



The Masterpiece

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New York Times bestselling author Francine Rivers returns to her romance roots with this unexpected and redemptive love story, a probing tale that reminds us that mercy can shape even the most broken among us into an imperfect yet stunning masterpiece.

A successful LA artist, Roman Velasco appears to have everything he could possibly want--money, women, fame. Only Grace Moore, his reluctant, newly hired personal assistant, knows how little he truly has. The demons of Roman's past seem to echo through the halls of his empty mansion and out across his breathtaking Topanga Canyon view. But Grace doesn't know how her boss secretly wrestles with those demons: by tagging buildings as the Bird, a notorious but unidentified graffiti artist--an alter ego that could destroy his career and land him in prison.

Like Roman, Grace is wrestling with ghosts and secrets of her own. After a disastrous marriage threw her life completely off course, she vowed never to let love steal her dreams again. But as she gets to know the enigmatic man behind the reputation, it's as if the jagged pieces of both of their pasts slowly begin to fit together . . . until something so unexpected happens that it changes the course of their relationship--and both their lives--forever.

The Masterpiece Details

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Author : Francine Rivers

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From Reader Review The Masterpiece for online ebook

Nicole Burrell says

Boys meets girl. They fall in love and live happily ever after. So simple, right? Not if Francine Rivers has anything to say about it!

For years, Rivers has faithfully produced stories that tug at our heartstrings...works like "A Voice in the Wind" and "When the Shofar Blew". Most recently, "A Bridge to Haven". Now, in her book that is set to release in January 2018, she is back and yes, still producing love stories that are both agonizing and glorious.

"The Masterpiece" follows two main characters. Roman is an artist with a troubled past who uses anger as a weapon and builds walls to make sure he is never hurt again. Grace is a struggling single mom with an equally complicated history. She chooses to hide from things that scare her, and often finds herself making choices that please others but ultimately harm her.

As you would expect, from the very start, Roman and Grace are set on a crash course into...well, each other. But there is so much more to their journey, starting with their separate struggles to understand the role God plays in their lives.

"The Masterpiece", first, is a very enjoyable read. Rivers is an expert at cloaking her stories in mystery, in such a way that you find yourself turning page after page long after you should be asleep. She tells a story that moves quickly, and if the action doesn't pull you along, the tug on your heart will. Second, though, and just as important, this book felt well-researched. It covers sensitive topics like childhood trauma, drug use, single motherhood, as well as exploring what the life of a graffiti artist is like. All were handled well, all treated with respect and I felt, without cliche.

Fans of Rivers may find that a novel set in the present day lacks some of the romantic muscle that, say "A Voice in the Wind" might have. But the characters of Roman and Grace are equal to the beloved names we all know from Rivers: Hadassah and Marcus, Paul and Eunice Hudson, Angel and Michael. You will find yourself rooting for them from the early pages of this novel. And with a heavy dose of spirituality, Rivers takes the book to a place that transcends place and time. Make room on your bookshelf for this one!

*Please note that Tyndale House Publishers has provided me with a complimentary advanced copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

Maddy says

This was beautiful.

Mary Jackson _TheMaryReader says

I am still in a book fog after reading The Masterpiece.

It was such a moving love story and Rivers has really done her research on art part of the book. She tells about that at the end of the book. The characters were strong and the storyline remarkable. I loved the way it all turns out, I was on the fence for a while.

I challenge you to put this down once you start reading it. I think it will be one you read without realizing you have read the book in one evening.

Rivers has done it again another New York Times list winner.

I gave this book 5 stars two times and I HIGHLY recommend it.

The Mary Reader received this book from the publisher for review. A favorable review was not required and all views expressed are our own.

Linda Klager says

What a wonderful book! Francine Rivers is an excellent writer. The cover of the book was very intriguing to me. In the back of the book is an explanation of how this cover came to be.

The events in this story were very current to the times today. The two main characters, Roman and Grace had so many obstacles in their lives.

