FRANCINE RIVERS BIOGRAPHY

Francine Rivers began her literary career at the University of Nevada, Reno, where she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and Journalism. From 1976 to 1985, she had a successful writing career in the general market and her books were awarded or nominated for numerous awards and prizes. Although raised in a religious home, Francine did not truly encounter Christ until later in life, when she was already a wife, mother of three, and an established romance novelist. Shortly after becoming a born-again Christian in 1986, Francine wrote *Redeeming Love* as her statement of faith. First published by Bantam Books, and then re-released by Multnomah Publishers in the mid-1990s, this retelling of the biblical story of Gomer and Hosea set during the time of the California Gold Rush is now considered by many to be a classic work of Christian fiction. *Redeeming Love* continues to be one of the Christian Booksellers Association’s top-selling titles and it has held a spot on the Christian bestseller list for nearly a decade.

Since *Redeeming Love*, Francine has published numerous novels with Christian themes—all bestsellers—and she has continued to win both industry acclaim and reader loyalty around the globe. Her Christian novels have been awarded or nominated for numerous awards including the Rita Award, the Christy Award, the ECPA Gold Medallion, and the Holt Medallion in Honor of Outstanding Literary Talent. In 1997, after winning her third Rita award for Inspirational Fiction, Francine was inducted into the Romance Writers’ of America Hall of Fame. Francine’s novels have been translated into over twenty different languages and she enjoys best-seller status in many foreign countries including Germany, The Netherlands, and South Africa.

Francine and her husband Rick live in Northern California and enjoy the time spent with their three grown children and every opportunity to spoil their four grandchildren. She uses her writing to draw closer to the Lord, and that through her work she might worship and praise Jesus for all He has done and is doing in her life.

For more information about Francine, visit [www.francinerivers.com](http://www.francinerivers.com)
A riveting tale of temptation, grace, and unconditional love and reminiscent of her global bestseller REDEEMING LOVE, Francine Rivers again delivers big-canvas storytelling at its best! To those who matter in 1950s Hollywood, Lena Scott is the hottest rising star to hit the silver screen since Marilyn Monroe. Few know her real name is Abra. Even fewer know the price she's paid to finally feel like she's somebody. To Pastor Ezekiel Freeman, Abra will always be the little girl who stole his heart the night he found her, a wailing newborn abandoned under a bridge on the outskirts of Haven, a sleepy little town in Northern California. Zeke and his son, Joshua—Abra's closest friend—watch her grow into an exotic beauty. But Zeke knows the circumstances surrounding her birth etched scars deep in her heart, scars that leave her vulnerable to a fast-
talking bad boy who proclaims his love and lures her to Tinseltown. Hollywood feels like a million miles from Haven, and naïve Abra quickly learns what's expected of an ambitious girl with stars in her eyes. But fame comes at a devastating price. She has burned every bridge to get exactly what she thought she wanted. Now, all she wants is a way back home.

**Praise for BRIDGE TO HAVEN**

“Rivers (Redeeming Love) returns with a page-turning recasting of the story of the prodigal son, here a prodigal daughter. In 1936, Abra Matthews is found as a newborn under a bridge in the small California town of Haven by Pastor Ezekiel Freeman. She’s taken in, but never feels as if she quite belongs, so she is susceptible to a beguiling young man who years later lures 17-year-old Abra to Hollywood. There, she becomes starlet Lena Scott, made over by a Pygmalion-like agent who wants everything from her, even while Abra/Lena comes to understand the cost of what she thought she wanted. Rivers nicely evokes 1950s Hollywood, with its gossip columnists, high-wattage movie stars, and ladder-climbing aspirants; Elvis Presley and Lana Turner put in cameos. This story arc will be particularly resonant for Christian readers, but Rivers has the writing ability to reel in others who enjoy a well-told tale of redemption.”—*Publishers Weekly*, February 10, 2014

“In Rivers’ (*Her Daughter’s Dream*, 2010) latest inspirational tale, Pastor Zeke feels compelled to walk to the bridge at the edge of Haven, his small Northern California town. There he discovers an abandoned newborn infant. The year is 1936 and his wife, Maryanne, his heart weakened by rheumatic fever in her childhood and advised against another pregnancy, wants to keep the child. They name her Abra. Five years later, Maryanne dies and Pastor Zeke gives Abra up for adoption to friends. Abra ends up feeling rejected by her birth mom and the pastor, and never bonds with her adoptive family. Joshua, her best friend, goes to war in Korea with a MASH unit, and she runs away to Hollywood and becomes a starlet under the tutelage of an agent who sees her as his Galatea. Hollywood success fails to make Abra feel whole and wanted, and she has no idea that Joshua is looking for her. Rivers’ persistent Christian message will please readers who are seeking fiction with a repeated and strong message about redemption and salvation.”—*Booklist*

“When Pastor Zeke Freeman finds a newborn baby abandoned under a bridge, he brings the child home and names her Abra. Although his wife, Marianne, is not well, she accepts the responsibility of caring for another child gladly. However, by the time their young charge is five, Marianne dies, and Pastor Zeke gives Abra to another family to raise. The girl is heartbroken and angry. By the time she reaches high school, the teen is already on a troubled path. Hooking up with the charming Dylan, she is off to find fame and fortune in the movie business. Her exotic looks take Hollywood by storm, and she soon realizes how fast life moves in Tinseltown, even in the 1950s. But success exacts a dreadful price, and now all she wants to do is return to Haven and the people who have always loved her. **VERDICT** This is another compelling and moving story by one of the genre’s most honored and talented writers. Abra is realistically crafted, and her story—based on Ezekiel 16—is poignant and bittersweet. Essential for Rivers’s many fans.”—*Library Journal*, starred review

**Why you should read it:** If you are looking for a sweet little Christian romance with a mild theme of redemption, you’d better look elsewhere. *Bridge to Haven* is one of the edgiest Christian romances I have had the pleasure of reading in a long while. Francine Rivers has woven a deeply moving story with an adept hand that knows just how to layer humanity, in all its beautiful and ugly truth, into almost every individual who steps onto the page. This story takes Abra to some very dark places before a pinprick of hope breaks through. Some scenes (even one post-redemption scene) might be considered “almost graphic” by inspirational/Christian romance standards, but that does not mean those readers should shy away. Francine Rivers writes these sorts of scenes in a way that puts the reader in the moment, but allows her to depart without feeling soiled by what she witnessed therein. There is beauty and meaning to be found throughout
this emotion-gripping story, even in the contrast between Abra's bedroom experiences. Longtime fans of Francine Rivers will not be disappointed in this painful, moving, and triumphant tale of redemption. For those who have not yet given this best-selling legend-of-an-author a try, I highly recommend Bridge to Haven.”—USA Today, April 22, 2014

