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Leota's Garden



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Synopsis

Once Leota’s garden was a place of beauty - where flowers bloomed and hope thrived. It was her refuge from the deep wounds inflicted by a devastating war, her sanctuary where she knelt before a loving God and prayed for the children who couldn’t understand her silent sacrifices. At 83, Leota is alone; her beloved garden is in ruins. All her efforts to reconcile with her adult children have been fruitless. She voices her despair to a loving Father, her only friend. And God brings a wind of change through unlikely means: one, a college student who thinks he has all the answers; the other, the granddaughter Leota never hoped to know. But can the devastation wrought by keeping painful family secrets be repaired before she runs out of time?

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Customer Reviews

Sometimes I get ahead of myself on scheduled reviews, so I pick an author I know I’m going to love, preferably one who writes thick books, and get some reading material that I don’t have to review. Except...I just have to review this one. Beautifully done, Francine Rivers. Characters are believable, hateable, lovable, troubling, tragic, and all totally different from one another. No flat cardboard figures here. Three-dimensional, real, breathing characters. Although--still fictional of course. But this scenario could (and probably has) happened!Leota is a lonely old widow, rejected by the children she gave birth to but had to hand over to her mother-in-law to raise so she could work. The war (World War II) wrought horrors not only on the battle fronts but also in the homes. Leota’s only refuge was the garden she put into the back yard of their home. There, she met with the Lord while she raised enough for the family, enough to sell some of it, and enough to share with the

neighbors.Now the neighborhood has gone to seed. Windows are barred. People watch each other with suspicion. No one tends her garden for Leota, and she is unable to anymore. Nothing to share. Nothing to sell. Living on Social Security. She calls a phone number shown on TV to request some volunteer help. A young man, Corban, answers the need--however reluctantly. His professor insisted he include a case study in his thesis on how to handle the poor and aging population. This cranky old lady is it.And Leota’s granddaughter, tired of her mother’s authoritarian rule over her life, slips the bounds of the contentious home and begins an acquaintance with the grandmother she’s only barely spoken a shy hello to in the past.And so it begins. I can’t recommend this book too highly. I wish I could give it ten stars.

"Leota’s Garden" is my favorite Francine Rivers book. In fact it is one of my all time favorites and I reread it yearly. There is a compelling story line that keeps you involved as the story unfolds. The characters come to life. What keeps me coming back each year are the deeper levels that touch the human soul and our own life experiences. We realize that every life has its hurts, secrets, desires, struggles and heroism of various kinds. All these play out in this book. I have shared "Leota’s Garden" with many friends who have each come to me with tears in their eyes,describing the deep places in the soul that were touched. I hope you will get to know and love Leota too!

There is family dysfunction, unforgiveness, grief, relational problems and many biases displayed by all the characters as the story first unfolds. As the plot unfolds more, it develops these themes in a manner that draws you in wanting to know more. It then turns to forgiveness, reconciliation and a love that only can come from a true relationship with God. The plot draws characters from varied backgrounds and ethnicity to show how love can supersede our prejudices if we keep an open mind to others and things that might not be familiar at first. It also show how God can and should be the catalyst to bring people together despite difficulties and differences. It is a riveting and well written story. I was disappointed only because it came to an end. I am a fan of Francine Rivers.

This is one of my most favorite books and my favorite author. I didn’t want to put it down. A few years ago someone at church recommended "The Shofar Blew" and I was hooked. I think I’ve read everyone of Francine Rivers books. God has given her a very special gift to write. I certainly hope she will continue writing.

I had only read one other book by Francine Rivers before reading "Leota’s Garden", which gave me

the inspiration to read more. I REALLY enjoyed this book and would have given it 5 stars if the ending had been different. Even with that being said, I would still read it all over again because it shows the infinite patience of God's love and how He longs for us to turns our lives over to Him. I would have liked the ending better if the nursing assistant had been left completely out of the picture and Leota be left to pass away naturally.I REALLY liked the fact that the author showed how the main character of this book could remain SO Christ-centered and treat her mother with such respect even though she was treated so badly. THIS WOULD BE A WONDERFUL BOOK FOR A YOUNG PERSON TO READ WHO MIGHT BE IN THE SAME CIRCUMSTANCES.Only because I'm a romantic at heart I would have been fun to know how that part of Anne's life turned out, but this didn't sway my rating.THANK YOU, FRANCINE RIVERS, FOR MAKING OUR SIN-FILLED WORLD A HAPPIER PLACE TO LIVE AND THAT YOU ENCOURAGE READERS TO GIVE THEIR HEART TO JESUS CHRIST!!

It wasn't one of my favorites of Francine Rivers, but it was still very good. It slowed in places and left many questions unanswered.; but if you like her other novels, you'll enjoy this one.

Awesome inspiring story. I so enjoyed this read ! I couldn't put the book down. Francine Rivers is such a blessed story teller. Every woman should read this particular story, it will put a smile on your face, spring in your step and joy in your heart!

The end is not what I expected. You know how you can usually predict the end of a book? It doesn't work for this one! Great read. I would recommend it to anyone that has a colder relationship with their parents. Might work wonders.

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