Even though I suspected it, I learned how dangerous a life can be when influenced by a gang. Also, how dangerous and deadly it is to take drugs. Roman was exposed to these bad things as a young boy.

Grace was exposed to an abusive father and a submissive mother. This led to a very dangerous situation in her young life.

Thank you, Francine Rivers, for a very fascinating read. I highly recommend to read this book. Lovers of Christian fiction will enjoy this book.

Staci says

I was hesitant to read The Masterpiece after being disappointed in A Bridge to Haven. I have very much enjoyed Francine River's other novels so decided to try her latest release.

The story of two adults from difficult childhoods was certainly compelling. I felt my heart breaking for both Roman and Grace. It's a beautiful story of character and spiritual development.

I didn't warm up to Aunt Elizabeth despite knowing why she behaved the way she did. I am thankful for people such as Chet, Brian and others in the pages that exist in the world.

The backstory about the cover adds so much to this novel.

“For we are God’s masterpiece...” Ephesians 2:10

***TANYA* says**

I want to rant and rave about how fantastic this book is, but the right words fail me. It was endearing, realistic, sweet, heart wrenching, and so emotional. Truly a masterpiece, best book I’ve read all year.

Amanda Geaney says

One day I was praising the author on Twitter for so clearly explaining the depravity of man and Christ's propitiation for our sin. The next day, I had to withdraw my comment due to the shaky theology I was encountering.

1. These characters are constantly speaking to God and hearing definitive answers. Wouldn't that be nice? If it had only happened a time or two, I could have written it off as the "still small voice", but the rate of occurrence was unsettling. It's also interesting to note, these instructions from God never come while the character's are reading Scripture.
2. One character receives multiple visits from an angel. I do not deny the existence of angels. However, this visit is like nothing we read in Scripture. Do we ever read of anyone getting a personal friendly angel who comforts them nightly?
3. THE ABSOLUTE DEAL BREAKER -- When Roman drops DEAD on the sidewalk, he is ushered into hell by two demons. Once IN hell, he cries out to Jesus who appears as a bright light and takes his hand. Miraculously, Roman is revived and taken to a hospital both for his heart and a demon inflicted wound to his leg (which handicaps him for the remainder of the book).

Perhaps at this point, you are questioning whether Roman was really dead. In a later chapter he tells a reporter, "I had a heart attack, died on the sidewalk, and went to hell. Jesus got me out." Chapter 37

My thoughts: We are given the opportunity to repent and believe today—while we are living. When we die, it's game over! Jesus does not do special operation rescue missions into the pit of hell.

Why I believe this:

In the parable of the rich man (Luke 16:19-31) we read, “But Abraham replied, ‘Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been set in place, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.’

And...

I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again. (John 3:3)

Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on them. (John 3:36)

Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment (Hebrews 9:27)

They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you? He will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.' Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life. (Matt 25:44-46)

Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. The earth and the heavens fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. (Rev 20:11-12)

As a new believer, this author's Mark of the Lion Series won me to Christian fiction. She is an exquisite storyteller and I admire her skill. I'm not saying this book is poorly written. However, I do not feel like I can recommend a story in which the plot hinges on Christ descending into hell to save a sinner. To me, if you are a Christian fiction author your purpose should be to glorify God—that can only be accomplished when He and His Word are represented correctly. Theology does matter!

Molly Jaber (Cover To Cover Cafe) says

I've only read *Redeeming Love* and the *Marta's Legacy* books by Ms. Rivers. Her work is amazing with those books. They have all the feels within them and just make you want to come back for more. So, when I saw she was releasing *The Masterpiece*, I didn't pass on it. I was anxious to be taken to a writing style that only Ms. Rivers knows how to do. I was absolutely pleased with all that I felt with this book!

This book has amazing characters. Roman and Grace are created with such depth and complexity. They were true-to-life and really nestled into my soul. The way they interacted, the way their story unfolds on the pages, really shined for me. As someone who was in Honors Art 4 for four years of highschool, I always fall for books that center around the world of art. I could feel Roman's artistic ways flow freely off the pages. And Grace, being a single mom, really nudged at me. I love when I connect with the characters on a deeper level.

