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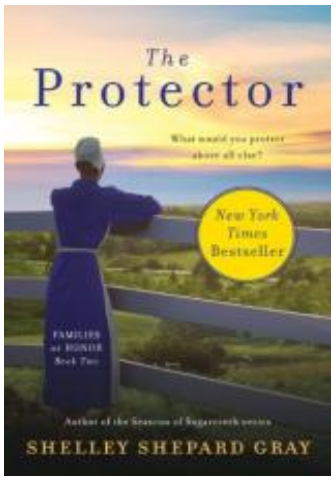
The Protector: Families of Honor, Book 2

by Shelley Shepard Gray



About the Book

Everyone needs a safe place to call home.

When her mother passes away, Ella's forced to auction off her family's farm. Her father died years ago, and she could never manage the 50 acres on her own. But after she moves to town, she can't deny the pain she feels watching the new owner, Loyal Weaver, repairing her family's old farmhouse --- everything Ella had once dreamed of doing.

What Ella doesn't know is that Loyal secretly hopes she will occupy this house again . . . as his wife. He begins inviting her over, to ask her opinion on changes he wants to make. As their friendship blooms, Ella starts to wonder about Loyal's intentions, especially when her best friend, Dorothy, hints that Loyal is not who he seems. There's no way the golden boy of their close-knit Amish community could be interested in Ella, long the wallflower, hidden away caring for her ailing parents.

Should she trust the man she's always yearned for, or the friend who's always been by her side? When one of them threatens to disrupt the independence she's finally achieved, Ella is faced with a choice. She can protect her heart and keep things the way they've always been. Or she can come out of her shell, risk everything for the love she's always wanted, and finally have a place to call home.

Discussion Guide

1. Ella and Loyal have lived near each other for most of their lives, but until recently, hardly knew each other at all. Have you ever had a relationship like that with someone? How did your relationship grow and change?

2. Should Loyal have felt guilty for purchasing the Hostetler farm? Or was the purchase the right thing for both Ella and him?

3. The practice of auctioning off a deceased person?s belongings is a common practice in some Amish communities. Many Amish feel it is best to honor memories, not mementoes. How do you feel about this practice? Are there some things you?ve inherited that you could do without? Is there anything that you could never part with?

4. The theme of friendship plays an important part in the novel. Ella learns she must reach out to people in order for them to reach out to her. How have friends played a role in your life? What makes someone a good friend to you?

5. Dorothy, of course, exemplifies everything friendship is not. She?s self-serving and possessive, which leads to her downfall. How do you think she could have changed throughout the book? Or do you think her fate was inevitable?

6. Loyal, being the middle son, is trying hard to find his independence. Do you think his purchasing the Hostetler farm was the right decision? What other problems might a middle child face, even as an adult?

7. In The Protector, John Weaver is still struggling with his future. Do you think he could have been happy with Jayne Donovan, and staying ?English??

8. The main storylines in the novel revolve around ?protecting? something, whether it is a reputation, a friendship, a future, or a love. Some of the characters risk almost everything they have for these things. What would you go to great lengths to protect? Why?

9. The Bible verse that guided me while writing The Protector was from Hebrews: ?Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.? --- Hebrews 11:1 (NIV) What does faith mean to you? How does your faith play a role in your daily life?

10. How might the following Amish proverb apply to you? What does ?sharing your joys? look like in your life?

Author Bio

Shelley Shepard Gray is the *New York Times* bestselling author of the *Sisters of the Heart*, *Seasons of Sugarcreek* and *Families of Honor* series. Before becoming a writer, she was a teacher in both Texas and Colorado. She now lives with her family in southern Ohio, where she writes full-time. Visit Shelley Shepard Gray?s website and Like her on Facebook.

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