“When I was first given a copy of Redeeming Love and was told I MUST read it, the rebellious side of me tried not to (I wasn’t a fan of Christian fiction). But I was soon gripped by the tale of undeserved love and grace that the re-telling of the story of Hosea and Gomer revealed. And the same has been true for every other Francine Rivers book I have devoured since. I must say Francine has done it again. I am always totally blown away by the worlds that her huge novels create. Each one is based around a totally different era and situation and yet she expertly crafts a totally plausible and utterly believable backdrop for her characters. It is obvious why she is a bestselling author, as she knows her craft so well. Francine often has at the heart of her books the eternal story of redemption and grace. This newest one reminded me a little of Redeeming Love, in that it focused on one girl’s journey. She makes so many huge mistakes, but ultimately finds her way home again. The book begins with Pastor Zeke discovering a little girl, just born, abandoned by the bridge into Haven. Taking her in for her first years, he eventually feels he must give her to another family from his church to raise. Devastated, Abra kicks back against the situation, feeling that it is just another instance of her being abandoned. You can sense the deep hurt on both sides, but also the integrity as the pastor tries to do what he feels is right. Eventually Abra grows into a beautiful young woman, but when a fast-talking, fast-driving boy turns up in town that both she and her ‘sister’ fall for, it is she that turns her back on all she has known and runs away with him. Abra soon learns life’s lessons the hard way as she is used and abused by the boy. Ending up in Hollywood, Abra becomes a rising acting star – but only due to a controlling agent desperate to make a comeback. There are so many things that spoke to me in this story. It is obviously about temptation, grace and unconditional love. However it is also about making mistakes and having to live with the consequences, feeling helpless, lost and alone, what it is like to have to let go and watch someone make decisions you know aren’t good for them, learning to grow up and take responsibility, having to face those you’ve hurt (and those people face you). Even though the book was set in 1950s America, the themes are universal and timeless. I felt drawn to the parts of the novel that I could relate back to situations and circumstances I’d come across in my own life, but it also ultimately urges you to reflect on your own salvation and the fact that we have a loving Father who beckons us with unconditional love – whatever we’ve done. Francine has a way of drawing you into the world she has created and I found myself reading faster and faster – often missing little bits and having to go back because I was so eager to find out what was going to happen. If I have one criticism (and I’m really having to scrape the barrel here as I think Francine is an incredible writer) it is that, because her books are often based on the wider Christian story of redemption, they can be a little predictable – as you know what is going to win out in the end. However, although the ending of this book tied up a lot of the story in ways I was expecting there was one part I hadn’t seen coming at all. So that little ‘shock’ made the read even more pleasurable. The Bridge to Haven is out now from Tyndale House Publishers. If you’ve never read any of Francine Rivers’ books then go and discover them for yourself – you are in for a real treat.”—Christian Today
In the dramatic conclusion to the *New York Times* best seller *Her Mother's Hope*, Francine Rivers delivers a rich and deeply moving story about the silent sorrows that can tear a family apart and the grace and forgiveness that can heal even the deepest wounds. Growing up isn’t easy for little Carolyn Arundel. With her mother, Hildemara, quarantined to her room with tuberculosis, Carolyn forms a special bond with her oma Marta, who moves in to care for the household. But as tensions between Hildie and Marta escalate, Carolyn believes she is to blame. When Hildie returns to work and Marta leaves, Carolyn and her brother grow up as latchkey kids in a world gripped by the fear of the Cold War. College offers Carolyn the chance to find herself, but a family tragedy shatters her newfound independence. Rather than return home, she cuts all ties and disappears into the heady counterculture of San Francisco. When she reemerges two years later, more lost than ever, she reluctantly turns to her family to help rebuild a life for her and her own daughter, May Flower Dawn. Just like Carolyn, May Flower Dawn develops a closer bond with her grandmother, Hildie, than with her mother, causing yet another rift between generations. But as Dawn struggles to avoid the mistakes of those who went before her, she vows that somehow she will be a bridge
between the women in her family rather than the wall that separates them forever. Spanning from the 1950s to present day, *Her Daughter’s Dream* is the emotional final chapter of an unforgettable family saga about the sacrifices every mother makes for her daughter—and the very nature of unconditional love.

**Praise for Her Daughter’s Dream!**

“The concluding part of a multigenerational saga by Rivers (*Her Mother’s Hope*) extends to the present day a family story that ultimately includes five generations of women. As the tale opens in the 1950s, Hildemara, a nurse, and her daughter, Carolyn, perpetuate a pattern of secret keeping, a communication failure that also characterized Hildie’s relationship with her mother, the Swiss-born, ambitious Marta. The conflict and social experimentation of the 1960s draw Carolyn away from her family, and the cycle of family dysfunction repeats itself as Carolyn gives birth to and raises her own daughter, May Flower Dawn, who in her turn grows up and marries, hoping not to repeat the familial past. Rivers has written another page-turner, yet the sequel is not as successful as the earlier novel, which centered around the compelling character of Marta and took time to narrate events and make subordinate characters interesting. Nonetheless, this heartfelt and sweeping saga is as ambitious as its central matriarch and will sell well.” — *Publisher's Weekly*

“In *Her Mother’s Love*, Rivers tells the story of Marta Schneider, a young woman who leaves her home in Switzerland to forge a new life in America. This sequel focuses on Marta’s descendants. When Marta’s daughter, Hilde, is quarantined with tuberculosis, Marta moves in to care for her granddaughter, Carolyn. The two form a special bond, even as tensions arise between Marta and Hilde. When a family tragedy threatens Carolyn’s newfound freedom as a college student in San Francisco, she disappears for two years, returning home later with a daughter of her own, determined to help heal the deep hurt that has plagued her family for years. VER0ICT Librarians new to the genre should become familiar with this popular and best-selling CF author. Her latest will appeal to those readers who like "clean" fiction with a romantic tone and well-developed characters, as well as those who enjoy family sagas.” — *Library Journal*

“Hauntingly beautiful, *Her Daughter’s Dream* explores the bonds of love between four generations of mothers and daughters. Francine Rivers holds nothing back in often fragile, always emotional, and sometimes explosive relationships between Marta, Hildemara, Carolyn, and Dawn. Decisions are based on past hurts, and emotional scars separate mother and daughter. Peeling back the emotional layers is painful and often impossible. They love one another, yet fearing rejection renders them unable to say the words so badly needed. Like an exquisite melody, *Her Daughter’s Dream* will stay with you long after you turn the last page. Novel Journey and I give it our highest recommendation. A must-have for your library.” — [http://www.noveljourney.blogspot.com/](http://www.noveljourney.blogspot.com/)

