



Covenant Child: A Story of Promises Kept

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Amanda's heart broke as she watched them drive her beloved twins away. She resolved to hope . . . and to fight for them to her last breath.

Kara and Lizzie are heiresses to one of the largest fortunes in the country. But when their father dies suddenly, the toddlers are taken from the arms of Amanda, their loving stepmother, and given to relatives who only want the children's fortune for themselves.

Kara and Lizzie grow up questioning their worth . . . until the day when they learn the truth.

Intensely involving, emotionally charged, and infused with hope, *Covenant Child* is an inspiring story that challenges us to embrace the life God holds out to us.

“Blackstock is a masterful writer . . .” —*Christian Retailing*

Covenant Child: A Story of Promises Kept Details

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Author : Terri Blackstock

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From Reader Review Covenant Child: A Story of Promises Kept for online ebook

Shelbie says

A modern-day picture of the Prodigal Son, Kara Holbrooke was born heiress to her billionaire grandfather's estate. But her other grandparents, in a series of wild events, got custody of Kara and her twin sister Lizzie before they were old enough to remember. Raised on "the other side of the tracks by money-hungry grandparents, Kara grows hard and distrustful of anyone who claims to love her without motive.

This book illustrates the emptiness and blindness of rebellion while illustrating the journey of a wandering child who finally finds out what redeeming, covenant love is all about.

Amy says

I really enjoyed this book. I thought it was put together real well and everything from the beginning to the very end was exciting. I was just so hooked from the start. This book was right up my ally since I love reading about children being raised by awful people and then making a better life for themselves. After Amanda didn't win custody, the girls went to live with their grandparents where they were beaten and thrown in closets. They lived in a filthy trailer and they tell the girls that Amanda was the one that killed their parents so she could get all their money. Very good book! Definitely a keeper!

Chrissy says

I first read COVENANT CHILD by Terri Blackstock back in 2001, I think, when it was first released. I was starting my second year of college, majoring in Philosophy, and I thought I was quite the little Socrates -- philosophizing everywhere, knowledge over emotion, asserting my young rebellion with my newly discovered vocabulary of important terms and educated concepts. In my early, rough stages of rating books, I slapped this one with a one star (or whatever the chosen method was at that time), noting only that it was overly sappy and disgustingly sentimental. With my mind focused on "bigger" problems of metaphysics and epistemology, I thought this to be enough of a review to remind myself and others to steer clear of similar books in the future.

Fast-forward 10 years or so after new grown up experiences of utter betrayal, a broken engagement, a manipulating ex, a series of tragic losses, and a complete and utter jumbled confusion about the role of an educated mind in my current life-style. Coming home from another heart-wrenching funeral, I found COVENANT CHILD on my NetGalley list and decided to give it a try. Remembering my one-star review of years past, I really wasn't expecting much -- but I was open enough for the slight possibility that I would enjoy it more this time around.

I suppose there's an amazing degree to which one's enjoyment of the book is related more to the personality and situation of the current moment, despite the fact that one may like to see herself as a firmly unbiased, reasonable reviewer, right?

For whatever reason, my mind was definitely changed on this one.

Beginning with plot -- Lizzie and Kara have everything that two beautiful young twins could possibly want out of life. They have an adoring father, who happens to be the heir to a billion dollar family fortune, although he currently renounces the money and vows to do whatever it takes to make it through life with his precious children -- without daddy's dollar. They have Amanda, the doting step-mother who recently married their father and promised him she would make it her mission to be the mother the girls needed after the death of their birth mother. Life is full of fun, games, hugs, and kisses, and nothing could be more perfect...

...Until, that is, the twins' father and grandparents die in a plane accident, leaving young Amanda alone to care for the girls. Always thinking of his children's future, Jack made sure that Amanda and the girls would have access to his fortune, ensuring they would be nurtured and supported their entire lives.

Except, Lizzie and Kara's maternal grandparents have gotten word of the billion-dollar babies, quickly suing for custody -- along with a settlement of \$300,000 a year to house and provide for the twins. Greedy and heartless to the core, the grandparents squander the money in the casinos, leaving the twins to fend for themselves in a filthy trailer where they share a ratty mattress and have only one another for comfort. As they age, the twins' heads are filled with lies about Amanda, as their grandparents assure the girls that Amanda was a heartless murderer who killed their father and stole their fortune. Hoping that Lizzie and Kara will sue for their billions on their 18th birthday, the grandparents abuse the children into submission, confident they will believe the lies and be gracious enough to share the money once the settlement is finalized.

But, Amanda comes back on the twins' 18th birthday, assuring them that she can bring them to her mansion where they will be educated, nurtured, and comfortable in the life she intended for them. She promised Jack, years ago, that she would care for the girls and reinstate whatever they had lost -- but is this really too good to be true? Does Amanda have ulterior motives?

I think, in my first reading of COVENANT CHILD, I had been brutally stuck on the fact that everywhere here felt so unrealistic. I wrote it off as a fairy tale and never looked back, preferring to spend my time with more "serious" literature.

