



## Unshaken: Ruth

*Francine Rivers*

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## Unshaken: Ruth Francine Rivers

A beautiful retelling of the story of Ruth, Naomi, and Boaz by award-winning author Francine Rivers. Readers will be encouraged by the truth that God will faithfully provide for His children even when all hope seems lost.

## Unshaken: Ruth Details

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Author : Francine Rivers

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## From Reader Review Unshaken: Ruth for online ebook

### **Sarah says**

I normally love Francine Rivers and this series has been great so far. But this one bugged me for some reason. In fact I quit reading it in the last chapter because I was so annoyed with the way she wrote Ruth's character.

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### **Natacha Ramos says**

This is biblical fiction based on the life of Ruth and Boaz, ancestors of Jesus.

The book belongs to the series "Linage of grace" and It's about 150 pages, the rest is a short study to go deeper in the story.

What I like about reading biblical fiction is that my interest for the real story in the Bible goes up.

Usually, reading the original version is what I want to do next, which I think is one the purposes of authors in this particular genre.

It also helps you understand hebrew culture a bit more and how the Law worked for them in the everyday issues.

I find it difficult to connect with the characters and their emotions. There are great messages throughout the book about virtue above beauty, trusting God and being faithful but I could not get really involved in the story.

Also, the love between Ruth and Boaz seemed kind of forced for me at times.

Basically, the book is good. The lessons you learn are valuable. It's short and it helped me understand better Ruth's story, which was the reason I read it in first place.

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### **Bt says**

I had thought that Francine Rivers could not fail me. I absolutely loved the other books of hers I've read - A Voice in the Wind, An Echo in the Darkness, and Redeeming Love. The prose and stories were beautiful and alive, and I cared deeply about the characters. But somehow this fell completely flat. I didn't really sympathize with any of the characters, and the relationship between Ruth and Boaz was just kind of uncomfortable. Ruth was pretty much just perfect, and she didn't seem real to me.

Thank goodness it was so short, or there's no way I would've bothered to finish it.

My favorite parts of the book were the "And the men were saying" and "And the women were saying" parts (you'll know what I mean if you've read it). Those *did* seem very real to me; they sounded like real, back-

and-forth conversation that I could see as a natural response to what was happening.

Overall, I didn't like the re-imagining of the story from the Bible. Rivers says in her note that she tried to stay true to the Bible story, but she obviously added a lot to make it so much longer. I don't mind re-tellings of Bible stories (like I said, I loved *Redeeming Love*), but throughout this one, I just kept thinking to myself, "No, no, no! This *can't* be the way it was...."

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### **Rhonda says**

After reading this book one can see how Ruth is an amazing inspiration. She is wonderfully portrayed as a virtuous woman who sacrifices all to care for her widowed mother-in-law. The care she gives Naomi is a true example of someone who loves faithfully and is committed to doing what is right, even when it could cost everything.

Francine Rivers pulls out things from scripture that are not typically considered, such as the cost to leave home and dangerous journey back to Naomi's homeland. Since Ruth was a foreigner, people probably rejected her, ignored her, or treated her poorly once she entered into Jerusalem. Details of Ruth's faithfulness and diligence are described beautifully.

This book is wonderfully written. I highly recommend reading this book along with the others in this series.

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### **Rachel says**

Just finished reading *UNSHAKEN* today.

I love anything and everything Francine Rivers. Her writing style is so readable, flowing and beautiful.

*Unshaken* is the story of Ruth. I hadn't read the story of Ruth in quite some time so I wasn't sure how accurate the portrayal actually was. I came to the conclusion that in order for me to give this book a good review, I would need to read Ruth first. It's a quickie! As far as I can tell, Francine Rivers's, *Unshaken*, is very accurate. In fact, much of what she wrote was straight out of the book of Ruth.

Francine Rivers has the amazing ability to retell a story from the Bible and weave it together with the historical context and human emotion that is often overlooked when reading scripture alone. When reading scripture, it is sometimes easy to forget that there were cultural issues that had huge implications on the lives of those living in Bible times. I also sometimes forget that these were real people, with real issues and real emotions!

Ruth is a story of sorrow, unwavering faith, perseverance, strength, courage, love, hope, and faith renewed. It is a story of a girl and mother-in-law who lost everything and everyone and how God redeemed them. Beautiful.

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### **Adrienna says**

Unshaken: Ruth's story and her change of heart after losing her husband. She was encouraged to go back to her mother's land and have a fresh start to remarry since she was young. Her sister-in-law, lost her husband a year prior and stayed around until all their husband's died and Naomi would go back to her homeland. She left to go back to her former homeland and gods, but Ruth was determined and adamant about going with her mother-in-law, Naomi. Naomi warned her about their customs and religion which they were forbidden to worship any other god, Ruth agreed that she'd worship her god; also forewarned about the four deaths of stoning, burning, strangling, and slaying with a sword but this didn't easily scare Ruth off. She continued to follow.

Overall, most single Christians always refer to this story; finding their Boaz. "A good wife is more precious than rubies."

This story was heart-felt and could imagine being in Ruth's shoes; the writer not only written a great story but evokes emotion and seeing Ruth through your own eyes.

4 stars.

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### **Abigail says**

A wonderful retelling of Ruth. While the book of Ruth is in itself a good narrative, Francine Rivers has managed to bring the story to life even more. I found it beautiful how faith in God or lack thereof was so well portrayed in the story. This is a great encouragement to faith and a rather realistic view on Biblical characters.

