

STARRING DANIELLE PANABAKER

part one

The
Heritage
of
Lancaster
County

The
SHUNNING

AN ORIGINAL HALLMARK MOVIE

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR

BEVERLY
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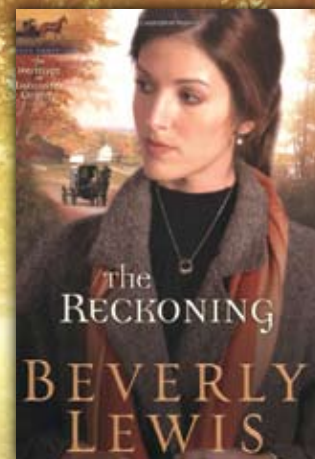
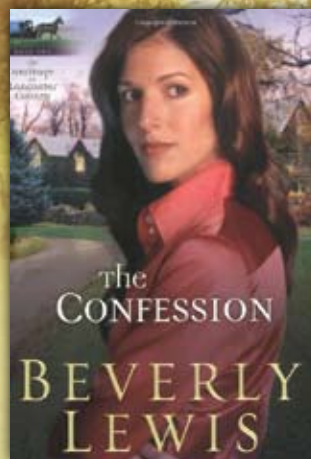
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The SHUNNING

All her life she has longed for the forbidden things, but will her dreams come at a price too dear to pay?



Part Two and Three of this exciting trilogy.

In the quiet Amish community of Hickory Hollow, Pennsylvania, time has stood still while cherished traditions and heartfelt beliefs have flourished. But there is a secret in the community that could shatter the tranquility its inhabitants have grown to love. Twenty-two-year-old Katie Lapp has always longed for a sense of the outside world – a world forbidden by her strict Amish community. And over the years she has found herself fascinated by modern technology, and drawn to modern music. She tries her best to bury these feelings, but it is difficult to hide the song in her heart. As Katie's wedding to widower John Beiler, the community's bishop, approaches, emotions over a past love lost leaves Katie even more conflicted. The love of her life, Daniel Fischer, a similarly free-thinking Amish boy had gone missing two years earlier and was presumed dead.

As preparations for the wedding continue, Katie's mother and father, Rebecca and Samuel, are startled when a letter is delivered to them – a letter from Laura Mayfield Bennett – an "Englisher," or outsider to the Amish community revealing a secret that Laura, as an unwed teenage mother two decades ago, had given up Katie for adoption to the Lapps. Now with the wedding approaching, Laura has suddenly reappeared searching for her long-lost daughter. The secret can no longer be contained.

Rebecca visits Laura at the hotel from where she is staging her search, and begs her to keep the promise they both made at the time of the adoption – never to seek each other out, and to leave each other in peace. Laura tells Rebecca that things have changed and she cannot promise that she will stop looking for her daughter. As an heiress to a great fortune, has also kept this secret buried from her own husband, Dylan.

But when Katie finds the letter partially burned in the fireplace, she begins to dig for clues and stumbles upon a satin infant gown in the dusty leather trunk of her keepsakes. She realizes there must be a story behind it.

On the eve of Katie's wedding to Bishop John, she confronts her anguished parents and discovers the startling secret of her birth, and nothing could have prepared her for the devastating blow to her self-identity their confession brings. Feeling betrayed, angry and confused, Katie feels that the only life she has ever known is unraveling.

Shaken, Katie leaves Bishop John at the altar, unable to commit to a man that she does not love, but also because she feels she is somehow not worthy of him. Her spurning of such a respected man causes the Amish community to react in the only way it knows how. Katie is "shunned" for her own good, so that she will return to the fold. The entire community, not to mention her own family, is compelled to cut off all contact with her until she repents of her doubts.

Unable to cope with the separation of her daughter, Rebecca seeks out Laura. It's then she learns the true reason Laura had sought to meet her only daughter. Laura has returned home because she is dying of cancer and her search for Katie was about seeking forgiveness and saying goodbye. But Laura has chosen to keep her promise not to intrude on the Amish family. This discovery inspires Rebecca to come clean with her community about the secret adoption and to break the shunning with her daughter, and tell Katie the whole story. Despite the fact that the community cannot lift the shunning, Katie's spirits are buoyed by her mother's love.

This gives Katie the courage to leave Hickory Hollow and find Laura – a painful separation from her "true family," but one born of the love that brought her into the community in the first place. It will be that same love that sends her into the modern world of the English with the blessing of her family and onto the next exciting chapter of her life... and a future of hope.

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