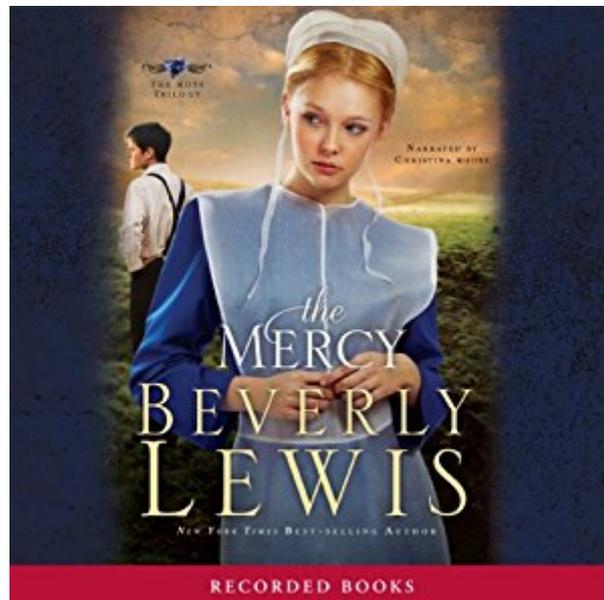


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The Mercy: The Rose Trilogy, Book 3



Synopsis

Rose Kauffman pines for prodigal Nick Franco, the Bishop's foster son who left the Amish under a cloud of suspicion after his foster brother's death. His rebellion led to the "silencing" of their beloved Bishop. But is Nick really the rebel he appears to be? Rose's lingering feelings for her wayward friend refuse to fade, but she is frustrated that Nick won't return and make things right with the People. Nick avowed his love for Rose - but will he ever be willing to sacrifice modern life for her? Meanwhile, Rose's older sister, Hen, is living in her parents' Dawdi Haus. Her estranged "English" husband, injured and helpless after a car accident, has reluctantly come to live with her and their young daughter during his recovery. Can their marriage recover, as well? Is there any possible middle ground between a woman reclaiming her old-fashioned Amish lifestyle and thoroughly modern man?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I really enjoyed reading the first volume in The Rose Trilogy series. I thought (and still think) Rose was one of Beverly's best characters yet. I loved her constant dedication to the Amish faith. For a while there in Amish fiction, it seemed like every third character in a book by any author became a Mennonite or a more liberal Amish person. The Rose trilogy stayed away from that type of plot trajectory and even had a character, Rose's sister Hen, who wanted to return to the Amish ways despite having married an Englisher. All of the information above was established in the first book of the set. In the second book, I began to feel like I was reading a lot of copy that was interesting,

well-written and, at times, fun or touching but that wasn't really necessary to progress the story. This was most noticeable in the multiple variations of Hen and her husband having the same argument about her wanting to return to her Amish ways. Each fight was important, I suppose, because it escalated the situation to a critical turning point but it got tiresome. I really, really disliked Hen at the end of the second book. (I liked her again by the end of third book, but only a little bit.) After basically dismissing much of the second book as series filler, I felt like this volume would decide my overall opinion of this trilogy. It did. I've ended up giving the series a mental so-so and this book a four. In the hands of a lesser author, I probably would have given the book a three, but Beverly Lewis' writing deserves the extra star. The plot flounders in this story. For those who read the first two books, you know that Rose had two boys in her life, Silas and Nick. Nick ran away, she was making plans with Silas and eventually broke them because she felt he loved someone else. You probably presumed, as I did, that the third book would finally return us to the Nick storyline. It does. However, not before we spend several chapters with a new potential boyfriend and almost fiancée named Isaac. He came from nowhere, spends very little time talking in the book, and seems to only exist so that Rose can, yet again, be tied up with someone else when Nick rolls back into "town." I would have preferred her to spend more time examining her feelings and thinking about her life than thinking about a random boy. I have always thought character introspection was what set Beverly Lewis apart, and I think that is what I missed most in this book. It seemed like the book hurried the plot along to conclude the series and little time was spent in the head of a character while they were thinking meaningful thoughts. All of that being said, my last problem with the book was that it ended so fast that I half-expected to hear tires screeching despite the lack of rubber tires in the Amish world. After spending two whole books and 19/20 of another book waiting for the resolution of Rose's problems, having the problems end so swiftly and unceremoniously was sad despite my being happy with the basic idea of the ending. I wouldn't not recommend this book. If you read the first two books in the series, there is no reason not to read this one, and, if you are like me, no way you weren't reading it. I would just caution you to go into it expecting a little less than normal. Final random thought: This book has an absolutely exquisite cover. The blue of the dress is so vivid and striking against "Rose's" face that I would hang a larger copy of the cover image on my wall.

This is the third book in The Rose Trilogy. The story continues with Hen and her husband, who is temporarily blind from an accident, still trying to figure out how they are going to live their lives since Hen wants to continue living in her Amish roots and her husband does not. He wants a divorce and

to take their daughter with him back to the "English" world. Hen loves her husband very much and wants to have her family together but is not sure how to combine his world and her new desire to stay Amish. As the story unfolds, Hen and her husband learn more about each other and how to move on with the changes in their lives. Hens sister Rose is looking for the path in her life after she broke off her engagement to Silas. She knows that most of the boys her age are already married or spoken for so she sets her mind to accepting her new lot in life. Then, along comes Issac and she starts courting. Things are going well, but Issac has ideas as to how he wants to live his life and Rose is not sure she wants to follow him. Then one day, an old friend comes back into the community. This brings confusion to Rose's life and to the community. She is desperately looking for that happy ending. Will she find it with the man she loves? This book was wonderful and Beverly Lewis did a great job of ending her trilogy. All three books are highly recommended! Thank you to the publisher for this free book.

I am always amazed at Beverly Lewis. Her writing takes my breath away now, just like it did in her first novel, *The Shunning*. She's like a good wine, just getting better with age. One comment made, about moving on to other Amish fiction writers just made my love for Beverly Lewis rise up and write this review. It was like someone had insulted a good friend. If it wasn't for Beverly Lewis, we wouldn't have Amish fiction as a genre. Her book, *The Shunning*, and all her books that followed, has paved the way for all Amish writers. Her rich character depth and abundant knowledge about the Amish culture make me just adore this author.

The Mercy fittingly concludes *The Rose Trilogy* leaving the reader with a sense of Amish peace. Well written, the story captivates from the Prologue to the Epilogue. Although this reviewer guessed the conclusion well before the main character became aware of it's inevitability, this fact merely increased the satisfaction at the end. Absolutely loved this last book in a wonderful-good Amish tale of life, loss and enduring love.

I always love Beverly Lewis! Her Amish books are always so enjoyable to me. I avoided them for years, thinking they'd be corny or not well-written. I sometimes roll my eyes at the Christian novels which are available...not because they are Christian, but that's usually the only part I like. Not so with these books. The characters were well developed, and their dilemmas complex. I truly enjoyed the entire trilogy!

Book three in this series. Sad to see it end. Happy for the outcomes with Hen and her husband Brandon's marriage. Rose made the right decision regarding love. Nick changed and thankfully for the better. Great that Emma is no longer in pain and suffering so. Lewis certainly hit the nail on the head with this great series!

This trilogy is true to form from Beverly Lewis. It bears trials, sadness, love and joy. The last in this series Mercy shows us just that, mercy. It shows us that God's mercy is combined with patience, perseverance, and a lot of love.

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