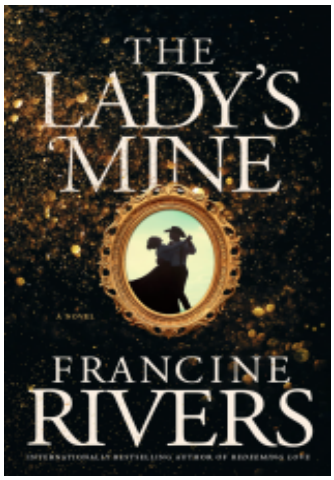
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The Lady's Mine

by Francine Rivers



About the Book

***New York Times* bestselling author Francine Rivers returns to the California frontier in this sweeping, romantic tale of a displaced New England suffragette, a former Union soldier disinherited by his Southern family, and the town they join forces to save.**

1875. When Kathryn Walsh arrives in tiny Calvada, a mining town nestled in the Sierra Nevadas, falling in love is the farthest thing from her mind. Banished from Boston by her wealthy stepfather, she has come to claim an inheritance from the uncle she never knew: a defunct newspaper office on a main street overflowing with brothels and saloons, and a seemingly worthless mine. Moved by the oppression of the local miners and their families, Kathryn decides to relaunch her uncle?s newspaper --- and then finds herself in the middle of a maelstrom, pitted against Calvada?s most powerful men. But Kathryn intends to continue to say --- and publish --- whatever she pleases, especially when she knows she?s right.

Matthias Beck, owner of a local saloon and hotel, has a special interest in the new lady in town. He instantly recognizes C. T. Walsh?s same tenacity in the beautiful and outspoken redhead --- and knows all too well how dangerous that family trait can be. While Kathryn may be right about Calvada?s problems, her righteousness could also get her killed. But when the handsome hotelier keeps finding himself on the same side of the issues as the opinionated Miss Walsh, Matthias? restless search for purpose becomes all about answering the call of his heart.

Everyone may be looking to strike it rich in this lawless boomtown, but it?s a love more precious than gold that will ultimately save them all.

Discussion Guide

1. One of the questions the author was exploring as she wrote the book was ?Can one person impact an entire

community?? How do different characters try to influence the community of Calvada, for good or bad? What can we learn from their examples? How would you answer the author?s question?

2. Both Kathryn and Matthias are disinherited by their families. What were the reasons? How did they each handle the rejection? When Matthias reveals to Kathryn why his father disowned him, Kathryn responds with ?God promises to finish the work in us.? What does this mean? Have you ever been rejected by someone you love? How did you handle it? What, if any, future do you see for Matthias and his father?

3. In what ways are Kathryn and City Walsh alike? Do you think personality traits can be inherited from family members? What was Kathryn able to accomplish that City Walsh was not?

4. Once Kathryn starts up the *Voice*, Matthias tries to warn her against writing inflammatory editorials. Do you agree with his advice that ?too much truth at one time can hurt more than help?? Is Kathryn right that following one?s convictions and facing trouble seem to go together? Are there ways to create change without agitating others, or does change always cause upheaval?

5. Give some examples of restrictions women were under in 1875. Did any of these surprise you? Are there areas where women?s rights still fall short today? Or are there certain expectations or burdens placed on women that men don?t carry? In what ways should society strive for equality between genders? Or is it okay to allow for different roles based on a person?s strengths?

6. Is Kathryn wise or foolish in her dealings with Morgan Sanders? What signs of warning did she ignore? Have you ever put yourself in harm?s way? How and why? What avenue of escape did God give you? Did you use it? What did you learn from your experience?

7. Matthias turns to Reverend Thacker for help in convincing Kathryn to keep to a woman?s place in society. What does Thacker say about Adam and Eve? Is his sermon fair? How does Kathryn react? Were you as surprised by her reaction as Matthias was? What does she conclude about a woman?s role?

8. As a Southerner who fought for the North in the Civil War, Matthias has a unique perspective on victors and the vanquished. He muses: ?Men lived not by what they were told, but by what they believed.? Do you agree with that idea? What does City tell Matthias about what people believe? (See chapter 17.) Where do you turn for the ultimate authority on truth? When you come in contact with those who have different views, how do you choose to interact?

9. Nabor Aday verbally abuses his wife, Abbie. How does she handle it? How do others respond when they observe this couple?s interactions? Do you think people today are more or less likely to speak up when they see abuse? What resources are available today for those in abusive situations?

10. Ronya tells Kathryn, ?A woman needs to guard her heart and use her head when picking a husband.? What makes her say this? Do you agree with it? What other advice would you give?

11. City had a lot to say about regrets, including ?Some decisions haunt you. You can change your mind, but you can?t go back.? Which characters are haunted by regrets? How do they respond? If they can?t go back, what can you do to keep moving forward?

12. Kathryn ponders this idea: ?What a tangled mess men make when they try to play God.? What messes do various characters in this book make when ?trying to play God?? Have you seen any examples of this in your own life? How were they resolved?

13. Widows in the past as well as today have many difficulties. Why did Fiona Hawthorne choose the path she took?

Author Bio

International bestselling author Francine Rivers had a successful writing career in the general market for several years becoming a born-again Christian; she then wrote REDEEMING LOVE as her statement of faith. A retelling of the biblical story of Gomer and Hosea set during the time of the California Gold Rush, REDEEMING LOVE is now considered by many to be a classic work of Christian fiction and it continues to be one of the industry?s top-selling titles year after year.

Since REDEEMING LOVE, Francine has published numerous bestselling novels with Christian themes --- including THE MASTERPIECE, BRIDGE TO HAVEN and A VOICE IN THE WIND --- and she has continued to win both industry acclaim and reader loyalty around the world. Her Christian novels have been awarded or nominated for numerous honors and in 1997, after winning her third RITA Award for Inspirational Fiction, Francine was inducted into the Romance Writers of America?s Hall of Fame. In 2015, she received the Lifetime Achievement Award from American Christian Fiction Writers (ACFW). Francine?s novels have been translated into over 30 different languages, and she enjoys bestseller status in many foreign countries.

Francine and her husband live in Northern California and enjoy time spent with their grown children and grandchildren. She 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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