“*Marta’s Legacy* is a two-volume family drama centering on complicated personal relationships amid the turmoil of war and change. Book one, HER MOTHER’S HOPE, was a *New York Times* bestseller about a young girl’s childhood in Europe and her later life as an immigrant in North America during and after World War II. HER DAUGHTER’S DREAM concludes Marta Schneider’s story and is even more influential and better than the first, taking readers through modern generational struggles within Marta’s military family…Rivers does an excellent job of transitioning between the early and later years of her characters, and unique personalities are revealed with skill and subtlety. She is also skillful in blending current events
with the daily lives of her characters, and the history is less tangential than in book one. These narratives reveal both Carolyn and Dawn to be tender-hearted children, much as Hildie was, who grow distant despite having well-meaning parents. Most of their bad feelings stem from particular childhood events, and some are the direct result of difficult life circumstances. While Carolyn’s and Dawn’s stories do focus on the enduring quality of love, they also dwell on some cruelty and callousness. Carolyn’s hardships in her early childhood are by far the worst, more shocking and harrowing than even Marta’s had been. But this does shape the woman Carolyn becomes, and the path she chooses is different from any who have come before her. Her dreams lead her to Berkeley and then toward becoming a hippie, and she actively protests the Vietnam War—even with her own brother serving as a soldier. In the heat and turmoil of the protests in the 1960s, Carolyn loses herself and becomes a soul without purpose. She’s an addict who stands not truly for peace but for choosing a lifestyle that drowns out the past—that is until the day she discovers she’s pregnant. Her personal life becomes the fuel for a raging fire that will burn her entire family, but it is Carolyn who will be a source for understanding and forgiveness in the future when she offers her gentle wisdom to Dawn, who needs her guidance. Marta’s part in this second book is less central but more defining than in the first. Her relationship with Hildie becomes a new focus here, and she spends her later years supporting her daughter and family rather than pursuing her own dreams. Marta works hard to break down walls but is met with nothing but opposition, yet still she never gives up and shifts her efforts toward providing encouragement and understanding. She can see that withholding love has hurt her family before but recognizes that some of her actions have been necessary. This question of how much support and love a person needs versus an approach that demands more responsibility and independence is a central one to which Rivers never gives a definite answer. But, much like Marta, Rivers’s wisdom is there for the taking, buried within the lives of her characters. By the end, Marta will be recognized as the center of knowledge, judiciousness and faith in her family—a gratifying close for a character who’s been a wonderful leading lady. Marta’s Legacy is one of the best works of historical fiction I’ve encountered. Those who haven’t read the first volume should be aware that it is absolutely necessary to your understanding of this one. And I would highly encourage you to do so. I count it as a favorite in the genre.—

http://www.bookreporter.com/

"The second Marta’s Legacy (see Her Mother’s Hope) completes the saga with a strong epic family drama that occurs over a half of a century. The ensemble cast is fully developed so that the audience will understand motives of each individual that sometimes lead to internal strife. Although Her Daughter’s Dream stands alone, readers will appreciate Francine River’s powerful twentieth century duology."— Harriet Klausner

"Although a sequel, Her Daughter’s Dream does well as a stand-alone and is a not-to-be-missed novel for anyone who enjoys good writing. Spanning the 1950s to the present, Rivers stays true to each generation.”— Christian Retailing

"With incredible passion, and a deftness of word, Francine Rivers takes mother daughter relationships and transports them away from the perfect fantasy that is so often seen in books and movies and brings it home to a gripping reality that is sure to touch mothers and daughters everywhere. These two books, Her Mother’s Hope and Her Daughter’s Dream, are perfect gifts for anyone in your life who is a mother, daughter, grandmother or granddaughter. Few books these days really change your life as you’re reading. Her Daughter’s Dream accomplishes this and more.”—http://fictionaddict.com
Her Mother’s Hope
(Marta’s Legacy Book 1)
By Francine Rivers

Tyndale House Publishers, March 16, 2010
6 weeks on the New York Times Hardcover Fiction Bestseller List
Ranked in the Top Ten Inspirational Fiction of 2010 by Booklist Online
Recorded Books Audiobook
Afrikaans, Christian Arts Publishers
#1 Overall Bestselling Book in South Africa Week Ending May 15, 2010
Danish, Scandinavian Publishing House
Dutch, Uitgeverij KOK
3 weeks on Dutch Bestseller List
German, Johannis Verlag
Norwegian, Lunde Forlag
Portuguese, Verus Editora
Russian, Christian Education Resources
Swedish, KM & Bornelings

Book 1 in the Marta’s Legacy series, Her Mother’s Hope explores the complicated relationship between family matriarch Marta and her daughter, Hildemara Rose. On the eve of the First World War, fiery Marta Schneider leaves Switzerland and her difficult childhood behind, determined to find a new life on her own terms. Barely out of her teens, Marta is haunted by a devastating loss that fuels her ambition to one day own a hotel. From the cramped quarters of a French housekeeping school to the portrait-lined halls of a stately English manner, Marta becomes a hard-working domestic who has little time to dwell on what might have been. Instead, she draws her strength from what could be. Then, Marta meets Niclas Waltert, a man just as determined as she to forge a better life in a new place. Niclas captures her heart and together
they endure the harshness of life as tenant farmers on the vast prairies of Winnipeg, Canada, before following the promise of the American dream and migrating to the agriculturally rich Central Valley of California. Marriage and motherhood bring both joy and heartbreak, as Marta must surrender her long-held ambitions for the sake of her husband and children, including her daughter, Hildemara, upon whose shoulders her own hopes now squarely rest. Only the strong survive and Marta is determined to raise a daughter as strong as she. But as Hildie reaches young womanhood and another war is fast approaching, those hopes become too heavy a burden for Hildie to bear. Born with a heart to serve others, Hildie pursues her calling as a nurse, something Marta can’t understand. Marta’s years of hardnosed parenting have left Hildie still hungry for her mother’s love...and now for her mother’s respect. Amid the drama of WWII, Hildie falls in love and begins a family of her own. She wants her daughter, Carolyn, never to doubt her love—but the challenges of life conspire against her vow and the only person who can come to her aid is the person she remains so desperate to please: Marta, her mother. With her hallmark touches of brilliant prose and gripping characterizations, Francine Rivers has penned a rich, moving epic about faith and dreams, heartache and disappointment, and ultimately the resilience and tenacity of love.

Praise for Her Mother’s Hope!

“This long-awaited novel is every bit as engrossing and stunning as Rivers’ previous books. The prose is elegant and life-changing, and the characters are memorable. This sweeping saga will touch both heart and soul.”—Romantic Times Top Pick! (4 ½, out of 4 ½ stars)

“Swiss-born Marta Schneider was her Papa’s least favored child, and his abuse pushes her to leave home and achieve great things, first in nearby Interlaken, later in England, then Canada, and finally in California, where she and her German husband, Niclas, settle down to raise their four children in the lull between the two world wars. Niclas is a godly and trusting man with a university degree who nonetheless has a powerful desire to work the soil. So it falls to shrewd and ambitious Marta to protect them all from greedy and unscrupulous folk who would take advantage. Romance Writers of America Hall of Famer Rivers’ eagerly anticipated, first full-length Christian novel since 2003 is an emotionally rich exploration based loosely on her own family history as it follows world events through the first half of the twentieth century. The first in a two-part saga about four women, Rivers’ novel will appeal to readers who enjoy historical fiction and sweeping family sagas with exotic settings. As her compelling characters seek to do what they feel their faith demands, Rivers sets their resonant struggles against dusty streets, windswept Canadian plains, and California vineyards in vivid scenes readers will not soon forget.”—Booklist ***Starred Review***

