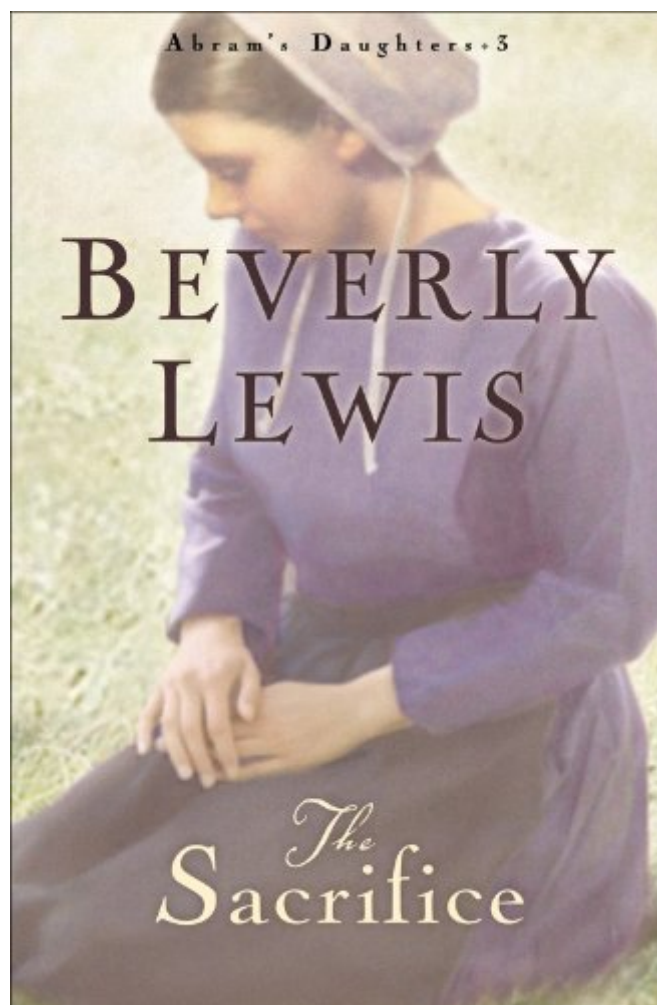


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The Sacrifice (Abram's Daughters Book #3) (Abram's Daughters)



Synopsis

Abram's Daughters book 3, the sequel to the bestselling *The Betrayal*. This powerful family saga features four Amish courting-age sisters growing up in Lancaster County Pennsylvania, beginning in the 1940s. Life in Gobbler's Knob was all Leah Ebersol ever wanted until her older sister Sadie abandoned faith and family, leaving Leah no choice but to believe the worst, that Sadie--and her own beloved Jonas--had betrayed her. Now, two years later, Leah still misses both Sadie and Jonas keenly. Because of her sister's shunning, she cannot contact either of them but hears through the grapevine that they are married. Loyal neighbor Gid is still biding his time, but on the verge of accepting his courting invitation, tragedy befalls the Ebersols and Leah must again choose between her own happiness and her family. Mary Ruth dreams of becoming a teacher, but it has gotten pushed to the back of her thinking when a nice young Amish boy comes courting. Twin Hannah yearns for her sister to attend baptismal classes with her, but Mary Ruth is not ready to take her &supl;nal vows. How will this family in turmoil &supl;nd peace?

