



Bridge to Haven

By Francine Rivers

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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. Zeke and his son, Joshua? Abra's closest friend? watch her grow into an exotic beauty. But Zeke knows the circumstances surrounding her birth have etched scars deep in her heart, scars that leave her vulnerable to a fast-talking charmer who lures her to Tinseltown. Hollywood feels like a million miles from Haven, and naive 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.

In this riveting and highly anticipated tale of temptation, grace, and unconditional love, *New York Times* bestselling author Francine Rivers delivers big-canvas storytelling at its very best.

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Editorial Review

From [Booklist](#)

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, her 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. --Diana Tixier Herald

Review

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Starred reviewWhen 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

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, her 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

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

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 bride 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. "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

From the Inside Flap

HOLLYWOOD, 1957 To those who matter in 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. Zeke and his son, Joshua--Abra's closest friend--watch her grow into an exotic beauty. But Zeke knows the circumstances surrounding Abra's birth have etched scars deep in her heart, scars that leave her vulnerable to a fast-talking charmer who lures her to Tinseltown. Hollywood feels like a million miles from Haven, and naive Abra quickly learns what's expected of an ambitious girl with stars in her eyes. She discovers too late that fame comes at a devastating price.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Lizzie Chandler:

Book is to be different for every grade. Book for children till adult are different content. To be sure that book is very important normally. The book Bridge to Haven ended up being making you to know about other know-how and of course you can take more information. It doesn't matter what advantages for you. The book Bridge to Haven is not only giving you a lot more new information but also to be your friend when you sense bored. You can spend your current spend time to read your guide. Try to make relationship while using book Bridge to Haven. You never really feel lose out for everything when you read some books.

Marcos Gorman:

The book Bridge to Haven will bring someone to the new experience of reading a book. The author style to clarify the idea is very unique. If you try to find new book to study, this book very appropriate to you. The book Bridge to Haven is much recommended to you to study. You can also get the e-book from your official web site, so you can more easily to read the book.

Carlos Callahan:

A lot of people always spent all their free time to vacation or perhaps go to the outside with them family or their friend. Do you realize? Many a lot of people spent that they free time just watching TV, as well as playing video games all day long. In order to try to find a new activity honestly, that is look different you can read some sort of book. It is really fun in your case. If you enjoy the book that you read you can spent all day every day to reading a guide. The book Bridge to Haven it doesn't matter what good to read. There are a lot of folks that recommended this book. They were enjoying reading this book. Should you did not have enough space to create this book you can buy the actual e-book. You can more effortlessly to read this book from the smart phone. The price is not to fund but this book possesses high quality.

Bryon Diaz:

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relief your hunger associated with. Getting deeper you on it getting knowledge more you know or perhaps you who still having little digest in reading this Bridge to Haven can be the light food for yourself because the information inside this specific book is easy to get by anyone. These books acquire itself in the form which is reachable by anyone, yes I mean in the e-book form. People who think that in reserve form make them feel sleepy even dizzy this guide is the answer. So you cannot find any in reading a reserve especially this one. You can find actually looking for. It should be here for you actually. So , don't miss the idea! Just read this e-book style for your better life and also knowledge.

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