“Romance Hall of Famer Rivers (Redeeming Love) returns with her first full-length novel since 2003 with this two-generation saga of a mother and daughter, the first of two parts. Ambitious, strong-willed Marta Schneider leaves her home in rural Switzerland at the beginning of the 20th century. She’s determined to flee her abusive father, loving but weak mother, and the constraints placed on women. Meeting interesting characters all along her journey, she works her way to Canada. There she buys a boardinghouse and meets her match in Niclas Waltert, a German engineer with a farmer’s heart. Through Marta’s sharp elbows and the sweat of Niclas’s brow, the family eventually arrives at an increasingly comfortable life in California’s Central Valley. The second half of the story, told from the point of view of constitutionally timid daughter Hildemara Rose, is less deeply imagined. So many events happen as history rapidly unrolls in the
background that the narrative feels too much like an outline for a Lifetime TV offering about a couple buffeted by the winds of WWII. Writers like Rivers are why people buy Christian fiction: it’s dramatic, engaging, and acknowledges the bedroom without going inside. This well-told tale will have readers eagerly awaiting the story’s resolution.” — Publisher’s Weekly

“Rivers doesn’t always paint a pretty picture and openly shows each of her characters’ anger, cruelty and frustration—along with their love, faith and goodness. Thus she shows us that people are shaped as much by their pain and human flaws as they are by the joys in life. She also allows us to see the entire life cycle, including lovemaking (quite discreetly), the birthing of babies, and the process of dying. Through this, the full value of a life begins to emerge, giving significant meaning to the religious principles Rivers means to reinforce. There is also excellent history at work here that provides great interest, along with top-notch writing and storytelling. This makes HER MOTHER’S HOPE quite the saga and an exceptional work of historical fiction.”

— http://www.bookreporter.com/

**Sons of Encouragement Series**

*The Warrior: Caleb* (2005)  

A series of 5 novellas focusing on the men of the Bible occupying the major male roles in society.

*The Priest: Aaron*

“Join a master of fiction on a jaunt through the heart and mind of an unsung hero of the Bible—Aaron, Moses’ brother and little recognized spokesman. We see Aaron develop from an embittered little boy to a man possessed by a like vision as his much-lauded brother was, but without the fanfare. The contrast between Aaron’s lofty goals of the heart and his frequent failures of the flesh make the story all too real and personal. Rivers delivers. Those two words say it all. Rich characterization and gripping plot are contained between the hard covers of this neatly crafted novella. This is the first in Rivers’ series of five different men who served God faithfully in the shadows.” — Romantic Times

*The Warrior: Caleb*

“In this fictional retelling of the biblical story of Caleb, Joshua's second in command is sent ahead to scout the land of Israel and bring back a report to Moses. Although his counterparts express fear of conquering the new land, the faith and determination of Caleb and Joshua encourages their people to continue on to the land God promised them. In the end, because of their unflinching faith and loyalty to God, they are the only two of the Hebrew scouts who continue on to the "land of milk and honey." This is the second volume in Rivers' "Sons of Encouragement" series (after The Priest), which explores the lives of biblical men and serves as a companion to her "A Lineage of Grace" series about biblical women. A fan favorite, Rivers’ biblical fiction is quick and action packed with appeal for both male and female readers. Recommended for most collections. Rivers resides in Northern California.” — Library Journal
“Caleb’s hunger to know the true God leads him to forsake his Egyptian heritage and cleave to his ancestral connection with the Hebrew people. With them, he surges across the Red Sea toward the Promised Land, determined to serve Almighty God with faith and zeal. Disappointment and heartache dog his steps as those with rebellious hearts test God time and again and bring judgment on the people. As one of 12 spies sent into the land of Canaan, Caleb is captivated by the bountiful land the Lord has promised them. But his and Joshua’s encouragement to go forth and conquer falls on deaf ears. The people are frightened by reports of giants in the land. Bitterness tempts Caleb as the faithlessness of others condemns him to wander in the wilderness for an additional 40 years. With the smooth, compelling hand of a master storyteller, Rivers retells the biblical account of Caleb, one of God’s true faithful. This novella will leave readers energized and inspired.”—Romantic Times

The Prince: Jonathan
“Continuing her Sons of Encouragement series, Rivers novelizes the struggle of Jonathan, son of rebellious King Saul and friend of the heroic David, who later becomes king. Jonathan fights beside his father to establish the monarchy in Israel and drive out the oppressing Philistines. He reveres the word of the Lord delivered through the prophet Samuel and contained on written scrolls. His heart is torn apart to see his father continually defy God and yet cling to a throne that his very disobedience has sacrificed. Jonathan is torn between his desire to obey the scripture that commands him to honor his father and yet walk close to God. And he doesn’t know how to reconcile his love for his father with his love for David, the man his father hates and who is destined to keep Prince Jonathan from ever becoming king. Readers always get more than their money’s worth with a Rivers book. This novella packs a powerful punch through characters that resonate in the soul. Fast-paced and seamless, this is a magnificent tale of courage, faithfulness, woe and great joy.”—Romantic Times

The Prophet: Amos
In The Prophet, the fourth book in the Sons of Encouragement series, beloved author Francine Rivers illuminates the life of Amos. Francine examines the life of Amos and his relationship to Israel during its prosperous years. Amos’s message—and his relationship with God—made him unpopular. But his challenge to those who were enjoying the blessings of prosperity was crucial then and is strikingly timely today as well.

The Scribe: Silas
The Scribe, the fifth and final book in the Sons of Encouragement series, beloved author Francine Rivers illuminates the life of Silas. Like the other Sons of Encouragement, this book tells the story of a lesser-known biblical character who made an impact on eternity. The Scribe tells the story of Silas, the man behind the spotlight who recorded most of the New Testament Scriptures we read today. In classic Francine Rivers style the story lets readers grasp the Scriptures in a whole new light—from a perspective never before imagined. Along the way readers will be captivated by the growth of the early church and the trials Paul suffers before he is martyred for the cause of Christ.
And the Shofar Blew (2003)

What is a church? And the Shofar Blew centers around two men, both strong Christians, who find themselves caught up in a church-building project. David Hudson is a preacher whose moving speeches draw enormous crowds. Stephen Decker is a builder and architect. When a bequest of land comes to their existing church, the board members consider their options and the message God is sending them. They decide to sell the property, and with the proceeds, they buy another piece of land in the suburbs. As the church building goes up, the focus of the existing church begins to shift. Growing numbers attend the services, money pours in, and the building plans continue to expand. While David feeds on his position of power, leaving the future of the church in the balance, Stephen experiences a crisis of conscience and faith.

