



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 review 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

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 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. "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:

Sang O'Connor:

The knowledge that you get from Bridge to Haven is a more deep you searching the information that hide inside the words the more you get thinking about reading it. It doesn't mean that this book is hard to recognise but Bridge to Haven giving you enjoyment feeling of reading. The author conveys their point in particular way that can be understood by means of anyone who read that because the author of this guide is well-known enough. This specific book also makes your current vocabulary increase well. That makes it easy to understand then can go to you, both in printed or e-book style are available. We suggest you for having this Bridge to Haven instantly.

Leona Hicks:

Reading a reserve tends to be new life style with this era globalization. With reading through you can get a lot of information that will give you benefit in your life. Together with book everyone in this world can share their idea. Books can also inspire a lot of people. A great deal of author can inspire their own reader with their story or even their experience. Not only the story that share in the guides. But also they write about the data about something that you need example. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach children, there are many kinds of book which exist now. The authors on this planet always try to improve their skill in writing, they also doing some study before they write with their book. One of them is this Bridge to Haven.

Carla Helton:

Spent a free time and energy to be fun activity to try and do! A lot of people spent their free time with their family, or all their friends. Usually they accomplishing activity like watching television, about to beach, or picnic from the park. They actually doing same thing every week. Do you feel it? Do you need to something different to fill your current free time/ holiday? Could be reading a book might be option to fill your cost-free time/ holiday. The first thing you ask may be what kinds of guide that you should read. If you want to attempt look for book, may be the reserve untitled Bridge to Haven can be great book to read. May be it might be best activity to you.

Diane Welton:

This Bridge to Haven is great book for you because the content and that is full of information for you who else always deal with world and still have to make decision every minute. This kind of book reveal it facts accurately using great organize word or we can claim no rambling sentences inside. So if you are read the idea hurriedly you can have whole info in it. Doesn't mean it only provides you with straight forward sentences but hard core information with beautiful delivering sentences. Having Bridge to Haven in your hand like having the world in your arm, information in it is not ridiculous one particular. We can say that no e-book that offer you world with ten or fifteen second right but this book already do that. So , this is good reading book. Hi Mr. and Mrs. stressful do you still doubt this?

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