

A VOICE IN THE WIND (MARK OF THE LION) BY FRANCINE RIVERS



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Review

"Francine Rivers puts readers right into the history of the moment..." -- Romantic Times

"Francine Rivers without a doubt is one of the finest storytellers of our generation. She transports the reader to another time another place with such skill that one feels every emotion, every trauma, every life. Her adventures captured me from the first page until I breathlessly closed the book in absolute awe of her God-given talent. Francine unlocks the longing in each one of us to connect to God in a deeper, life-changing way. No one reading her books will ever be the same again." -- Debbie Macomber, New York Times Best-selling Author

"The Mark of the Lion series was my first introduction to Francine Rivers, and since its introduction I've been reading everything Francine writes. Her stories are not only gripping entertainment, they are life-changing adventures. As we `watch' Hadassah and Atretes struggle through first-century trials, we learn how to handle similar situations in the twenty-first century. The `costumes' may vary, but our Victorious Lord does not change." -- Angela Hunt, Award-Winning Author of *Doesn't She Look Natural*

"Francine Rivers writes from her heart to touch the hearts of her readers. Her books are essential reading for all who love Christian Fiction..." -- Bodie Thoene, winner of 8 ECPA Gold Medallion Awards for Christian Fiction

"More than a dozen years ago, a bookseller urged me to read the Mark of the Lion trilogy. I devoured each novel, drawn into Hadassah's world and challenged by Hadassah's faith. Page by page, I walked the streets of Jerusalem, of Rome, of Ephesus, led by a sure hand. Not only did Francine thoroughly research her setting; she also plumbed the depths of God's Word and the desperate corners of the human heart to create a story so gripping, so spiritually and emotionally satisfying, it could only come from a pen wholly dedicated to God. In a word, Francine redefined Christian fiction--honest, unflinching, powerful, life-changing--demonstrating why storytelling is the most effective way to communicate God's truth. Every Christian novelist writing today owes a debt of gratitude to Francine Rivers for lighting the way." -- Liz Curtis Higgs, author of the best-selling *Lowlands of Scotland* series

About the Author

Francine Rivers has been a writer for more than 20 years. In 1986, after becoming a born-again Christian, she wrote *Redeeming Love* as an affirmation of her faith. Her novel, *The Last Sin Eater*, earned the Gold Medal award. With a successful career and with several award-winning books, she has become a writer who is dearly loved by her readers.

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A VOICE IN THE WIND (MARK OF THE LION) BY FRANCINE RIVERS PDF

This classic series has already inspired nearly 2 million readers, but both loyal fans and new readers will want this 20th anniversary edition of a Christian classic, which includes a foreword from the publisher, a letter from and Q & A with Francine Rivers, color map, an illustrated glossary, and discussion questions suitable for personal and group use.

The first book in the bestselling Mark of the Lion series, *A Voice in the Wind* brings readers back to the first century and introduces them to a character they will never forget? Hadassah. Torn by her love for a handsome aristocrat, this young slave girl clings to her faith in the living God for deliverance from the forces of decadent Rome.

- Sales Rank: #7187 in Books
- Brand: Rivers, Francine/ Taylor, Mark D. (FRW)
- Published on: 2012-10-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.80" h x 1.40" w x 5.80" l, 1.23 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 544 pages

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Most helpful customer reviews

224 of 241 people found the following review helpful.

An awesome book but.....

By Timothy

I just finished "A Voice in the Wind" this evening and I'm already plowing through the second novel in the series. I read Francine Rivers first novel for the Christian market, "Redeeming Love", and was impressed with it. The Mark of the Lion Series lives up to the rave reviews, but I do have a few words of caution.

The novel is set in the Roman Empire of the first century and deals quite frankly with the society of the time. The story opens with the destruction of Jerusalem in 79 AD. Here we meet Hadassah and her family, trapped in the city by the Roman army. When Roman legionaires enter the city and slaughter its inhabitants, Hadassah's starving family is among their victims. Hadassah herself is taken prisoner and sold into slavery. The descriptions of death and war violence are vivid and this somewhat shocking opening sets the pace for the story to come.