“Young Paul Hudson enters the ministry with high ideals, but pure motives soon bow to a craving for the approval of his earthly father, the famous pastor of a megachurch. Paul’s godly wife and angry son fall chief victims to his ambition, as he builds a congregation through manipulation and compromise. The original elders of the church never cease praying for the young pastor who once showed such promise. In the Bible, the Jewish people blew the Shofar as a call to repentance. When the Shofar blows for Paul will he give heed, or will he continue on the path to destruction? Meticulously plotted, Francine Rivers’ new masterpiece, And the Shofar Blew, brims with unforgettable characters. A copy of this contemporary fiction novel belongs in the hands of anyone seeking to build God’s true church—people, not buildings and programs.” -- Romantic Times

Lineage of Grace Series

Unveiled: Tamar (2000)
Unashamed: Rahab (2000)
Unshaken: Ruth (2001)
Unspoken: Bathsheba (2001)
Unafraid: Mary (2001)

Each of these five novellas is based upon the life of one of Jesus’ female ancestors.

Unveiled: Tamar

"In the first of five novels on the women of the Bible, Rivers (Leota’s Garden) draws on the Bible’s brief mention of Tamar to create a tribute to hope. Tamar is sold as a child to be the bride of Judah’s oldest son, Er. When Er dies, Tamar believes that he was struck down by God for pride and arrogance. According to custom, she is given Onan, one of Er’s brothers, as husband to beget a son in Er’s memory. When Onan refuses her rights, he too falls dead. The third brother, Shelah, is deemed too young to be a husband, but when Judah promises Tamar a child when the boy grows up, she lives on hope for years. When she realizes that Judah has no intention of keeping his promise, she dresses as a temple prostitute and seduces him. After being threatened with death because of her disgraceful pregnancy, Tamar forces Judah to honor his promise. In return, she bears twin sons, Zerah and Perez, a forefather of Jesus. The different mores and customs of Tamar’s time take some adjustment for a modern mindset, but a glimpse into what might have happened is worth the effort. Purchase where Rivers is popular.”—Library Journal
“Tamar does not want to become part of the Jacob clan, but her mother has other ideas. Zimran wants her daughter to be one of God’s chosen people, not because she has faith in Yahweh, but because the family is blessed with wealth and prestige. Tamar marries Er, the son of Judah and son of Jacob, and her life becomes a living hell. But Tamar has her faith in God. Unveiled portrays one of the Bible’s lesser-known saints, Tamar, who is mentioned in the genealogy of Jesus. Although it is not a romance per se, Unveiled is a love story. Francine Rivers utilizes her expertise as master storyteller to unveil Tamar’s saga, a tale of deception, betrayal and ultimately hope. The book comes with a Bible study.” —Romantic Times

“The first in her series of five ancestresses of Jesus, Unveiled is an easy-to-read tale of Tamar. Tamar, a Canaanite, marries cruel Er, son of the Hebrew, Judah. In accordance with Hebrew custom, upon the death of Er, she marries his brother, Onan, and upon his death, should have married Shelah, Judah’s youngest son. Tamar receives nothing but humiliation, cruelty and indifference from her new family, and Judah, suffering from guilt for his part in brother Joseph’s fate, does nothing to alleviate these wrongs. He succumbs to the lies and hatred his wife spews forth about Tamar, and instead of allowing the rightful marriage to Shelah, he essentially exiles her dishonorably to her unloving father’s house. Ms. Rivers’ simple narrative show that through loyalty, strength and faith one is rewarded. No stigma is attached to Tamar’s trickery, and the Bible upholds her as a role model. Indeed, she is commended for attaining her natural rights. Along with 43 pages of Bible discussion/study at the end, Unveiled is recommended as an enjoyably way to touch a little of mankind’s past.” —Historical Novels Review

Unashamed: Rahab

“Unashamed by Francine Rivers is not a romance per se but a Bible study based on the story of Rahab, an unconventional Old Testament woman. Bright and articulate, Rahab refuses to become the discarded chattel of the king of Jericho. She reigns over her fury, pretending to enjoy his embrace, biding her time until the opportunity to escape. Israelite emissaries provide that opportunity. She senses they are not only the answer to her immediate problems, but ultimately the future of her family. Her hope is in the God who has delivered the Israelites. Ms. Rivers has chosen unlikely heroines: women who make mistakes yet triumph with the help of God. They become the very people to change eternity.” —Romantic Times

Unshaken: Ruth

“To Naomi, Ruth was the quintessential daughter-in-law, and one of the most unlikely women to change eternity. She may have lost a husband, but gained faith that has transformed her life. She experienced the silence of Moab’s gods and then found the grace of the God she come to know through Naomi, the mother of her heart. When Naomi’s husband dies, the family now has three widowed women. How will they survive? Ruth’s biological family urges her to return, but she cannot leave her newfound God or Naomi. Ruth chooses to return with Naomi to her husband’s childhood home in Bethlehem. Boaz is not as handsome as Ruth’s husband, Mahlon, had been, but there is kindness in his eyes, and he is generous. How could the richest man in Bethlehem possibly be interested in a Moabite, the poverty-stricken widow who gleans from his fields? Besides, Rishon is next in line to redeem the family land, and with it would come Mahlon’s wife. It is wonderful to read this beloved Biblical story in novel form! Francine Rivers spins a tale that’s not only true to history, but satisfying to the heart. With Unshaken, the third in her A Lineage of Grace series, readers can savor not only an engrossing, well-written, beautiful novella, but a Bible study as well as one that readers will love, and learn from!” —Romantic Times
Francine Rivers’ third novella in her *Lineage of Grace* series continues with the same simple charm of the previous novellas. *Unshaken* is the story of Ruth, a Moabite woman, who willingly exiles herself to take care of her mother-in-law Naomi. Seen only as a foreigner in Naomi’s home, Ruth is subjected to the malice of her prejudiced neighbors. Although shunned and miserable, Ruth stays with Naomi by choice and is rewarded for her love, devotion, and sacrifice. Francine Rivers’ portrayal of the burgeoning love between Ruth and Boaz is only one of the reasons why Rivers is such an excellent author. Her people are vibrantly alive, with all the strengths and weaknesses that make them so human. And always present is the warm certainty that God knows the essence of his children and repays love, devotion and loyalty in kind.”—*Historical Novels Review*

“The Book of Ruth is one of the most profound love stories in the Bible, showing the love of a daughter for her mother and the love of a man for a woman. When Naomi’s husband and sons die in Moab, she is left with her two daughters-in-law, Oprah and Ruth, and a burning desire to return to her hometown of Bethlehem. Only Ruth has shown an interest in the God of her mother-in-law, and she refuses to let Naomi return home alone. However, when the two women reach Bethlehem, Naomi’s childhood friends shun Ruth for being a Moabitess, believing that she will corrupt their men with her ungodly ways. Proud and determined, Ruth goes into the fields to collect bits of barley missed by the workers to feed Naomi and meets Boaz, a landowner who knew Naomi in her youth. As Boaz practices his upbringing in the Lord and Ruth practices her new faith, the two discover a boundless love. A look at the story behind the story with appeal for fans of Rivers and of Walter Wangerin’s lengthy *Paul.*”—*Library Journal*

