



Vicious Cycle

Terri Blackstock

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When fifteen-year-old Lance Covington finds an abandoned baby in the backseat of a car, he knows she's the newborn daughter of a meth addict he's been trying to help. But when police arrest him for kidnapping, Lance is thrust into a criminal world of baby trafficking and drug abuse. His mother, Barbara, looks for help from Kent Harlan—the man whom she secretly, reluctantly loves and who once helped rescue her daughter from a mess of her own. Kent flies to her aid and begins the impossible work of getting Lance out of trouble, protecting a baby who has no home, and finding help for a teenage mother hiding behind her lies. In this latest novel of suspense and family loyalty, bestselling author Terri Blackstock offers a harrowing look at drug addiction, human trafficking, and the devastating choices that can change lives forever.

Vicious Cycle Details

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Author : Terri Blackstock

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Laura says

Title: VICIOUS CYCLE

Author: Terri Blackstock

Publisher: Zondervan

March 2011

ISBN: 978-0-310-3314-3

Genre: Inspirational/suspense

Fifteen year old Lance Covington was just trying to help a school mate. Jordan is a pregnant junkie who ran away from a drug treatment center just before her baby was due. When Lance gets to Jordan's house, he discovers a wild house. Jordan has just delivered a newborn baby girl and learns that her mother 'sold' the baby to a couple for \$40,000. Jordan had planned to give the baby up for adoption, but through an agency, so she hides the baby in a car—the car Lance “borrowed” from his sister—hoping Lance will help.

Lance doesn't know what to do when he finds the baby in the car. He knows it needs help, but is afraid to tell his mother. When his mother gets home from work and learns his secret, she yells at him, but agrees to take the baby to the hospital. But they're barely out of the driveway when the police arrive and arrest Lance for kidnapping the baby.

Suddenly Lance and his mother, Barbara, find themselves in the midst of the criminal world of baby trafficking and drug abuse. As Barbara struggles to help her son, she must turn to Kent Harland, and they begin the impossible work of getting Lance out of trouble, protecting the homeless baby, and helping a teenage mother hiding behind lies.

Terri Blackstock is a prolific, best selling author, and VICIOUS CYCLE is the latest spell-binding release by her. I love Ms. Blackstock's suspense novels and this one was no different.

Terrifyingly realistic, I felt for Lance, a clueless teenage boy, who didn't know how to handle what was thrown at him, an innocent by-stander. And for Barbara—a woman about my age, who was being asked to handle so much more than she bargained for. If you like suspense, you will love VICIOUS CYCLE. Pick up your copy today. \$14.99. 324 pages.

Casey says

“Vicious Cycle” is what the name implies, the vicious cycle of sin and drugs and the characters trying desperately to break their chains to a silent, ravaging enemy.

I have long been a Terri Blackstock fan and am used to her style, so this one took me a bit by surprise-- in a good way. I kept expecting to find a dead body at the turn of the next page and was always surprised. So while that was unexpected, what I found is there didn't need to be one to keep the story going. It moved at a

swift pace, the challenges for the characters battling their drug addictions, the fear for baby Grace and the child traffickers, got nail biting.

I have never had any connection with drugs, I don't understand the addiction and have never seen anyone "high". I could feel it while reading. It gave me chills, it was nerve wracking how clear she painted the picture, the research is that powerful. You don't need an explanation to know what the terms the characters use mean.

This book is good. I'm giving it five stars, not only for the emotional impact, but also for the story it communicates. It gives a whole new meaning to "vicious cycle" and I think your eyes will be opened a bit more after reading it.

This review is my honest opinion. Thanks to the publishers through CFBA for my copy to review.

Carolyn E says

What a great story, albeit a disturbing one!! This book gets at least 7 or 8 stars.

As I said, it is also a very disturbing story of drug addiction among teenagers plus the trafficking of babies born to drug-addicted young pregnant women. The young woman in this story, Jordan, is a 15-year-old meth addict whose mother and half brother are also addicts. Together, Jordan's mother and brother have arranged to sell the baby to traffickers for \$40,000. But when the baby is born, Jordan does not want to give her up, and her mother and brother can see that \$40,000 slipping away.

