



## The Proving

*Beverly Lewis*

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**The Proving** Beverly Lewis

**Amish Fiction's #1 Author Presents a Touching Story of Perseverance and Second Chances**

Amanda Dienner hasn't seen her Old Order family in five years when she receives word that her mother has passed away and left *her* Lancaster County's most popular Amish bed-and-breakfast. Now an Englisher, Mandy is shocked: Her twin sister should have been the obvious choice! What's more, the inheritance comes with a catch: The farmhouse inn will only truly be hers if she is able to successfully run it for twelve consecutive months.

Mandy accepts the challenge even though it means returning to Gordonville and the painful memories she left behind at eighteen. Still, she's determined to prove she is more than capable of running the bed-and-breakfast, no matter that its loyal clientele are expecting an *Amish* hostess!

The inn isn't Mandy's sole test, however. Rubbing shoulders with her married twin sister reopens wounds that Mandy isn't ready to forgive. And an Englisher guest with a difficult past of her own just complicates matters.

Can Mandy fulfill the terms of her inheritance? Or will this year in Amish country prove a dreadful mistake?

## The Proving Details

Date : Published September 5th 2017 by Bethany House Publishers

ISBN :

Author : Beverly Lewis

Format : Kindle Edition 354 pages

Genre : Amish, Christian Fiction, Fiction, Amish Fiction, Christian, Romance, Contemporary

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## From Reader Review The Proving for online ebook

### **Kristina says**

The Proving by Beverly Lewis takes Amanda Dienner back home to Gordonville, Pennsylvania. Amanda “Mandy” Dienner left home five years ago after discovering her twin sisters, Arie Mae, betrayal. Mandy has been living and working in Scott City, Kansas. One day she receives a certified letter from her older brother, Jerome telling her that her mother, Saloma passed away unexpectedly. Mandy learns that she has been left Butterfly Meadows, the families Amish bed-and-breakfast, to her. Mandy would have expected the B and B to be left to Arie Mae. The inheritance comes with the condition that Mandy run Butterfly Meadows at a profit for twelve consecutive months. Mandy returns home to take over the inn, but she is not prepared for the community’s and guests feelings about her non-Amish status. Will Mandy be able to handle the close proximity to her sister and her husband? Can Mandy find it in her heart to forgive and move on with her life?

The Proving is well-written, engaging, and has a nice easy flow. I liked the main characters and their stories. It was nice to follow their journey and see how they changed/developed. I only summarized Mandy’s portion of the story and her challenges (lack of cooking skills, not being Amish—when guests expect an Amish hostess, resentment). There is Catrina Sutton who signs up for a mystery vacation (hoping for beach destination) and ends up at Butterfly Meadows. Some of themes in The Proving are forgiveness, power of prayer, love, and letting God take the driver’s seat on your life’s journey (He is in control, not you). It is amazing what happens when you pray and believe. My rating for The Proving is 4 out of 5 stars (I liked it). The story is somewhat predictable (romantic outcomes especially), but I enjoyed reading this pleasant Amish book. The Proving is a lovely, heartwarming novel that provides a delightful respite from reality (which we all desperately need at times).

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### **Angela Brocato-Skaggs says**

Imagine a quaint little Amish B&B surrounded by beautiful butterflies and you have pictured Butterfly Meadows. Amanda Sue, Mandy as her family and friends call her, has been called back to her former Amish life to run the B&B after her mother suffered a stroke and died. The stipulation is that she must run the B&B for twelve months successfully. Mandy finds it hard to be so close to her twin sister and husband, the man Mandy thought she was going to marry. Can Mandy succeed? Will Mandy forgive her sister for the wrong she thought was done to her?

I know whenever I pick up a Beverly Lewis book I will have a sense of calm and peace as I am reading and The Proving was no exception. I enjoyed seeing Mandy grow as an adult and watching her learn the ways of her mom. Learning to pray over the guests and help them find the comfort of a quiet life to ease their troubled lives.

I think we could all learn to pray more and pray quietly. Lewis shows us where a prayerful life could lead us. It could lead us to the most unexpected but perfect place in our life.

Thank you to NetGalley and Bethany House Publishers for an ARC in exchange for a review based on my own honest opinion.

## **Kav says**

Classic Lewis. There's an old-fashioned flare to her storytelling and reading one of her books always makes me feel like I'm sitting in a cozy kitchen listening to a story being told by an elderly Amish woman as she looks back on her life and imparts wisdom to her young listeners.

