An Echo in the Darkness: Mark of the Lion #2
by Francine Rivers

About the Book

This classic series has inspired over half a million readers. Both loyal fans and new readers will want the 10th anniversary editions of this beloved series. These editions include a new foreword from the publisher, a new preface from Francine Rivers, and discussion questions suitable for personal and group use.

An Echo in the Darkness: Turning away from the opulence of Rome, Marcus is led by a whispering voice from the past into a journey that could set him free from the darkness of his soul.

Discussion Guide

When writing this story, Francine had a key Bible verse in mind: “Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will direct your paths” (Proverbs 3:5-6). We can choose to be self-sufficient or to rely on God. We can act on our own understanding regarding life’s circumstances, or we can seek God’s will in every situation. But only one choice assures us that God will direct our paths. Making wise choices is an ongoing process. With this in mind, let me encourage you to get together with some friends and discuss your favorite scenes, characters, and personal insights from this novel. May your insights never end, and may your discussion “runneth over”!

CHARACTER REVIEW

1. What is your favorite encounter with Hadassah and why?

2. What changes are evident in Hadassah since the arena (other than physical)?
DIGGING DEEPER

1. Discuss how Hadassah perceived herself.

2. Describe how Hadassah moved from fear and timidity to power and love.

3. What fears keep you from experiencing God’s love and power?

PERSONAL INSIGHTS/CHALLENGES

1. In what ways do you identify with Hadassah? How are you different?

2. What do you think motivated Hadassah? What motivates you?

3. “Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will direct your paths” (Proverbs 3:5-6). How did Hadassah demonstrate her trust in God?

SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES

As you discuss Hadassah and how she grew in her faith, read the following Bible verses. They may shed light on her journey and yours as well.

O Lord my God, I cried out to you for help, and you restored my health. You brought me up from the grave, O Lord. You kept me from falling into the pit of death. PSALM 30:2-3

Don’t be concerned about the outward beauty that depends on fancy hairstyles, expensive jewelry, or beautiful clothes. You should be known for the beauty that comes from within, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is so precious to God. 1 PETER 3:3-4

For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline. 2 TIMOTHY 1:7

Author Bio

*New York Times* bestselling author Francine Rivers began her literary career at the University of Nevada, Reno, where she graduated with a bachelor of arts degree in English and journalism. From 1976 to 1985, she had a successful writing career in the general market, and her books were highly acclaimed by readers and reviewers. Although raised in a religious home, Francine did not truly encounter Christ until later in life, when she was already a wife, a mother of three, and an established romance novelist.
Shortly after becoming a born-again Christian in 1986, Francine wrote REDEEMING LOVE as her statement of faith. First published by Bantam Books and then rereleased by Multnomah Publishers in the mid-1990s, this retelling of the biblical story of Gomer and Hosea, set during the time of the California Gold Rush, is now considered by many to be a classic work of Christian fiction. REDEEMING LOVE continues to be one of the CBA's top-selling titles, and it has held a spot on the Christian bestseller list for nearly a decade.

Since REDEEMING LOVE, Francine has published numerous novels with Christian themes --- all bestsellers --- and she has continued to win both industry acclaim and reader loyalty around the globe. Her Christian novels have been awarded or nominated for numerous honors, including the RITA Award, the Christy Award, the ECPA Gold Medallion, and the Holt Medallion in Honor of Outstanding Literary Talent. In 1997, after winning her third RITA Award for inspirational fiction, Francine was inducted into the Romance Writers of America's Hall of Fame. Francine's novels have been translated into over 20 different languages, and she enjoys best-seller status in many foreign countries, including Germany, the Netherlands and South Africa.

Francine and her husband, Rick, live in northern California and enjoy time spent with their three grown children and taking every opportunity to spoil their grandchildren. Francine uses her writing to draw closer to the Lord, and she desires that through her work she might worship and praise Jesus for all He has done and is doing in her life.

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