**Unspoken: Bathsheba**

“*Unspoken*, the fourth of five novellas, is the story of Bathsheba, masterfully written by Francine Rivers. Just the right amount of Biblical history and creative fiction balance this romantic story. Yes, it truly is a romance. Bathsheba has loved David since she was a young girl. But David is a king and would never want someone such as her. Chastised by her mother and about to enter an arranged marriage, Bathsheba struggles with her feelings. On her wedding day to Uriah, David’s presence only seems to cause her heart to ache more. One day, while Uriah was off fighting in battle, Bathsheba was in her backyard, when David noticed her and feelings began to stir. She was beautiful. But David already had several wives and Bathsheba was married. In an effort to obtain his hearts desire, David’s weakness and sin is well known. But what happens afterward is such a story of love, honor, blessings and God’s amazing mercy and grace, that Bathsheba’s story becomes an inspiration for all women.”—*Romantic Times*

**Unafraid: Mary**

“In this conclusion to Rivers’ series about Jesus’ matrilineal ancestors (e.g., *Unshaken*), Mary is not the serene Madonna historically depicted in art. She is instead a willful child, an unwed pregnant teenager thrilled that the long-awaited Messiah will come from her and failing to understand why people won’t believe her when she tells them of her vision of an angel of the Lord. Only after God appears to Joseph does he believe and wed Mary. From then on, even though she loves her whole family, Jesus is Mary’s sole focus, almost her obsession. Before her faith can become strong enough to endure his crucifixion, Mary must learn that her son was never really hers and that she was the vessel through which God worked his grace. The Christy Award-winning Rivers provides a fresh look at the historical Mary in much the same way Ellen Guderson Traylor (Mary Magdalene, Mark) and Thom Lemmons (Daughters of Faith series) have done with other biblical figures. A solid addition to all collections.”—*Library Journal*
“In her fifth and final Lineage of Grace novella, renowned Christian writer Rivers tackles the most celebrated woman in Christian history Mary, the mother of Jesus - with mixed results. Using the biblical account of Jesus’ life as a framework, Rivers adds such imaginative scenes as Mary watching the young Jesus healing his little sister, Anne, or Mary pondering Jesus’ ability to see that there is always enough bread and oil in the larder to keep the family afloat. There are warm mother-son exchanges ("You're so thin!") and personal details ("Jesus had Mary's chin... but no one ever said Jesus had her eyes..."). The stakes are higher here for Rivers than in previous novellas. While Christians may not mind Rivers taking inventive liberties with characters such as the prostitute Rahab (Unashamed), the same grace might not be extended to her fictionalization the revered Mary and Jesus. At the same time, Rivers having taken the plunge in choosing Mary could have risked a little bit more. Disappointingly absent from this novella are any undercurrents of sexual tension between Mary and Joseph, which Rivers conjectured so well with other characters in the series (particularly Ruth and Boaz in Unshaken). The result is a more lackluster offering. Rivers’ writing, however, is excellent. If Christian readers can accept the imaginative episodes without rejecting the lessons embedded in the story, Rivers may succeed in giving them courage through Mary's example of strong faith.” — Publishers Weekly

“From innocent youth to a parent in mourning, Unafraid brings the mother of Jesus to life in a compassionate, non-melodramatic style. Though the story is historical, readers will find the simplicity and experiences in the book relevant for any generation. As a young woman, an angel visits a betrothed Mary and tells her she will bear the Christ child. It is almost incomprehensible for Mary to believe that God would use a peasant woman to carry the Messiah. And when it seems like a long time before Jesus can begin His ministry, she struggles with her own feelings and desires. Francine Rivers does a wonderful job of helping readers see the heart of Mary and to empathize with her loss. For yes, we know that God gave His son to die for our sins, but Mary had to let go of Him as well. A difficult task for any parent, earthly or not. Readers will find this book worth reading more than once, and definitely a great gift idea.” — Romantic Times

Leota’s Garden (1999)

Leota Reinhardt always found solace in her garden from the time she was a young war bride to her last years as a woman estranged from her adult children. She sacrificed her own desires for the needs of others only to find herself alone at the end of her life, still keeping the secrets that could have destroyed her family, secrets that destroyed her husband. Leota sees the mistakes of the past being repeated and an even more ominous future ahead of her. Her garden has fallen into disrepair, choked with weeds, and she has no strength to tend to it. She wants to die, and Leota’s children would prefer to see her dead sooner rather than later. Corban Solsek arrives on her doorstep, a volunteer with a local charity, with an agenda all his own on how to handle the increasing number of elderly in the population.

“Leota Reinhardt’s garden had always been a sanctuary. She’d named it Victory to keep her spirits up during her husbands tour of duty in World War II. Now an elderly woman, Leota has lost hope and her garden is overgrown with weeds. In the nick of time, Leota’s granddaughter, Annie, comes to visit, hoping to close the gap between her grandmother and her mother, and Corban Solsek, a young, university student studying the elderly, takes interest in Leota for his research project. Hope rebounds as these compelling characters struggle to make peace with the past and bring Leota’s garden back to life. Francine Rivers is a
master gardener, deftly pruning brush and deadwood, using poignant humor and bittersweet revelation to open hearts to reconciliation.”—Romantic Times

“God works in mysterious ways, and Leota Reinhardt's garden is a catalyst. After 18 years, her granddaughter Annie puts love for Jesus ahead of her mother’s stifling demands and re-enters Leota’s life. Corban Solsek, a college student needing research for a paper, volunteers to help Leota once a week. Annie's exuberance draws Leota and Corban into a project to restore the backyard garden and make it a "Victory" garden again. In the process of healing the garden, a family separated by misunderstandings and time begins to grow together once more. A couple of plot points dead end, but on the whole, this is an emotionally compelling story.”—Library Journal

“Award-winning author Francine Rivers warmly shows how generational secrets can embitter and estrange families. Leota, neglected and alone, is 84. Her daughter shuns her until Annie, her granddaughter, breaks from her embittered mother’s tradition of indifference and enters Leota’s life to learn secrets never before revealed. Narrator Flo Schmidt captures the spirit of Leota’s self-centered daughter and then flows smoothly into the warmth of Annie’s character and the idealism of Corban, the college student who brings the story into focus. The pacing is appropriate, the characterization well done, and the ending, although bittersweet, filled with reconciliation and hope.”—AudioFile

The Last Sin Eater (1998)
The Appalachian myth of the Sin Eater is the focus of this compelling story of guilt overcome by faith, hope, forgiveness, and love. The theme is how guilt can keep people in bondage unless they go to the Lord, profess their faith, ask for forgiveness and receive the Holy Spirit. The characters in The Last Sin Eater have held on to their sins and hidden their guilt in their belief that the Sin Eater can remove their sins at the time of their death by eating bread and wine placed at their burial. Cadi, a child who suffers guilt over her sister's death, goes in search of the Sin Eater, who lives in isolation on a mountain top. He cannot remove her sins, so she searches elsewhere.

