

## The Promise of Palm Grove

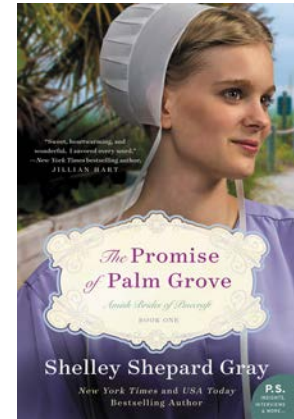
Avon Inspire

By Shelley Shepard Gray

ISBN: 9780062337702

### Introduction

A young Amish woman finds herself torn between the man she's pledged to wed and the man her heart desires in this heartwarming story of chance, duty, and choice in the face of love—the first volume in the beloved *New York Times* bestselling author's new Amish Brides of Pinecraft series.



Amish bride-to-be Leona is thrilled to be in Florida, on a mini-vacation in the pretty town of Pinecraft. Her girlfriends think she's happy because she's away from the stress of wedding planning. They have no idea that Leona's real joy is in being away from her fiancé.

Edmund is a good man, and will make a decent husband . . . just not for Leona. The more time she spends with him and his overbearing ways, the less she wants to be his wife. Her cousins are sure Edmund is the right man for her—and their certainty makes Leona begin to doubt herself. But when a chance encounter with a wayward cat brings her face-to-face with a handsome, fun-loving Amish man named Zachary Kauffman, Leona's faced with two vastly different futures.

Leona must decide: Does she follow the path set out before her? Or take a chance with only the promise of what could be to guide her?

### Questions for Discussion

1. The following scripture verse guided me through the writing of this novel. I thought it was a perfect verse to describe Leona's journey. Can you think of a situation when the Lord changed some of your plans? *We can make our plans, but the Lord determines our steps.* Proverbs 16:9
2. I found the following Amish proverb to be especially helpful when creating my own "community" in Pinecraft, with the Kaufmann family and Beverly in the center of much of it! Describe your community of people, those who see you through. *We are not put on this earth to see through one another, but to see one another through.* Amish Proverb
3. What are your first impressions of Leona?
4. I loved the idea of Beverly "dreaming in color." I liked the idea of having her life so much brighter than the life she left behind. Can you relate to Beverly's color-filled life? What in your life brings you happiness and bright days?

5. How do you feel about Leona's friends? Were they supportive enough? How do you see the girls' relationships evolving after the book ends?
6. Some of my favorite scenes in the novel revolved around the interaction between the different members of the Kaufmann family. I especially liked Violet's character, and how she struggled to still be included even though she wasn't doing exactly what her parents wanted her to do. Were there any relationships that you could relate to?
7. Beverly's story begins in this novel and continues through the entire series. What do you think are some areas in her life that she needs to work on before she's able to handle her own romance?
8. I truly loved setting my book in Pinecraft, Florida. It was fun to mention some Pinecraft landmarks—and adding some fictional places in order to make the story my own! What place would you like to see more of in the rest of the series?
9. Do you or disagree with Leona's father's pronouncement that "You can't stop love"? What experiences have you had that support this?