So now, years later, I feel like maybe I missed the point. Maybe it IS completely unrealistic -- and maybe that is entirely irrelevant to the author's intentions. If she had set out to create a story that documents real-life events as they naturally occur, surely the subject matter and the outcome would have been different, no? So, then, what was her point?

I can only imagine that the real point of COVENANT CHILD is to use an idealized tale to really illustrate (to the disillusioned reader) the concepts of love, grace, and forgiveness. What would grace really look like, simplified in a way that would teach troubled minds? How can someone really depict heartfelt forgiveness in a society full of ulterior motives?

I'm glad I gave this story a chance this time around, and I definitely did thoroughly enjoy the book. I think it was particularly fitting to certain events in my life now, and I wouldn't hesitate to read more by Blackstock in the future.

Elizabeth Buckner says

Wonderful allegory of God's love for us! Very interesting and hard to put down.

Lorraine says

Terri Blackstock's *Covenant Child* is a modern day "prodigal child" story. This novel captured my attention from page 1 until the very end. I read it in just one day as I had to find out what was going to happen next to twins Kara and Lizzie. The story line is very realistic and well developed. The characters are normal every day people with their flaws, foibles, and strengths that draw them in to both good and bad decisions.

Blackstock does an excellent job of showing Amanda's never ending love and forgiveness for the twins just as God does the same for each of his children.

Arlena says

Author: Terry Blackstock

Published by: Thomas Nelson Publishers

Age Recommend: Adult

Reviewed By: Arlena Dean

Raven Rating: 5

Blog Review For: GMTA

Review:

"Covenant Child" by Terri Blackstock was truly a well written story Christian fiction making this an exceptional good read. This author is truly one that can bring it home to all of us.... for she knows how to keep the reader spellbound until the end. This novel was definitely one I was not able to put down until I had finished it.

From the twins losing their mom....then their dad...his parents and even Amanda(step-mother) for a time...living with those evil grandparents(who loved off the twins money)...for these 'billionaire babies' were now living in poverty...definitely a family ripped apart by death and greed....until the twins turned 18... now they could choose between the two lifestyles...which truth would Lizzy and Kara choose? ...lies...of what they had been told by those greedy grandparents or the truth from Amanda...which would be a new life for both of the twins.

Amanda was my favorite character in this novel.... for she was a stepmother that cared deeply for the twins and loved God. Thank God for the friends she had (Joan and Matt) that helped her and helped Amanda to know that God would see her through all of this...just leave it in His hands. Amanda had promised her husband(Jack) that she would take care of his twin girls...should something happen....when it did and it looked like this would not be done.... I will only say there is no limit to a mother's love.. how far she will go....Well, I am going to stop here and just let you read about this in this wonderful read of "Covenant Child." The big question is Will the twins except the truth that will change their lives or not?

The author did a great job with us understanding ...Amanda, Kara, Lizzy, greedy grandparents (maternal) and the boy to men relationships. The details were well noted and the interactions were very vivid in this wonderful novel.

Amazing novel and a very moving story is all I can truly say about "Covenant Child." This was definitely a wonderful photo of God's love for us. If you are in for a excellent read...this read is for you.

Anna Todd says

Blackstock does not disappoint in this profoundly moving story about a set of twins in a very unique situation. This is a must read!

Tara says

A beautiful story of redemption, restoration, and everlasting love. It's a page-turner...I couldn't put it down!

Andrea Cox says

by Andrea Renee Cox

The cover of this book was the reason I chose it. The lighting, the wheat in the background, the child walking away... they all came together so beautifully that I couldn't resist seeing if the story inside would match up to it.

I really liked the emotional impact of this book. One woman's undying love for her stepdaughters shone through all the muck of inappropriate content that disappointed me. The search for redemption and restoration was the thread that kept me reading when the content became overwhelming. This was an okay story about a prodigal-type child.

The narrator of the audio version, Kirsten Potter, did a fantastic job. I'd love to listen to more audio books read by her.

Content (includes spoilers):

- * gambling and teen gambling
- * tobacco
- * stealing/shoplifting
- * teen drinking and other alcohol use
- * child abuse
- * fake IDs
- * pre-marital sex and teen pregnancy
- * abortion
- * school drop-outs
- * insinuations

- * tattoos
- * physical abuse

I'll try another book by this author, but I'll be wary going in. Normally, I don't read more by an author after all of the content issues found in this one, but I've heard Ms. Blackstock is dynamite at suspense writing. I'll try one to see if I agree.

I was not compensated for my honest review.

Pamela says

Compellingly readable, "Covenant Child" is a contemporary inspirational built solidly upon Biblical truths. A story that touches the heart, mind, and soul. The overall story and situational circumstances are essentially realistic and heartfelt. Some of the finer details such as legal issues, police procedures, and overdrawn characterizations - not so much. Creative liberties taken for the end to fit the means are plainly evident.

On one hand, I was totally engrossed in the story. I truly connected with the twins. On the other, the lack of realism with police/legal procedures and the fast-lane story set up somewhat irked me. Especially as the book deals with some heavy hitting topics: gambling addiction, child neglect, juvenile delinquency, teen pregnancy, abortion. Then again, it is a blend of true-to-life fiction and a inspirational parable.

