilogue in Lena's 1st POV)

Set in 1977

316 pages

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### Pre Teens- One Star

New Teens- Two Stars

Early High School Teens- Three Stars

Older High School Teens- Three Stars

My personal Rating- Three Stars

{ Content was very clean, so those interested in the plot can add a star. }

I didn't know too much about this book when I first started reading it. However, I knew that as a Beverly Lewis book it would be clean, have some good Spiritual Content, and sweet moments.

I was right on all three points. ;)

I do have to add that I did struggle with reading this one because of three reasons: 1.) The beginning and middle was so sad. 2.) I wasn't sure why in the world we see Harley's (a middle-age cousin of Lena's) POV. After finishing the book, I'm still not sure. And 3.) There were some details and conversations that add nothing to the story. While I liked that the romance was very light overall, I did wonder where their chaperones were at times.

It was a nice read, but, personally, I don't think it's Miss Beverly's best one.

Link to review:

<https://booksforchristiangirls.blogspot...>

\*BFCG may (Read the review to see) recommend this book by this author. It does not mean I recommend all the books by this author.

\*I received this book for free from the Publisher (Bethany House) for this honest review.

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## **Kristina says**

The Road Home by Beverly Lewis takes us back to August of 1977. Lena Rose Schwartz is eighteen years old and has been courting Hans Bontrager for two months. She lives with her parents and ten siblings in Centreville, Michigan on their farm. Lena is surprised when two police officers arrive in the afternoon to tell her that parents died in an accident on their way home. There is no one relative or nearby family that can take in all of the children, and they are not allowed to stay in their home. Homes are found for everyone except Lena. Harley and Mimi Stolzhus, her father's second cousin, writes that they can use Lena's assistance. Lena has never been away from hometown and she has raised her youngest brother, Chris since he was born. It also means leaving her beau, Hans. Lena helps her siblings settle into their new homes and then departs for Leacock Township, Pennsylvania with the hopes that the move is temporary. Mimi and Harley are welcoming to Lena. Mimi has been lonely since their daughter, Tessa married and moved away after a quick courtship. Lena misses her family back home, but her new home has its own enticements. Which path is the right one for one for Lena? She will need to have faith and wait to see what the Lord has in store for her.

The Road Home contains good writing and lovely characters. Beverly Lewis is a descriptive writer. Her word imagery helps me to visualize the scenes and characters. There are good messages in the story. The importance of family, friendship and community for example. My favorite being that we must have faith in God and wait for him to reveal the path he has planned for our life (being patient can be difficult). Lena not only has to grieve for her parents but deal with leaving her siblings and the only home she has known. She then relocates to another state with people she has never met. When Lena is presented with a difficult choice, she must decide what to do (I do not want to say too much and spoil it for you). The Christian elements were

nicely incorporated into the story (faith, prayer, God knows what is in your heart, trust in God, God's will). I especially appreciate the message about using the talents/gifts God has given us to help others. The pace of the book was slow in places (those scenes would take me out of the story) and there is some repetitiveness (could have used editing to tighten up the story). The Road Home has an uplifting ending that put a smile on my face. I am giving The Road Home 4 out of 5 stars (I liked it).

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