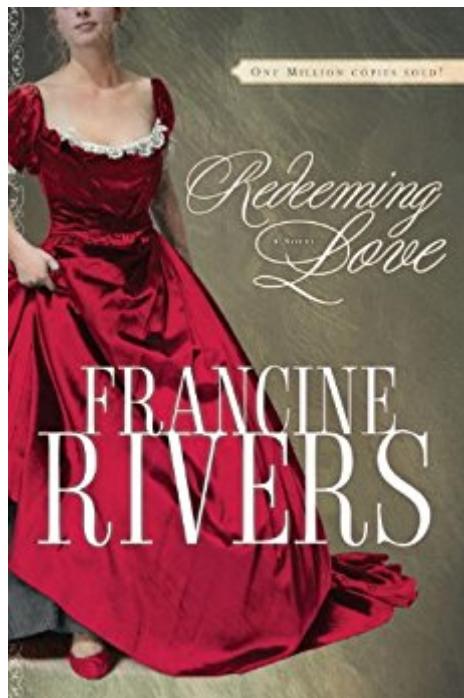


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# Redeeming Love: A Novel



## **Synopsis**

A story of love that won't let go - no matter what! California's gold country, 1850. A time when men sold their souls for a bag of gold and women sold their bodies for a place to sleep. Angel expects nothing from men but betrayal. Sold into prostitution as a child, she survives by keeping her hatred alive. And what she hates most are the men who use her, leaving her empty and dead inside. Then she meets Michael Hosea, a man who seeks his Father's heart in everything. Michael obeys God's call to marry Angel and to love her unconditionally. Slowly, day by day, he defies Angel's every bitter expectation, until despite her resistance, her frozen heart begins to thaw. But with her unexpected softening comes overwhelming feelings of unworthiness and fear. And so Angel runs. Back to the darkness, away from her husband's pursuing love, terrified of the truth she no longer can deny: Her final healing must come from the One who loves her even more than Michael does - the One who will never let her go. A powerful retelling of the story of Gomer and Hosea, *Redeeming Love* is a life-changing story of God's unconditional, redemptive, all-consuming love. Includes a six-part reading group guide!

## **Book Information**

File Size: 4124 KB

Print Length: 480 pages

Page Numbers Source ISBN: 1601420617

Publisher: Multnomah; 1 edition (July 29, 2009)

Publication Date: August 4, 2009

Sold by: Random House LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B000WJSD2Q

Text-to-Speech: Not enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #7,405 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #41 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Literature & Fiction > Historical #41 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Literature & Fiction > Romance > Western & Frontier #41 in Kindle Store > Kindle

## Customer Reviews

This romance has much more depth than the average love story. The author skillfully depicts the harmful effects of sexual abuse, abandonment, and betrayal at a young age and the difficulty of overcoming the damage throughout a lifetime. The novel explores the role of love on many levels in achieving redemption--love of God, self, and others are all important. The main character is a young woman who was the illegitimate child of a father who wanted her aborted. Her mother's obsession with her married lover robs her daughter of the early nurturing and security she needs to develop emotionally. At eight years of age, the little girl is abandoned to a pedophile who trains her to be a prostitute in a mining town in the mid 1800's. A young farmer falls in love with her at first sight and pledges to win her love and make her his wife. The greatest weakness of the novel is this unexplained "love" that drives the farmer to pursue her and forgive her betrayals. The reader has to suspend disbelief and just accept that some noble, God-directed agenda is at work here. Once the reader accepts that premise, the book improves immensely. The characters have complicated relationships with each other all involving the difference between love of self, others, and God and the role of forgiveness in maintaining each loving relationship. The epilogue is a bit "preachy" and unnecessary. The book is worth the read if you can suspend disbelief long enough to enjoy the perceptive characterizations that follow.

This is the beautiful love story of unconditional love and amazing grace. The story is about a farmer named Michael Hosea who is led by God to marry Angel who's a prostitute. Michael's faith in his decision to follow God's will is met with resistance from Angel. She's unable to grasp the depth of Michael's boundless love for her as she continues to wallow in the shame and guilt of her previous lifestyle. There are no easy roads taken during our journey through Michael and Angel's struggles. We read of all the painful mistakes that are made and all of the lessens that are learned. While *Redeeming Love* is written with a spiritual theme, it doesn't come across as preachy. Instead, it magnifies our human need for love and acceptance and demonstrates the power of forgiveness. It was heart wrenching at times, I shed several tears, but most of all it was wonderfully glorious. A beautiful and timeless 5 star read.

Francine Rivers *Redeeming Love* is an epic success. I have shared this book with my mom, sister,

an inmate, a neighbor a friend and many more and everyone agrees that what you first think of the book is wildly different than what it turns in to. It is heartwarming, convicting, engaging and an excellent read for people who like dramas, romance novels and Christian Fiction. I would even say it is an all time favorite.

This is the most beautiful story ever! Tears are in my eye as I struggle with the words to adequately describe how i feel right now. I just finished this amazing love story. The hero, Michael was a picture of Christ and his redeeming love for us. No matter how often I sin, or what sin I've committed, God's love never stops! He is always pursuing me with a love so strong that i just can't understand it. I have been so emotionally blown away. This book should be read by everyone. I highly recommend it. This will be read by me more than once.

Oh my goodness!! For being a romance novel, this was most definitely a PAGE TURNER! (No offense, but I usually read romantic suspense, not historical romance.) Ms. Rivers draws you right into this story, and gets you so hooked on what is going on with these characters and what is going to happen next! It was the most beautiful portrayal of unconditional love that I have ever had the pleasure of reading. It made me see God in a new light, and despite the parts where I was gasping in horror or crying in pain, I have never read a book that made me feel as good as this one did. I just can't rave about it enough, and I would recommend it to absolutely anyone. I actually borrowed a copy from someone, but I will certainly be buying my own copy, because I know I'll read it again and again. As a writer myself, I tend to find flaws or mistakes in the story telling even when I'm not looking for them, but this book was so engrossing, that I only found one, and that was in the very beginning. And the book was so good anyway, that the little mistake didn't even matter to me by the next few pages! Beyond that, if there were any mistakes, I didn't notice them because I was too "into" it! It only took me three days to read this, and had it not been for tending to normal, everyday tasks and work, it wouldn't have even taken me that long. There are really no vulgar or explicit parts, but it is a very mature read so it might not be appropriate for kids under 18 years old. I intend to pass it down to my daughter, but I will wait until I think she is ready for it. *Redeeming Love* is now my absolute favorite piece of literature of all time, and if I could give it more than five stars, I would!

*Redeeming Love* is my favorite book of all time!! I honestly didn't think I'd enjoy the story because Contemporary/YA novels have been my go-to for a while now. In addition, this was my first step into the Christian Fiction genre so I had no idea what to expect. However, I was IMMEDIATELY

captured by the story and could not put this book down. If you plan to read, definitely save it for a weekend off. You'll be too eager to see what happens next to focus on anything else! lolRedeeming Love is a beautifully written story. One that will move you while reading and stick with you in the future. I've purchased two copies: one for my shelf and another to lend out to all my friends.

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