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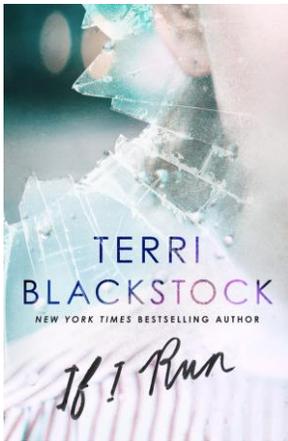
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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# PRESS RELEASE

## When the lost act lost

**New York Times best-selling author Terri Blackstock introduces readers to a complex character who breaks the mold**



**Seattle:** Fans of Christian fiction will find an unlikely heroine within the pages of New York Times best-selling author Terri Blackstock's latest release, *If I Run* (Zondervan/February 16, 2016/ISBN: 978-0310332435/\$15.99). Blackstock chose to feature a heroine who is different from what her readers are used to. *If I Run* tells the story of protagonist Casey Cox, who isn't a Christian, and when her life becomes complicated, she resorts to lies — even crime — to survive. While Casey is broken in many ways, Blackstock admits she is one of her favorite characters she's created.

Casey Cox has had her fair share of struggles, but after her best friend is found dead, Casey's life is turned upside down. When her DNA is found all over the crime scene, she knows talking to the police is useless; they have failed her abysmally before. At the age of 12, Casey found her father dead, and while police ruled it a suicide, she knew it wasn't. She's carried that great sense of injustice into adulthood, mistrusting all authority figures. Casey knows she has to flee before she's arrested . . . or worse. The truth doesn't matter in her world anymore, and it certainly won't set her free.

War-weary veteran Dylan Roberts is hired to find Casey, but as experienced as he is at solving crimes, his personal problems can get in the way. PTSD forced Dylan from the Army, and adjusting to his new normal has not been easy. Dylan knows bringing Casey home could redeem both his life and career. Blackstock did extensive research into PTSD in preparation to write *If I Run*. "I was shocked to learn how many of our veterans are coming home from war with PTSD," she reveals. "If they don't get the help they need it can impact their relationships for the rest of their lives. There are treatments that are successful in helping them. It's a wound that is as deep as a physical wound, and it should be treated just as aggressively so they can live normal lives."

The police think the crime scene tells the whole story, but the details aren't adding up for Dylan. Casey doesn't appear to fit the profile of a killer, but if she isn't guilty, why did she run? Unraveling her past and the evidence that condemns her will take more time than Dylan has, but as his damaged soul intersects with hers, he is faced with two possibilities: Either the girl who occupies his every thought is a psychopathic killer, or she's a selfless hero. The truth he uncovers about her could be the deadliest weapon of all.

Blackstock believes there is a lesson for us all in Casey's journey. "Christians have a tendency to act shocked when the lost act lost. We wish they understood that God's commandments keep us safe. More often than not though, it's because we're judgmental and think people should just behave better. The only reason Christians have any hope of living righteous lives is that the Holy Spirit empowers us to." Blackstock hopes that as Dylan realizes there is more to Casey's story than meets the eye, readers will develop more compassion for those without an anchor of faith.

**For more information about Terri Blackstock and *If I Run*, visit [www.terriblackstock.com](http://www.terriblackstock.com), become a fan on [Facebook](#) ([tblackstock](#)) or follow her on [Twitter](#) ([@TerriBlackstock](#)).**

## Praise for Terri Blackstock

"Crisp prose, an engaging story and brisk pacing make this thriller another home run for Blackstock."

~ *Library Journal*, starred review of *Truth Stained Lies*

"A multilayered story of deception, greed and secrets unravels at a perfect pace to keep readers interested and entertained."

~ *RT Book Reviews on Distortion*

## About the Author



Terri Blackstock is a *New York Times* best-selling author of titles such as *Intervention*, *Vicious Cycle* and *Downfall*. In her 30-year career as a novelist, she has sold seven million copies worldwide. She is the winner of three Carol Awards, a Christian Retailers' Choice Award and a *Romantic Times* Book Reviews Career Achievement Award, among others.

In 1994, Blackstock was writing secular romance novels under two pseudonyms when a spiritual awakening prompted her to switch gears. Her newly awakened faith wove its way into the tapestry of her popular suspense novels, offering hope instead of despair.

Her goal is to entertain with page-turning plots, while challenging her readers to think and grow. "I wanted to see if I could incorporate a suspenseful plot with faith-based elements that pointed people to Christ rather than giving them stumbling blocks," Blackstock explains. She has told her personal testimony on a number of national television programs as well as numerous radio programs across the country.

Blackstock has been married to her husband, Ken, for 23 years.

Keep up with Terri Blackstock at [www.terriblackstock.com](http://www.terriblackstock.com), on [Facebook \(tblackstock\)](https://www.facebook.com/tblackstock) or on [Twitter \(@TerriBlackstock\)](https://twitter.com/TerriBlackstock).

## Suggested interview questions

- How does a Christian book feature a fugitive from the law, who changes her identity and lies about everything?
- Why do Christians so often act shocked when lost people act lost?
- Did anything specific, or even personal, inspire the storyline of *If I Run*?
- Casey struggles with her view of God. Why is it so difficult for Casey to believe in God?
- It can be tempting at times to rely only on ourselves. How do you remain trusting, but wise, in a world full of unreliable and even duplicitous people?
- Casey contemplates taking her life when she's forced to run after her friend's death. What would you say to someone who thinks suicide would be the easy way out of their problems?
- The investigator in the novel, Dylan Roberts, is an Iraq and Afghanistan veteran, who is suffering with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. How does PTSD impact his life and his search for Casey?
- When Dylan begins to understand Casey's background, he realizes she has PTSD, too. How does this intersection of their lives help them relate to each other?
- You must have done a lot of research about PTSD. What was the most surprising thing you learned about it?
- You've written more than 70 books in your career, but only half of them have been Christian titles. Why did you make the leap in 1994 from the general market to the Christian one?

**Terri Blackstock is available for interviews to promote the release of *If I Run*. To request a review copy or schedule an interview, please contact Audra Jennings, [audra@liffusegroup.com](mailto:audra@liffusegroup.com).**