There is plenty of action in this book as Jordan fights for her baby along with the help of her friend, Lance Covington, also 15, and his mother and sister, Emily. Emily has just been released from a one-year addiction treatment program, and she, too, faces a long road back from her own addiction.

Fortunately, the story ends happily, although all of the people involved still have a long way to go as they struggle to overcome their addictions.

I highly recommend this book to everyone. Once I started it, I could not put it down.

Carol says

Blackstock's "Intervention Series" was born out of her own daughter's struggle with drug addiction. She is writing, therefore, out of real life experience and not some imagined scenario concocted while watching TV .

One of the issues involved with drug addiction that Blackstock hits head on, is the criminal world that crashes down upon the lives of addicts. The vile and ruthless intent of the malefactors involved is monumental from human trafficking to torture and beyond.

While the series begins with Barbara Covington's daughter, Emily and her drug addiction, this book pulls 15

year old Lance Covington, her son, into the world of kidnapping, abuse, and the drug culture's strongholds.

Blackstock writes a compelling mystery that won't let you rest. Not only that, she has researched her material so well that there are no trite moments for filler. Her characters bleed and laugh and leap off the page into your heart.

I appreciate the Christian perspective that Blackstock brings to this issue, and the sharp contrast between evil's intent to destroy and Christ's power to heal and save. I especially appreciate this perspective because she has lived through it and she not simply guessing. She knows.

Kav says

Intense. Riveting. Heart-breaking. Blackstock delivers another breathtaking suspense that exposes the gritty underbelly of American society. This is the second book in the Intervention series. You don't need to have read the first book in order to enjoy this one but there is carryover of both characters and setting so you'll feel more of an impact if you read Intervention first.

We're back in the middle of the Covington family's lives -- one year has passed since we met them in the first book. Lance steals some of the limelight in Vicious Cycle and I have to say I just love that kid. He was a great sidekick in Intervention and even better in this one. He's an interesting mix of naïve kid and worldly teen and good intentions lead him straight into the kind of danger that's hard to fathom.

The story is told from multiple points of view so we get to bask in the glory of Barbara and Kent's developing romance as well as touch base with nineteen-year-old Emily. A fast-paced plot with plenty of twists and turns and a solid faith thread make this a read-in-one-sitting kind of read.

Alaina says

Very good book. Highly recommended. I love how the characters rely on Christ in their situation. Plus great thriller

Julie says

Drugs can create a vicious cycle of use and abuse. This book will have your head spinning as you jump into the lives of Jordan, Lance, Emily, Barbara, and Kent!

While this is the second book in the series, I do not think you will find yourself missing out on the backstory. The author did a great job of weaving that into the story so you never feel like pieces aren't coming together. I do want to go back and read Intervention though!

I have never been so intimately close with someone who is actively doing drugs so I couldn't always readily identify with the thoughts going through the characters. However, I can see the pain and anguish that one

goes through when dealing with someone who is an addict. This book could potentially give hope to someone who is an addict (even though this is a work of fiction!).

Thank you to Zondervan Publishers and Terri Blackstock for providing this copy for review. I'll be passing along my copy to my friend Kandi!

Julie Graves says

Jordan's mother has talked her into leaving the New Day rehabilitation center. Fifteen-year-old Jordan is an addict and about to be a mother. When Lance Covington decides to go try and talk her into coming back to New Day he gets into more trouble than he bargained for.

When he arrives at Jordan's home he finds that she has already had her baby(at home), she is high on drugs, and her mother and brother are getting ready to give Jordan's baby to a questionable looking couple. Jordan doesn't want to give her baby to them. She has already made plans to give her baby up for adoption to a Christian agency. Jordan locks herself in her room and climbs out the window. She stows her baby in Lance's car. When Lance drives away he is surprised to find the baby there.

Not knowing what to do and hoping that Jordan will come get her baby, he takes the baby to his home. In the meantime Jordan's mother and brother are furious with her and make her call the police and tell them that Lance has kidnapped her baby.

