





## PRAISE FOR FRANCINE RIVERS

### *And the Shofar Blew*

“Meticulously plotted, Francine Rivers’s new masterpiece, *And the Shofar Blew*, brims with unforgettable characters.”

—*Romantic Times*

### *The Atonement Child*

“*The Atonement Child* is well written, presenting the truth about abortion in a compassionate, nonjudgmental way.”

—*The Post-Abortion Review*

### *The Last Sin Eater*

“Rivers skillfully combines character and mood to create a haunting story that effectively depicts the horror of sin and the beauty of forgiveness.”

—*CBA Marketplace*

### *Leota’s Garden*

“Francine Rivers is a master gardener, deftly pruning brush and deadwood, using poignant humor and bittersweet revelation to open hearts to reconciliation.”

—*Romantic Times*

### *Lineage of Grace series*

“Readers will find this book worth reading more than once. . . . Masterfully written.”

—*Romantic Times*

“Rivers’s writing is excellent.”

—*Publishers Weekly*

“Rivers is such an excellent author. Her people are vibrantly alive, with all the strengths and weaknesses that make them so human.”

—*Historical Novels Review*

### *Mark of the Lion series*

“Francine Rivers puts readers right into the history of the moment. . . .”

—*Romantic Times*

### *Redeeming Love*

“. . . a splendid piece of work.”

—*Library Journal*

“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**

“. . . a thought-provoking novel that you will not easily forget.”

—*Romantic Times*

**Sons of Encouragement series**

“. . . 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*

Visit Tyndale online at [www.tyndale.com](http://www.tyndale.com).

Check out the latest about Francine Rivers at [www.francinerivers.com](http://www.francinerivers.com).

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An Echo in the Darkness

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Discussion Guide section written by Peggy Lynch.

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Cover designed by Ron Kaufmann

Interior designed by Zandrah Maguigad

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**Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data**

Rivers, Francine, date.

An echo in the darkness / Francine Rivers.

p. cm. — (Mark of the lion)

ISBN 978-0-8423-1307-0

1. Church history—Primitive and early church, ca. 30-600—Fiction.

2. Women slaves—Rome—Fiction. I. Title. II. Series: Rivers, Francine, date

Mark of the lion.

PS3568.I83165E24 1994

813'.54—dc20 94-5909

Build: 2012-11-14 16:55:13



*This book is dedicated to Peggy Lynch and Lynn Moffett, beloved friends and prayer warriors.*



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# FOREWORD

In 1992, Tyndale House made a conscious decision to begin publishing excellent fiction that would help us fulfill our corporate purpose—to “minister to the spiritual needs of people, primarily through literature consistent with biblical principles.” Before that time, Tyndale House had been known for many years as a publisher of Bibles and of nonfiction books by well-known authors like Tim LaHaye and James Dobson. We had dabbled in fiction before “Christian fiction” became popular, but it was not a major part of our publishing plan.

We began to recognize, however, that we could carry out our purpose very effectively through fiction, since fiction speaks to the heart rather than to the head.

Fiction is entertaining. Well-written fiction is gripping. As readers, we’ll stay up until 2:00 a.m. to finish a good novel. But Tyndale has a greater goal than simply entertaining our readers. We want to help our readers grow!

We recognize that authors have something of a bully pulpit for communicating their worldview and values to their readers. But with that opportunity comes a danger. Just what worldview and values is an author communicating? At best, most contemporary novelists present a squishy worldview. At worst, they sow negative values and unhealthy attitudes in the hearts of their readers. We wanted to set a whole new standard for fiction.

So we began looking for novelists who had a heart message that would help our readers grow. And we met Francine Rivers.

Francine had been extremely successful as a writer of romance novels for the general market early in her career. But when she became a Christian, she wanted to use her talents to communicate faith values to her readers. One of her early projects was the Mark of the Lion trilogy.

When I read the manuscript for the first book in the series, *A Voice in the Wind*, I was blown away by the power of the story. I was transported back to the first century—to Jerusalem, Germania, Rome, and Ephesus. I lived with Hadassah as she struggled to live out her faith in the midst of a pagan Roman household. I felt the terror of the gladiator as he faced his foes in the arena. Above all, through their experiences I learned lessons in courage.