This book is beyond 5 stars. I wasn't able to put it down once I picked it up. The pages kept turning, the feelings kept being felt. I smiled, I cried, I smiled again. The inspiration that Ms. Rivers weaves into this romance novel is incredible. It really brings to light the ultimate Masterpiece from above. If you are looking for a book that will be easy reading, this isn't for you. If you are looking for a book that will make you laugh throughout, this isn't for you. If you are looking for a book that will sweep you off your feet, spin you in a million directions, twist your soul, and throw you down with a bam, this is absolutely the book for you. You'll think about this book long after you've closed the cover. Well done, Ms. Rivers! Fantabulous job!

I received a complimentary copy of this book from Publisher/Tyndale Blog Network and was under no obligation to post a review, positive or negative.

Ashley says

Read this review and many more at: [5171 Miles Book Blog](#).

Thank you to Tyndale Publishing for their kindness in allowing me to read and review an advanced copy of The Masterpiece by Francine Rivers.

Francine Rivers is a legend in Women's Christian Fiction. Her book *Redeeming Love* is among my favorite reads of all-time. She has an exquisite way of writing unconditional love and making readers feel her words. I knew many book lovers were anticipating this book and I was eager to get my hands on it like everyone else! It felt like Divine Intervention when Tyndale contacted me about this upcoming release. I never expected to be one of the lucky people to receive an ARC!

Roman Velasco has it all - a successful art career, money, fame, women, and yet, something is missing. When Grace Moore is hired as his last available resort for his personal assistant position, he doesn't expect his life to change drastically. With Grace's close proximity, the cracks in Roman's armor slowly become apparent. His lavish lifestyle can't hide the most important piece Roman is missing. And while he is difficult to work for and be around, Grace is desperate to provide for herself and accomplish the dreams she has put off for years. Through broken pasts and years of heartache, Roman and Grace are unexpectedly able to connect in ways they never imagined.

Alternating between past and present perspectives, readers are able to fully grasp the depth of the characters Francine Rivers was able to create. Though Roman and Grace seemed worlds apart in their personalities, they faced similar challenges growing up and learned to cope in their own respective ways. Roman turned to art and material possessions and Grace turned to God. The fruits of their lives were made evident by the things they valued.

I found myself eager to read about Roman as the story went on. He was gruff and hard around the edges, but from the get-go, it was easy to see he had a good heart. He was developed so well that I felt as if I knew him personally, and could imagine people I know in my real-life similar to him. Though my own life is quite different than Roman's, I found him to be the easiest character to relate to. He was broken, hard, and rough, but he was real.

Grace, on the other hand, seemed kind, wonderful, and driven. Of course, she still faced her share of challenges and brokenness, but her inner voice and the voices of her friends were beyond compare. Though I share her love of God and similarities with her character and even liked her, I struggled in relating to her. I think she seemed almost too good to be true.

This was a well-developed story and an enjoyable read, garnering a hard-earned 4-star rating. The main plot twist caught me off guard and I loved seeing the Supernatural elements added to the story. I was impressed with the turnaround and growth of the characters, along with the bits of Faith sprinkled in throughout. I really enjoyed one explanation about a character being Saved but not yet a follower of Christ. This was the first time I had thought of someone being on those particular terms with God before and was even able to recognize part of my past from that perspective. Such a simple sentence was a true eye opener for me! My favorite part of the entire book was the author's note at the conclusion. It served as a great explanation for the story and was a heartfelt piece of writing to wrap up the novel nicely.