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### **Helen says**

After Ruth's husband, Mahlon dies, Naomi is alone with her daughter in laws, Orpha and Ruth. Her husband and other son had past on. Naomi makes the decision to leave Kir-hareseth and return to Bethlehem. Ruth stays with Naomi, turning her back on her family, country and religion. The walk is hard on Naomi and when they get to Bethlehem they are forced to live in a cave and Ruth goes to the fields gleening the edges of fields for them to survive. After being treated badly at one field she ends up gleaning at Boaz's field. He treats her very well. Naomi gave Ruth guidance in developing a relationship with Boaz.

I really like this series. Even though it is historical fiction, it is based on the bible story of Ruth and Naomi. I like how the story gives insight into how life could have been for them. As well as the sacrifice Ruth made to stay with Naomi. The story does a very good job of pointing out that God will take care of our needs.

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### **Ellen says**

Francine Rivers does it again-- another great retelling of the classic Bible history account of Ruth. As I read this story, I realized I had never given much thought to what happened prior to Naomi and her family's move

to Moab and what that meant. Her husband was forsaking the Lord to live in a heathen nation, and Naomi followed. As with every choice that runs against God's instruction, she and her family faced consequences. Her son's grew up and married women outside their faith; Naomi was cut off from the support of fellow believers in her homeland. But the Lord redeems us even from our own mistakes. Ruth is brought to faith and gives up everything to return with Naomi after she is widowed. The retelling of Ruth's strong and noble character along with that of Boaz warms the heart, just as it does in the original account. River's throws in a twist making Boaz a jilted suitor of Naomi... I don't know if that was really necessary, but it is a fictionalized account, afterall.

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### **Courtney says**

Can we all for one moment just think of what it would take to go from a life of riches to a life of rags? Many of us wouldn't even think about doing such a thing, but Ruth did it with duty and respect without complaint. The love she had for the God of Israel was unshaken and she followed Naomi even though she knew everyone would be against her. This wonderful tale proves that God can take even the most dire situations and turn it into something beautiful.

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### **Tully Ehlers says**

Always loved Ruth story, and her part on Jesus' lineage, and such a faith she always showed, and Francine Rivers made it even more sweet with this dear romance. Wonderful story, full of love, and faith, and what a blessing Francine's ministry is.

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### **Lori says**

What an amazing story of unshakeable faith in God. I enjoyed listening to Rivers historical fiction based on the story of Ruth. All the woman in this series were "grafted in". What an amazing God we have!!!!

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### **Jules Q says**

I have been intending to read this series of novellas for several years now, but as I read them this summer I realize that I may not have been ready earlier for all God is now teaching me. I have been learning much in recent years about the times of the patriarchs, and these small books focusing on the five women noted in the genealogy of Christ have given me greater insight than I ever imagined. From Tamar's desperate attempts to awaken Judah's sense of obligation, to Rahab's great faith in the midst of an approaching war, to my current read of Ruth and Naomi and the unbreakable bond between them, the *Lineage of Grace* series is enlightening and provocative and filled with historical context that somehow previously escaped me. Completion of each book brings an urgency to dive into the next one, and that's my hope for every book I read.

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## **Donna says**

Loved, loved loved this love story between Ruth and Boaz! I loved also how she brought out some of the trials and prejudices that may have taken place in Boaz's life because of Rahab being his mother, a Canaanite woman and ex-harlot. I had never thought of the effect that may have had on him growing up and getting a wife in a very strict culture. Good book!

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## **K.M. Montemayor says**

3.5/5 stars

*Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God.*

A few months ago I read the novella of Bathsheeba's story and I loved it. I decided to try another novella in the series--Ruth. While it was for the most part an entertaining read, some of the plot was too implausible for me.

What I liked: Francine Rivers is a great writer. She pulls you into the story and before long you are invested in the characters and their outcomes. Anytime an author can make me care and feel for their characters, I'm happy.

What I didn't like: The additions she made to the story didn't fit my image of Ruth or Boaz. I realize this is historical fiction and that the book of Ruth is only about five pages. Of course, Ms. Rivers will have to add things to the plot. She did the same thing in Bathsheeba's story. But in Bathsheeba's story it made sense and was believable to me.

The first thing I had a hard time with was Naomi's reaction during the first part of the book. I get that she's bitter and sad because of the death of her husband and two sons. What I didn't get is why Ruth would want to accompany her mother-in-law to a foreign land when all she did was complain. In the beginning, when Ruth's husband Mahlon is ill but still alive, Ms. Rivers depicts Ruth's family as wealthy. Her parents want her to return home to be with them. Contrast that to living with Naomi. All Naomi does is whine and complain all the way to Bethlehem. I realize God is in control, but I felt sorry for Ruth and I wouldn't want to stay with such a bitter woman.  
She reminded me of this guy.

*Come with me, Ruth, and worship my God. Then you can just as miserable as I am.*

When they actually get to Bethlehem, Naomi lets Ruth go work all day in the fields while she stays back in Bethlehem gossiping with her friends. In the bible account, I got the impression Naomi was an older woman. But in Ms. Rivers version, she is in her early forties. I kept asking Naomi why don't you go help Ruth in the field and earn your keep?

The second thing that I had trouble swallowing was the relationship between Naomi and Boaz. In Ms. Rivers version, Boaz had once-upon-a-time been in love with Naomi and wanted to marry her. But Naomi begged her father to tell Boaz she was marrying Elimelech. I had a hard time with this.

I thought it was unnecessary. If Naomi wanted, she could have married Boaz herself to provide for Ruth.

One thing the book did show was that God is always in control, even when things seem bleak. Boaz and

Ruth both loved and trusted God, and he blessed them abundantly.

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