In *The Proving* (great title tie-in) Lewis explores the complicated dynamics of estranged sisters. Forgiveness is at the heart of this story -- and the freedom letting go of past hurts can bring. Mandy's on a year long journey of self-discovery as she comes to terms with her past and finds a new strength in her faith and family.

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## **Molly Cafinated Reads Jaber says**

I was absolutely excited to review this book! I was definitely not disappointed. Beverly Lewis is one of my all time favorite Amish authors of all time, and I loved this book just as much as I've loved her other books. In her trademark fashion, Ms. Lewis delivers a book that will make you smile, make you angry, make you glad that you have taken the time to become friends with the beautifully chiseled characters, and feel the love of God moving amongst them.

I loved Mandy's character! She stole my heart from the start and I found myself cheering her one so many times. When she realizes what God had in store for her all long, my heart expanded so much! Ms. Lewis did a fabulous job on Mandy's story and threw in some twists that kept me turning the pages long into the night. On more than one occasion, I felt like I was right there in the B&B next to Mandy. That was a fun feeling!

This is another 5 star book from the talented hands of Beverly Lewis. She truly knows what to create to give her fans a novel that will stay with them long after they close the last chapter. The messages from the Lord aren't preachy but they are felt through out the book, the characters are life like and become your friends til the end, and the writing style is unique to that of only Ms. Lewis. I can't wait for another amazing novel!

\*I received a complimentary copy of this book from Bethany House and was under no obligation to post a review, positive or negative.\*

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## **?Tara Sheehan? says**

If you're a well-read fan of Beverly Lewis then you walk into her novels knowing what to expect. Of course it'll be centered on the Amish way of life, there will be some kind of heartbreak that needs resolving through Christian principles, there will be bold statements about God and/or prayers and if you can find the silence to listen you might learn something.

Lewis uses her talent for descriptive and metaphorical language to create vivid images so you can actually feel like you've been to Amish country. Even if you've never read a Lewis book it'll be easy to get used to her use of the particular language and dialect her Amish characters use thanks to her detailed context. She paints their way of life as something beautiful and full rather than lacking as you might believe since they aren't held together through social media, video games, comic movies or our warring political parties. She

creates a world that even the tech and Starbucks addicts can envy even just a little.

Lewis tried something new in this novel compared to most of her other ones by using an Inn as the setting and it worked very well because it provided a chance to see more of how the Amish and 'English' might interact and what each other's expectations might be. The way it was described you felt like you were walking through the rooms and meadows outdoors, made me wish I could make a reservation.

Typical for Lewis the family dynamics involved that she spun through her well-developed characters was both dramatic and heartwarming at once. At times I felt irritated with the choices being made but once you understand the full story and how each character viewed their part in it you can see how very logical and realistic their actions were.

The nice thing about a Lewis novel is no matter what goes on you're guaranteed a good ending so the plot, dialogue and characters can just whisk you away from whatever stressful reality you may be dealing with to one where peaceful endings are just around the turn of the page.

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## **Jeanie says**

### **Forgiveness is not about forgetting the past, it is about moving forward.**

Amanda Dienner five years ago abruptly left her Amish home in Lancaster County. Leaving her twin sister and her widowed mother to run a Bed and Breakfast that the family acquired after the death of her father. Amanda is living in Kansas, working with a young couple as a florist. When hard times forces the couple to let Amanda go, she must find work or move to where she can make a living. Within weeks of still searching for a job, she receives a letter from her brother informing her the death of mother and the inheritance of the B&B. There are stipulations with the inheritance and that being she must run it for a year- A proving of herself and after a year, she can sell it. Amanda is with anxiety in seeing her sister and being received by the Amish community. The hurt and betrayal she had endured by her own twin sister and the misunderstanding she had with her mother. She must decide if she can go back without her heart in it.

She does go back and the development of the plot and her character is helped with those that come into Amanda's life. The clientele of the inn that loved Amanda's mother and the Amish way, the young woman who is candid with Amanda regarding her standing with the Amish and her own sister whom she fired day one arriving to take over the B & B. In the proving, she comes to find what is important and what is worth fighting for. That forgiveness is a process that must be dealt with for healing. The process gives the reader tears and hope! Loved this one

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

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## **Ashley (Apt Reader) says**

Well, having an Amish inn was certainly different. Beverly Lewis is having a new obsession where the people are leaving because of certain issues, then come back, resolve them and get baptized. Instead of the other way around, being baptized and then leaving and coming back. Or maybe it's always been this way, I don't know. I think it was good for what it was.

### **Maureen Timerman says**

Beverly Lewis has given us another page turning read, and heart-warming visit in Lancaster with an Amish family, and their forgiving love for one another.