“Even in her romances, Rivers tackles some difficult issues, so this story of a family and a community in turmoil is different from her other books only in that it lacks a love interest. Ten-year-old Cadi's grief over her beloved grandmother—the only person who seemed to love her unconditionally—is compounded by a previous family tragedy for which she believes her family blames her. While at her grandmother's grave, Cadi sees the "sin eater," a human who absolves the residents of the tiny Smoky Mountain community of their sins. Somehow Cadi, touchingly portrayed by Rivers, comes to realize that the sin eater is false and learns of Jesus, and her conversion to Christianity leads to a reconciliation with her family. Rivers delivers both a powerful message about Christian beliefs and the need for forgiveness of sins and an evocative portrayal of life in the 1850s. Highly recommended.”—Library Journal

“A sin eater was a person who took the sins of others upon himself at the time of their burial. No one was permitted to look upon the sin eaters face, or it was said that sin and evil would transfer to them. This custom from early 19th-century England, Lowland Scotland and Wales, was continued by immigrants in the Appalachian Mountains. With a terrible sin on her conscience, young Cadi Forbes is convinced she will never be forgiven as long as she’s living. Cadi contemplates ending her life so the sin eater will come take
her sin away. But before she can do so, she's befriended by an encouraging girl named Lilybet, whom no one else seems able to see. With Lilybet's help, Cadi and her friend Fagan Kai, son of the most feared man on the mountain, begin a search for the sin eater and are soon led on another, more important search for the truth. A man claiming to be sent from God makes his presence known among the mountain folk. Danger soon finds Cadi and Fagan as they uncover dark secrets that many in the hollow would rather stay hidden. This unforgettable novel is rich in style, lore and action, revealing a profound truth in a way only Francine Rivers can do. Transcending age, gender and reading genres, this gripping story is a must read for men, women and young people alike." —Romantic Times

"Rivers offers an unusual tale of Scottish settlers in the Appalachian Mountains during the 1850's. An unexplained depression permeates the isolated mountain community, and youngster Cadi Forbes begins to understand her elders' despair when her beloved grandmother dies. An old Scottish custom requires that the Sin Eater be called to attend the funeral to remove the sins of the deceased. Cadi becomes obsessed with the Sin Eater and vows to find this mysterious man who has the power to take away sin, but whom no one may look at without dire consequences. Rivers skillfully combines character and mood to create a haunting story that effectively depicts the horror of sin and the beauty of forgiveness. This clever parable is sure to attract Rivers' fans, as well as readers unfamiliar with her previous works." —CBA Marketplace

"For the people isolated in one high Smoky Mountain valley in the 1850's, the old ways and superstitions of their Scottish ancestors still held firm among these practices was a "sin eater," a masked pariah living apart from the community whom they would summon to each funeral to take upon himself the guilt of the dead person's sins and assure that his ghost would not haunt the countryside. But for 10-year-old Cadi Forbes, laden with guilt over the death of her sister, the existence of the sin eater only compounded her problem. Would she, like her grandmother, have to wait until her late 80's before someone could offer her hope of easing her burden? And why do her elders become so upset over her inquiries about the sin eater—as well as over the presence at the edge of the valley of a man who comes preaching the gospel. Francine Rivers has crafted a compelling tale and poignant reminder of humanity's desperate need of the gracious redemption that only Jesus Christ can bring." —Moody

The Atonement Child (1997)

Dynah Carey knew where her life was headed. Engaged to a wonderful man, the daughter of doting parents, a faithful child of God, she has it all. Then the unthinkable happens: Dynah's perfect life is irrevocably changed by a rape which gives rise to an unwanted pregnancy. Her family is torn apart, and her seemingly rock-solid faith is pushed to the limits as she faces the most momentous choice of her life—to embrace or to end the life within her. This is ultimately a tale of three women, as Dynah's plight forces both her mother and her grandmother to face the choices which they made. Written with balance and compassion, The Atonement Child brings a new perspective to one of the most controversial topic of our time.

"The Atonement Child explores the emotional and spiritual aspects of abortion through the fictional story of a young woman experiencing a crisis pregnancy. Author Francine Rivers drew on her own abortion experience and the stories of women she met at post-abortion support groups and crisis pregnancy centers while researching her subject. In a sense, The Atonement Child is their story. It mirrors the experiences of the many women who struggle daily with the trauma of past abortions... Rivers skillfully portrays how
even the most committed pro-life Christians can sometimes fail to support a woman in a crisis pregnancy. Everyone around Dynah her thinks that abortion is the only solution to her situation. As the pressure to abort mounts, Dynah finds herself abandoned by the very people who are supposed to love her most. *The Atonement Child* deals with several complex issues: the question of evil, the pressures of a crisis pregnancy, abortion for the "hard cases," and the aftermath of abortion. A major theme in the book is the effect that abortion has had on Dynah’s family. Both her mother and grandmother have abortions in their pasts. Even years later, their abortions are still affecting their relationships. *The Atonement Child* is well written, presenting the truth about abortion in a compassionate, nonjudgmental way. Except for one chapter where the characters engage in a lengthy discussion about the fallout from abortion, Rivers successfully avoids the "preachy" tone which can otherwise intrude into the natural flow of a story. She simply presents her story and allows readers to draw the natural conclusions. Rivers says she wrote the novel not only for other women who struggle with the aftermath of abortion, but also for pro-life activists. She says she wanted "to help them to understand the sorrow [post-aborted] women feel every day and to have compassion" for them. She believes that thousands of women and men in our nation’s churches grieve secretly over past abortions, afraid to share their feelings with others for fear of condemnation." — *The Post Abortion Review*

"Rivers tells a gripping story that will touch you to the core. Set in an upper-middle class conservative Christian climate, Dynah Carey’s picture perfect life is dramatically altered forever when the unthinkable happens! She is horrifically raped. Her future is immediately thrown into a spin. An unwanted pregnancy ensues and she needs to make a decision... should she keep or end the life within her? Her engagement to a promising young ‘minister-in-the-making’ is stretched to breaking point as are relationships within her own family. The reader is left wondering how on earth this story will unfold... wanting to read on. As with most of her novels, Rivers holds the audience captive, wooing the reader into the lives of the characters and skillfully turning your thoughts to the Lord at the same time. Christ is always central in her novels. In *The Atonement Child* she deals poignantly with the consequences of rape and the moral dilemma surrounding abortion. And, using other characters in the story, she candidly demonstrates the variety of possible responses to such a dilemma. Although not the best of her books, *The Atonement Child* is a stirring read, leaving the reader wanting to strengthen their personal relationship with God. It reminds us that life can throw many traumatic curve balls, yet as we put our trust in Him, He works all things together for good, bringing peace and direction to confusion and trauma." — *Everywoman e-zine*

**The Scarlet Thread** (1996)
In this moving part historical/part contemporary novel about two Christian women, one in the present day and the other in the 1800’s, best-selling author Rivers rides with families on the Oregon Trail. Though the women are separated by time and circumstance, the issues and problems they face are the same.

