



2. **Redeeming Love** - Author is Francine Rivers

This is one of her early romance novels but still one of the best.

From the back of the book: The story is set in “California’s Gold country, 1850. A time when men sold their souls for a bag of gold and women sold their bodies for a place to sleep.

Angel expects nothing from men but betrayal. Sold into prostitution as a child, she survives by keeping her hatred alive.

Then she meets Michael Hosea. A man who seeks his Father’s heart in everything, Michael obeys God’s call to marry Angel, and to love her unconditionally. Day by day, he defies Angel’s every bitter expectation until, despite her resistance, her heart begins to thaw. But with her unexpected softening come overwhelming feelings of unworthiness and fear. So Angel runs...”

This is a superbly written story, which holds you throughout, frustrated at the weakness of human love and crying out for God’s perfect love to heal and redeem.

This powerful story gives hope to those who live with feelings of unworthiness, guilt, shame, anger, betrayal, bitterness and fear. It paints a wonderful picture of God pursuing the lost, willing to forgive and make them whole with His love, like in the Old Testament book of Hosea.

Be prepared to have your own understanding of love in marriage examined and challenged too.

A Christian novel that leaves you loving God, and each other, more is always worth the read.