Yes the main theme of this book is forgiveness, an easy thing to say, but hard to do, and yet a corner stone of faith. We also have a twin that ends up back in her home, and has to face her past, and those she feels wounded her. I found myself quickly lost in this story, and hoping what my mind was wishing would happen, and in most cases it did.

We know when we begin that it is a death that brings Mandy home, but will life and family get her to stay; she sure has to work cut out for her.

I would love to go and stay at this B & B, and see the butterflies!

I received this book through Bethany House Publisher's Reviewer Program, and was not required to give a positive review.

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### **Mayda says**

Amanda left her Amish community five years ago, upset when she catches her twin sister embracing the boy Amanda always dreamed of marrying. But now, she is headed back to her homestead, with some misgivings. Her mother has died and left Amanda her Bed-and-Breakfast inn but with the stipulation that to inherit it, she must run it for a year and make profit. But Amanda is not welcomed back as the prodigal daughter returning. She, as well as the Amish community, must come to an understanding of what her return really means. An interesting concept, this tale is not a typical Amish story, and the varied characters in a somewhat unusual setting makes for an entertaining read.

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### **Mary Jackson \_TheMaryReader says**

I would love to get away and stay at the Butterfly Meadows B and B for a few weeks. Enjoy the plain life and slow down some. This was a very good story and I enjoyed all of the characters so much.

Lewis writes Amish fiction like no other Amish fiction writer. Her writing style is all her own and never a dull moment in the stories. I hope that you enjoy the twins story and the happy every after ending.

I do wish that the book had been a little bit longer I would love to know how Mandy and Karl's story ends.

I gave The Proving 5 stars. I HIGHLY recommend it. Fresh Amish Fiction!

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

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### **Lindsey (Books for Christian Girls) says**

About this book:

*"Amanda Dienner hasn't seen her Old Order family in five years when she receives word that her mother has passed away and left her Lancaster County's most popular Amish bed-and-breakfast. Now an Englisher,*

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At the beginning, since we don't know what in the world happened between the twin sisters, Mandy's reactions to Arie can come across mean and rude. But, then on the other hand, because we (the readers) are more likely to side with our main point of view character, all the other characters can come across rude to Mandy while taking Arie's side, when they don't know what happened between the sisters either. When it's revealed what happened, I honestly wasn't shocked as I expected something like that, but it still annoyed me on how it worked out for Mandy. After that, I really was on Mandy's side. Maybe my opinion would had been different if we saw Arie's POV or it was her story, but I think I would still feel for Mandy. I liked Trina up until she got to the B&B, she felt/acted like a different person. She did grow on me, though, as the ending got closer and found her to be overall an interesting character. It was an interesting story, though, and I enjoyed the butterfly parts. :)

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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### **Alicia Ruggieri says**

I can always count on Beverly Lewis books to provide a heartwarming story. Though I prefer Lewis' series to her standalones, I've found that even her standalone novels – which can appear simple at times – even predictable – always give a carefully-wrought message interwoven seamlessly into the storyline.

And her newest novel, the standalone *The Proving* was no different in this regard. Mandy's mishaps as she tries to run a B & B singlehandedly at times – all in an effort to spite her sister and prove that she is capable of succeeding independently – were funny enough at times to make me chuckle and smile, and her justifiable hurt feelings over the wrong done to her was depicted so well that I as a reader could definitely sympathize with her anger and grudge.

What I really loved was the way that the author took a situation that was “unfixable” – literally, there was nothing, aside from the death of one of the parties that could undo the wrong that had been done – and showed that God can make something very good from great wrong – can redeem it, in fact, and shower it with His blessings – as long as we forgive.

While this wasn't my favorite Beverly Lewis novel – her Abram's Daughters series takes that prize ? – *The Proving* is still well-worth reading for Amish fiction fans and for anyone who loves a well-told, heartwarming tale.

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### **Faith says**

Oh my goodness, what a precious story! I have yet to read a Beverly Lewis book that I did not enjoy, and *The Proving* was no exception.

From the first pages, Mandy's story intrigued me. My mind filled with questions as to what had transpired between her and her twin sister, Arie (who was super sweet!), and why. Picking up hints along the way was pretty fun. :)

Catrina entered the story near the beginning of the book, and I was confused for awhile as to her purpose. Her sad backstory made me feel for her and pity her loss...so sad. I enjoyed her character then, but when she got to the B&B her attitude toward Mandy made me want to not like her. Thankfully, she changed though (or rather someone had a good influence on her...), and her story and romance was very precious!

I loved the setting of the book!! A book set at an Amish Bed&Breakfast in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania—which is being ran by the estranged daughter of the family? Yes, please! The mysterious vibe fit the setting very well too.