The Masterpiece is a great look at a modern Christian relationship and can serve as an encourager for women

of faith. I must admit, I don't often read Christian fiction, though a Christian myself, as I've found the stories in my experience often give a sugarcoated look at life and love. However, my last two reads have been highly enjoyable stories, both from Tyndale Publishing, making me eager to read more of the books in their collection. Fans of Francine Rivers will undoubtedly love *The Masterpiece*, but I hope others, like myself, who maybe don't pick up this specific genre often will step out of their comfort zones and give this book a try. Pre-order this beauty now or pick it up upon its release on **February 6th**.

Jamie says

2.5

While I really did want to love Francine River's latest, like I have so many of her other books, this one fell flat for me. I was intrigued by the idea and the characters, but there were a few other things that made it hard for me to love this one.

I thought there were some unnecessary stereotypes with some of the characters and I also wanted her friends to be a bit more than they were. Some were one dimensional and with others, their actions were a bit confusing. Not that characters need to be the perfect person, but their actions didn't bring anything to the storyline, so their actions felt out of place. Also, there were some events in Grace's life early on that were glossed over, but I thought needed more.

I also thought it was longer than necessary. I'm all about redemption with characters, but this was a lot more forced-preachy than her previous books and for me, that took away from the story.

I appreciated having a character you don't often see and the role different art plays within communities, but overall I didn't connect with this novel like I have with other reads.

(Thank you to Tyndale for a copy of the book. All views expressed are my own.)

Dana Michael says

500 Pages of a Masterpiece

Wow! I am speechless. I have no words to describe how I feel. I just finished this amazing book and can say this is one of the best books I have ever read. I never once wanted to put this book down. I was hooked from page one. This story tells of two people who are starved for love. One a former street hardened gang tagger and one a beautiful, sweet, single mom. I loved the story line and I loved the ending. This is another beautifully God inspired work by Mrs. Rivers.

Ellen B. says

I must confess, I was a little bit apprehensive about reading this book once I found out the author was a born again Christian. After the first 30 pages I was sucked in. The main characters are so well developed and their stories compelling. I couldn't put the book down. The religious stuff gets heavier in the last 100 pages but for a non Christian it was interesting to see the strength of "believers"

Robin Hatcher says

I wish I could give this book a higher rating than 5 stars. It's amazing. My heart was broken and stirred so many times throughout my reading. I was reminded again and again of the ways God has moved in my life. I read as fast as possible to reach the end, and now I am already missing Roman and Grace. Thanks, Francine, for such a beautiful story of love and God's amazing grace.

Melissa says

4.5 stars--Top Pick

The long wait between Francine Rivers' novels is well worth it when the final page of this book is turned. Richly detailed characters with traumatic pasts are woven together with Biblical truths and redemptive themes. On the surface, this seems like a very basic romance, but when the layers are peeled back, each of the characters' choices in the past and present are thoughtfully explored. As Roman and Grace learn about each other, the reader, too, learns about them as glimpses into their lives are revealed carefully as they relate to current experiences. This is an amazing, beautifully written tale to be savored and pondered and shared with others.

Roman Velasco has overcome a tumultuous past to become a successful artist in LA — complete with a mansion and more money than he can spend. His prickly personality keeps him from growing too close to others, and it also makes it difficult to find a personal assistant willing to put up with him. Grace Moore is desperate for a job in order to support herself and her young son. The employment agency places her with Roman, and she begins to run his business with superb efficiency, yet she doesn't get close to him and he doesn't really approach her. As the two get to know each other and forge a tentative friendship, they begin to reveal parts of themselves that they have kept hidden for a long time. Yet it's going to take more than just friendship to break through the pain they have both endured. They will each need to learn how to yield to a Savior who can make them whole. <https://www.rtbookreviews.com/book-re...>

Marnie Krüger says

**For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago
(Ephesians 2:10).**

First Sentence: *Roman Velasco climbed the fire escape and swung over the wall onto the flat roof.*

I'm always in awe when I see how God uses different types of media and experiences to teach us and show us what He wants from us.

Over the years, I've experienced this a lot with most of the books by Francine Rivers.

The Masterpiece is no different - showing God's love, compassion and greater plan for life.