THREE *** Contemporary Inspirational, Christian Fiction *** STARS

Casey says

From the way this novel was written, to the characters filling to the pages, to the story that grabbed my heart, "Covenant Child" is a novel to be cherished and shared.

I can't honestly say I "enjoyed" this story as a means of pure entertainment. The story is exceptional, don't get me wrong, but because of the strong subject matter, it quickly becomes a story that I wanted to see redeemed.

The main character of Kara is a bitter young woman and if the story weren't written from her perspective, as one who stands back and looks back on her life, I think I would have become fatigued with her. But to see the struggles of Kara and Lizzie and not have your heart wrenched is an impossibility.

The story is gripping from one chapter to the next moving on a swift emotional roller coaster. My heart was jerked more than one time.

I loved that the story was first person, it truly came alive. Though I would have loved to experience the story from Amanda's point of view.

I believe this is a rerelease from a previous edition, but the story is timeless. A stirring story from a masterful story teller and a wonderful allegory for God's unending grace and love.

This review is my honest opinion. My thanks to the publisher for my copy to review.

Sharon says

Excellent book by Terri Blackstock. Similar to *The Prodigal Son*, yet much more in depth. A reminder on how to pursue even when God's answer is "wait" or "not now"

Emily Ray says

In Terri Blackstock's *Covenant Child*, three year old twins Kara and Lizzie Holbrook are torn from their fairy tale lives when their newly wed father, Jack, is killed in a plane crash. Their new mother, Amanda, inherited all of Jack's possessions, but to her despair, lost custody of the twins to their distant, abusive grandparents. Growing up in such a bad home life, Kara and Lizzie become "hard drinking, shoplifting, and promiscuous teenagers." All the while, Amanda is trying to gain custody of the twins and give them a life of love, safety, and hope. "But when all you have known is deprivation, how can you believe the gift of grace? When you have been lied to for so long, how can you ever know the truth?"

I enjoyed this book thoroughly. Terri Blackstock used real life, modern situations such as abuse, abortion, sex, and drinking to form round characters and to help the reader connect to the characters. Throughout *Covenant Child* the reader gets inside the minds of the main characters, Kara and Lizzie. I felt like I knew all of their emotions while the characters were going through difficult situations.

My favorite part of *Covenant Child* is the conclusion. Terri Blackstock connects the story of the Holbrook twins and Amanda's struggle for custody to God's grace and love for us. The ending is full of details and excitement and drama. I was unaware of the connection the entire time I was reading this book, however when Blackstock plainly stated the connection it was very clear to me and the story came together.

My least favorite part of *Covenant Child* is not my least favorite because of its lack of details or it was poorly written, it is my least favorite part for the complete opposite reasons. The amount of details and emotions I felt while reading is the reason it was my least favorite part. In this section of the book, one of the twins is having an abortion. It is a very real life, heartbreaking situation. While reading, I felt rage, misunderstanding of the girl's actions, disbelief, sad.

While reading *Covenant Child* I felt so blessed realizing and knowing that situations like the twins are put in occur in every day life, but thankfully, I have been secluded from them my whole life. While reading I became more thankful for my safe, loving home life. But, on the other hand, the story devastated me when I become conscious that people actually go through abusive homes, pre-marital sex, abortions, drinking, thefts, and deprived lives such as in the *Covenant Child*.

I would recommend Terri Blackstock's *Covenant Child* to those wanting to read and exhilaration, cliff-hanger book with a lot of action and excitement. I would also suggest that this book be read by those who believe in and have accepted the gift of God's grace. It would not be necessary in order to enjoy *Covenant Child* but the story is so much more relevant and meaningful if you have these beliefs.

Kim says

2.5 stars, I felt like the ending was rushed.

Laura says

In this modern spin on the parable of the prodigal son, Blackstock introduces readers to Lizzie and Kara, twin girls who are heiresses to a large fortune. When their father dies, the girls are ripped from the arms of Amanda, the stepmom who loves them as her own, and given to their grandparents, who care nothing for the girls. Will Amanda be able to get her girls back, or will they live without ever knowing their true worth?

Told from Kara's point of view, this novel beautifully shares the story of unending love: the love of a mother who never gives up just like the heavenly Father never gives up on His children. Without being preachy, the novel reminds readers of God's open arms waiting to embrace the ones who walked away from the fortune He has for them.

The book starts when the girls are three and continues past their 18th birthdays, but the plot doesn't feel choppy or rushed. The characters are authentic, and I felt such sympathy for the girls and rooted for them to overcome the odds. I also loved that this book was about the love of a parent, not a romantic love. So many Christian fiction books focus on the love between a man and woman, but the love of a parent is so important too and it's nice to see that relationship explored in fiction.

Overall, this a great book. Fans of Christian fiction will enjoy this book about unwavering love, but Terri Blackstock fans should be warned that this is not one of her suspense books....just as good though.

I received this book in exchange for my review. My thoughts are my own.