"Sierra Clanton Madrid can’t believe her husband Alex would take a new job and uproot the family to Los Angeles without consulting her. Armed with righteous anger, Sierra turns their home into a battleground, even after they make the move. Alex chases success, both business and social, to compensate for his insecurities about his Hispanic immigrant roots. Both Alex and Sierra are so caught up in themselves that
neither tries to understand the other or seeks God’s will. Soon their perfect marriage lies in shambles. Then Sierra’s mother gives her the journal of a female ancestor and a handcrafted quilt made with a scarlet thread. A long-ago story of pain and redemption bears remarkable parallels to Sierra’s situation. Will she learn her lesson before it’s too late? Rivers tells a powerful story of marital love tested in a crucible. Your hanky will not be dry, nor your heart unchallenged, as the characters learn the lessons of surrender to God’s sovereignty and unconditional love.” —*Romantic Times*

“Here is the remarkable, beautiful story of Sierra Madrid, a bold, rash, and determined woman of the nineties, and Mary Kathryn Murray, a young pioneer on the Oregon trail. Two women, centuries apart, are joined through a tattered journal as they contend with God, husbands, even themselves, until they fall into the arms of the One who loves them unconditionally. A Wonderful book!” —*Advent Christian Witness*

**Mark of the Lion Series**

*A Voice in the Wind* (1993), Book 1

*A Voice in the Wind* follows the prides and passions of a group of Jews, Romans and Barbarians living at the time of the siege of Jerusalem. The heroine, Hadassah, is a Christian, captured at the siege and taken as a slave to Rome.

“The first in the *Mark of the Lion* series of inspirational fiction, this historical romance set in Rome about 100 C.E. is the story of Hadassah, a steadfastly Christian slave girl and sole survivor of her family, who is sold into slavery to the Valerian family. She serves as a maid to Julia, a young woman who makes several unfortunate and unhappy marriages. Simultaneously, Atretes, a captured soldier from Germania, is forced to become a gladiator. This is the time of Rome’s decline; the decadence is well described as Christians are fed to lions while large crowds watch and cheer. Hadassah attempts to use her faith to influence events around her and the family, even though they worship Roman gods and are skeptical about Christianity. Recommended for all libraries where inspirational fiction is popular.” —*Library Journal*

*An Echo in the Darkness* (1994), Book 2

Hadassah’s story continues. Her followers know the mysterious woman only as Rapha, the healer. But beneath the veils lies Hadassah, thought by all to have perished at the hands of her Roman captors. She narrowly escaped death and now conceals her scars—and identity—with veils. But her God-given ability to heal others brings Hadassah her greatest trial, when she is called to risk her life for the very person who tried to destroy her.

*As Sure As the Dawn* (1995), Book 3

Marcus, shattered by the loss of Hadassah, goes in search of God, while his sister Julia lies dying of a strange new illness, longing for a forgiveness beyond her reach. Meanwhile, Atretes vows to move heaven and earth to find his son—the baby he thought was dead, and whose life Hadassah has saved—and take him back to Germania. Only one thing stands in his way: Rizpah, a Christian widow who has cared for the baby since his birth. Atretes has not counted on Rizpah’s fiery resistance to having “her son” taken away, nor is he prepared for the woman’s strength and beauty. From their first meeting, the two are caught in a stormy battle of wills. Marcus and Julia and, finally, Atretes, come to realize that God’s love can heal all scars and bring forth a new dawn.
“Former gladiator Atretes returns to Ephesus to reclaim the son he believed was dead. Caleb was given to Rizpah, a Christian woman, to raise. Rizpah, won over by her newfound Christianity, still has problems with her stubborn disposition and bluntness. When she refuses to surrender the child to this heathen, she is reluctantly taken into Atretes’ care. However, old factions want Atretes back in the arena and he is forced to flee to Germany with Rizpah and Caleb. Despite Rizpah’s difficulty in understanding Atretes’ barbaric attitudes and irregardless of her growing attraction to him, her faith remains unshakable. As *Sure as the Dawn* details the angst of early Christians as they struggle to convert others. Francine Rivers puts readers right into the history of the moment and may remind us of the classic novel and film *The Robe.*” — *Romantic Times*

**Redeeming Love (1997)**
A skillful retelling of the biblical love story of Gomer and Hosea set against the romantic backdrop of the California Gold Rush. The heroine, Angel, is a young woman who was sold into prostitution as a child. Michael Hosea is a godly man sent into Angel’s life to draw her into the Savior’s redeeming love.

“Rivers has rewritten a secular historical romance of the same name (Bantam, 1991) for the Christian market, and it is a splendid piece of work exploring both physical love and a love of God. Angel, a young, hardened prostitute sold into "the life" as a child, has no interest in God or religion. Then she meets Michael Hosea, a devout Christian who tells her it is his mission to save her. After being badly beaten, Angel decides to take Michael up on his offer of marriage. Eventually, she learns not only to love Michael but to love God as well. There is not one false note in this wonderful novel. The publisher’s foreword rates the book "PG" for its adult themes and subplots of rape and incest. However, these are handled with great sensitivity and are very much a part of the story’s development. Very highly recommended for most libraries.” — *Library Journal*

“In her 1991 inspirational debut, Francine Rivers broke all the rules. *Redeeming Love* is an extraordinary (sometimes disturbing) romance loosely based on the biblical story of the prophet Hosea, whom God asks to redeem a prostitute by showing unconditional love. Orphaned at age eight, Sarah is sold to a prominent citizen with a penchant for little girls. By the time she’s able to escape, Sarah (now called Angel) knows nothing but a life of prostitution. She arrives in California, is hired by a notorious madam, and her favors are auctioned off nightly. Her ethereal beauty catches farmer Michael Hosea’s eye, but it is God’s words that compel Michael to spend all his money for a few moments with Angel. Michae’s mission is to convince Angel to leave her past behind and to start anew. But only after Angel discovers her own self-worth and the redeeming love of God can she truly be happy and accept love. Some readers may be disturbed by the sexual abuse (not detailed in the book) that Sarah experiences as a child, but there is little doubt that Ms. Rivers has written a novel that is a powerful reaffirmation of faith. Even to agnostics or atheists, who may not see it as a religious experience, Redeeming Love will appear to be a masterful, unique writing achievement. This is a thought-provoking novel that you will not easily forget.” — *Romantic Times*
“In this splendid retelling of the biblical story of Hosea, bestselling author Francine Rivers pens a heartbreaking romance between a prostitute and the upright and kind farmer who marries her; the story also functions as a reminder of God’s unconditional love for his people. *Redeeming Love* opens with the Gold Rush of 1850 and its rough-and-tumble atmosphere of greed and desire. Angel, who was sold into prostitution as a child, has learned to distrust all men, who see her only as a way to satisfy their lust. When the virtuous and spiritual-minded Michael Hosea is told by God to marry this “soiled dove,” he obeys, despite his misgivings. As Angel learns to love him, she begins to hope again but is soon overwhelmed by fear and returns to her old life. Rivers shines in her ability to weave together spiritual themes and sexual tension in a well-told story, a talent that has propelled her into the spotlight as one of the most popular novelists in the genre of Christian fiction. This is one of her best.”—Amazon.com

“The truth that ran through that book [Redeeming Love], absolutely brought me to my knees. I was a changed person after reading that book.”—Amy Grant (singer/songwriter) in an interview with Ted Koppel, *ABC Nightly News*