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Customer Reviews

I am a huge fan of Beverly Lewis's books, but was just about to lay this one aside when it FINALLY started to get interesting and then - wow! Leah is the main character and her value and worth are never questioned, especially with the decisions she is called to make. The twins Hannah and Mary Ruth are young ladies now, but their hearts pull them in different directions. Sadie, the shunned oldest daughter is ever in the background until the last few pages. Somehow I feel we have not heard the last of her first, huge sinful encounter which resulted in her banning. I was pleased to see the doctor's family more fully integrated into this book. Abram and his wife have raised some different children with sharp minds and this book shows the reader the apparent differences and outcomes. The Amish community is beginning to lose some of their young people to the more liberal Mennonites, much to the chagrin of Dat and the bishop. Speaking of Dat, he is portrayed as stubborn, spiteful, and finally softening. Leah has my admiration and is definitely the star of this book. Her life and relationship to some special little people will pull at your heartstrings. This book is chock full of surprises and intrigue and Beverly Lewis has plenty to draw from when she releases book 4, "The Prodigal" in October, 2004. I am very excited to order it in advance. If the whole book had been like the last fourth of the book then it would have been 5+ stars. If just half the book had been, it would have gotten 4. However, this time Lewis took entirely too long to get to the meat and heart of the book, hence, 3 stars.

THE SACRIFICE is the third story in the saga of Abram's Daughters. I approached this book with great anticipation since I enjoyed THE COVENANT and THE BETRAYAL, the first and second books in this series. I wasn't disappointed. The author, Beverly Lewis, continued her saga of drama and wrote another terrific story about the Amish in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. Life for the Ebersol family of Gobbler's Knob, continues as they adjust to the shunning of their oldest daughter Sadie. Leah, the second daughter, misses her sister, but still feels angry because she lost her boyfriend to Sadie. Eventually, Leah becomes involved with Gid Peachey and tries to love him, but in her heart no one can replace Jonas Mast, the love of her life. The twins Mary Ruth and Hannah start their own rumschprunge and begin dating. Leah continues working on the farm, helping both her mother and father. When her mother becomes pregnant, Leah takes on the extra duty of caring for Lydiann, her youngest sister. Her mother's pregnancy is a tough one and Leah tries to do as much work as she can so that her mother can rest. The family of five daughters, are all hoping for a baby boy. This author always has something unexpected waiting for the reader and like life itself, we never can guess what's going to happen next.

I've read the first 2 in the series so far, and finally found this one as well. The story of the Ebersol family continues in *The Sacrifice*. Leah is still angry and hurt at losing the love of her life to her banned sister, Sadie. She's patiently trying to cope with the loss of her mother, raise the 2 young children her mother left behind, court a man that has been in love with her from her childhood, put up with a hard-to-deal-with, grief-stricken father, and still manage to have some fun at the same time. I have to say, there is a small, but very good twist in the book at the very end and I did not see it coming at all. It totally took on a new meaning for me then. It's a must read, but I must say, if you haven't first read *The Covenant* and *The Betrayal* (in that order), then you won't really catch what's going on.

I for one wasn't all that frustrated with the lack of "meat" in the story. That might be your impression if you are focused on the Jonas-Sadie-Leah love triangle, because that was a central plot in the previous two books. This book focuses more on the Schwartz family, Abram, Ida, and their twin daughters; as well as Leah's coping in the absence of her sister and old beau. Only toward the end does it return to focus on the original plot. This is a detour from the previous books, but it was a welcome detour for me, because I found the other members of Abram's family to be just as fascinating. The focus on different characters allows for new insights into the world of Lancaster County. *"Sacrifice"* (more than *"Covenant"* or *"Betrayal"*) touches on several issues that make the Amish controversial: excessive legalism, the "hex doctors", and the question of salvation. Lewis handles these issues honestly, without getting either overly defensive or judgmental of the Amish people. I'm not giving this book 5 stars because it doesn't really stand on its own as a story. It is a collection of different, related stories that could have used an overriding theme to tie them all together. I don't even know exactly what *"The Sacrifice"* refers to, but it is still a worthy addition to the series. October will be a long wait, but if the next installment is anything like the previous ones, it will be worth it. I think I could predict what will happen to Leah in the next book (once you get to the end, you'll know what I'm talking about) but the cast of characters is so endearing and true-to-life, I would enjoy it even if it did turn out to be predictable. Anyway, Beverly Lewis has surprised me already, and I wouldn't put it past her to do it again.

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