All of the characters were so real. Mandy, Arie, Josiah, Jerome, Betsy, Trina, Karl, Gavin, Yonnie... Karl, Arie, and Yonnie were definitely favorites of mine. :)

My only complaint would be that the beginning of the book was rather slow. I wanted to find out what had happened and how it would all be resolved, but I wasn't that into it. Thankfully, I stuck with it and pushed on. What a lovely ending to the story! <3

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

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## **Fizzy says**

I sit down to write this review, after staying up half the night because I NEEDED to finish it, and am at a loss for words. Yes, need in all caps is the right word to use there. Why need? Because I said so? Grabbing a couple of chapters in the car before work, a chapter on lunch here and there, a couple of chapters before passing out in bed with burn-y eyes (is so a word!) wasn't helping me to find out how Mandy and Arie's relationship originally broke and what, if anything would actually repair it. Those few chapters here and there weren't helping me figure out why Mamma willed the B&B to Mandy to begin with or how she was going to navigate the stipulations of inheriting the Inn. I needed to know if her family, her community, even her guests ever came to embrace her as a whole. I needed to know so many many things that a few chapters here and there wasn't cutting it. So, instead of 'sleeping all the hours' I'd proclaimed I would do with my extended weekend I read most of them. And the reading? Worth so much more than the sleep. However I will vehemently deny I EVER said that!

Having finished 'The Proving' in the wee hours this morning I just have to get this off my chest. It was too easy. Mandy's 12 months were too easy. They were hard, I get that, but they were too easy. I get there was a lot, I mean a LOT, of hardship as she navigated her way from her English world to her roots in the Amish world. Just the emotional toll of facing what she had left behind in a rush of deep hurts. And then being abandoned again by people who were in place to help her, well all but the outside help. They kept coming, without any interaction from her, without any acknowledgement from her, which I think made things too easy. Keeping the acquiescing yard and barn help ultimately lightened the burden of the experience. Navigating the edges of her torn family relationships, which had to be wrapped in a layers of uncertainty and doubt, was too easy. It wasn't easy but there was a depth of emotion that I felt was missing with Mandy. Her hesitancy and uncertainty were forefront but it just lacked something for me. And for the love of tomatoes, Lewis held onto the reason behind her flight from home until the near end. I was tempted so many times to flip ahead and figure out where this little nugget of knowledge would finally be revealed. Until then I sometimes thought of Mandy as a bit petty and unyielding. Which, of course, layered on the hardship.

Let's talk about Trina while we are at it. That girl is a heaping helping of mess piled on with a thick layer of caustic kindness. I get it, that's almost an oxymoron but it's true. She's hateful and condescending one

moment and then gentle and helpful the next. The girl made my head spin! I feel like she took her friendship and opportunities that she had with Mandy for granted and ultimately slighted her at the end. Mandy didn't see it that way, I don't think anyone in the book saw it that way but I totally felt hurt by a choice she made. All that said I don't dislike this book. I actually loved this book.

I loved characters with depth and personality. I loved characters with flaws and emotions. I can't imagine leaving literally everything I know, including way of life, to embark on a journey halfway across the country with no ties, no world skills, and such a deep hurt of betrayal from the people I loved most. I can't begin to imagine myself being successful at it either! Mandy did all of that and also returned to the 'scene of the crime' so to speak with mostly tactful grace despite the uncertainty and the over-carrying hurts. Seriously, this book, despite the flaw of easiness, is one I'd recommended for almost anyone who just needs to be reminded that sometimes even the hurts are in God's time and in his care.

I was provided a complimentary copy of this book by Bethany House. I was not compensated for this review and all thoughts and opinions expressed are my own. I was not required to write a positive review.

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## **Laura says**

THE PROVING is Ms. Lewis's newest book and it is better than most of her recent ones. A unique twist on the Amish Bed and Breakfast theme, with Mandy fighting to keep her mama's inn afloat after firing her sister and losing all her help--except one. The Amish isn't accepting her back at all and refuse to let her find replacement help -- what will a girl do?

There are two stories running through the book, the other is about a woman named Trina who is cantankerous and running off at the mouth all the time -- lippy the book says. But she plays a key part in the story.

The women were both difficult and had something to prove. I did grow to like them but it was an uphill battle.

This is women's fiction and not romance, though there is a hint on one toward the end of the book. It is more the story of two women on the path to finding out who they really are and making amends with those they hurt. The romance with Trina is more defined and spelled out more than even the possibility of one for Mandy.

I received a copy of this book free. All opinions are my own.

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