Ancient Rome is probably one of the more captivating periods in history. The romance and splendor of the empire have been depicted in countless films and novels. Ms. Rivers effectively places the reader in the midst of this world, with all of its decadence and debauchery. While Hadassah is technically the main character, a great deal of time is spent developing the other characters in the story. These characters include Hadassah's owners, the Valerians, and a German gladiator named Atretes. Ms. Rivers deals very frankly with the sensual nature of ancient Rome. Many of the characters are promiscuous and the descriptions of the gladiator matches are graphic enough to make you cringe. In all honesty I would have preferred less vivid detail. Sexual content is present. We don't read every lascivious detail, but we know that characters have slept together. The story deals with murder, abortion, idol worship, witchcraft and various forms of sexual depravity. Some have criticized the graphic nature of the story. However, as the novel draws to a close, we can see that Ms. Rivers has used these elements to show how depraved some of the characters are, throwing other character's virtues into sharp contrast.

Hadassah herself seems to represent what Christians should be. She falls just short of being too perfect, but one can't help but connect with her just the same. The climax of the novel is heart wrenching. This story is not about happy endings and we see virtually nothing resolved with the novel's cliff-hanger ending. However, we do see Hadassah mature into a model of Christ-like behavior that we should emulate. Aside from the graphic depictions of violent battles and the seemingly endless stream of debaucherous behavior, the story is engaging and powerful and will leave you with a great many things to think about in your own walk with the Lord. I would not recommend this novel for a young audience, however mature older teens might be able to handle it. Have the second book on hand as you'll race rather quickly through the last few chapters.

86 of 98 people found the following review helpful.

A Great Surprise!

By Monty Rainey

I don't normally read much in the way of fiction, but occasionally find historical fiction worthwhile for expanding the mind, so when an employee of mine recommended this book, I decided to give it a read. My initial assessment, after only 20 or 30 pages, was that Francine Rivers was a devoted Christian using her literary talents to witness for Christ. An admirable undertaking, to be sure, but I soon learned I underestimated the authors' ability. She has woven a tremendous story here and in the process, has reached out to disperse the good news of Christ through a captivating story.

I was first Impressed with Rivers as a writer by her glaring knowledge of the subject matter. Not just of the Christian aspect of the story, one would expect a Christian writer to well versed in that venue, but her knowledge and descriptive prose in battle tactics of two millennia ago. Weaponry is rather easy to comprehend with a little research, but to comprehend battle tactics of that era is a much deeper challenge and Rivers has mastered that challenge magnificently.

The story revolves around a young Jewess, her family killed by the Romans, taken captive and sold into slavery in Rome to a well-to-do Ephesian merchants family. She finds herself in the servitude of a Roman day Scarlett O'Hara, roughly a generation after the death and resurrection of Christ. Over what I gather to be roughly a seven year period in the service of the family, the young Jewess serves their every wish and has a profound influence upon all the family members, but is torn by her inability to make them understand her beliefs.

Rivers draws masterful parallels between Rome of 2,000 years ago and the U.S. today, particularly in the area of social decay, moral decline, juvenile disobedience and the overall degenerate social environment. Some might find this a stretch but readers well aware of the state of Roman society of the time will understand the correlations and know this is not just a writer using literary liberty to make a point. The truth is, the similarities of Rome, just prior to its fall, and the U.S. today are more than coincidental.

This is a well-told story with a message for all. It's not just run of the mill historical fiction, but rather a valuable work which will enrich the lives of readers open to its lessons. Upon finishing this one, I immediately ordered part II of this story.

Monty Rainey

[...]

58 of 68 people found the following review helpful.

Why Did I Wait So Long?

By Mark Baker - Carstairs Considers

The year is 70 AD. Hadassah has been captured at the fall of Jerusalem. Taken to Rome, she is bought to serve the Valerian family. The Valerians are having their own problems. Decimus, the father, is very traditional, yet his children, Marcus and Julia, embrace all the decadence Rome has to offer. Hadassah wants to share her faith in Jesus the Messiah with this family, but she cannot find the courage to do so. Meanwhile, Atretes has been captured in Germany and taken to Rome as a gladiator. As their lives intertwine, they will all face problems that will challenge who they are and what they believe.

I just read this book for the first time, and can't believe I waited so long to do so. This is an amazing novel. The characters are strong, the writing is crisp, the plots are remarkable, and the detail given to ancient Rome makes it come alive. Every time I picked up this novel, I was drawn into its world and had a hard time

putting it down.

This was my introduction to the books of Francine Rivers, but by no means will this be my last. I am looking forward to finishing this series and exploring her other novels. She is truly a gifted author.

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