Not knowing what else to do Barbara Covington calls Kent from Atlanta to help her try and get Lance out of jail. Will they be able to talk Jordan into dropping the charges against Lance? Will Jordan be able to break the Vicious Cycle that has become her life and finally be able to do something for someone besides herself?

Vicious Cycle had me biting my nails! I seriously had to keep putting the book(my kindle) down to take a break from the intense suspense that permeates every page of the story. The second book in the Intervention series once again delves into drug addiction, but this time add human trafficking into the mix and it all adds up to one heart-pounding, intense read! I have to say that a couple of times I got frustrated with the characters. Just like in Intervention the characters seem to not want to do what they are told. Lance is told to stay home, he goes out. Barbara is told not to go looking for Jordan, she goes looking for Jordan. Emily is told to stay home away from her old drug stomping grounds, she goes right into the worst house of them all. As the reader I sat there wanting to yell at them "YOU WERE TOLD TO STAY HOME!" I know that those all add up to what makes the book a great read, but it sure gives me heart palpitations!

Michelle says

Vicious Cycle was more than just a story about addiction. It was a story about faith, and learning to trust God. It was about overcoming temptation and believing that God can restore what the locusts have eaten. It showed how God can create beauty from the ashes of our lives. I've worked in a rehab before and on a variety of levels with drug addicted parents and teens. This story was an accurate reflection of some of the horrors I've seen working with people in similar situations.

What I loved about this story was that it also showed how hard it is to deal with drug addiction for everyone

involved. Not just the addict, but the family, the friends, even innocent bystanders. Loving people who are addicted (especially to meth) can be such a catch 22. You want to help but the addicted person need to want to be helped for it to make a difference. There is a fine line that often blurs between tough love and enabling.

Addiction is a complex issue. There is hope and anger, and an overabundance of fear that families deal with as they try to support their recovering family member. Blackstock did a fantastic job of showing that. And talk about awesome pacing. This was a page turner from the beginning. The story kept building. The plot kept thickening. The danger kept increasing. And I kept reading. I had to know what would happen. This author pulled no punches, making this one riveting story with a lot of substance to it. Wonderful read! I highly recommend it.

Kelly says

Great read (well, listen really). The audio book was well done. The story rings true for anyone whose life has been touched by addiction.

Boundless Book Reviews says

Another real and honest look into the life involving drugs and the path of destruction they leave. Terri Blackstock knows just how to tell the worst stories in the best way. She is real; yet entertaining. Vicious Cycle is suspenseful in a "can't put it down" way! I highly recommend this book, as well as the rest of this series. This is an easy 5 Boundless Star book.

<http://www.boundlessbookreviews.com>

<https://www.facebook.com/BBReviews>

Erika Hayes says

Great book...she got me on this one. I didn't get the whodunit until almost the end!! we'll written love the characters and story. such an awesome writer...she inspired me!

C.J. Darlington says

If you liked the first book in this series, Intervention, you'll like this one too which actually delves a little deeper even into the vicious cycle of addiction. Barbara, Lance, Kent & Emily all reappear again. Even though this is part of a series, it stands entirely alone. I couldn't stop turning the pages to find out what would happen.

Aerykah says

So good! :)

I really enjoyed this book! Wish I had the time to write a good review for it...

Very excited to see what book 3 is like!

Taylor says

Vicious Cycle by Terri Blackstock is an amazing sequel to Intervention, the first book in the intervention series. Sequels aren't always as good as the first, but this book is an exception!

I was immersed in the world of Barbara, Lance, and Emily Covington once again. I was reminded of my love for the characters, and who they were as people.

Blackstock is extremely good at character development. She created character's that weren't boring at all.

Usually, after a first novel, character development goes down the drain. Not with this novel. Blackstock continued developing characters that stick in your mind for a long time after you close the book. Lance Covington, for example, is one of those characters that was continually being added to.

The book overall was amazing! I was not letdown in my expectations. I had very high expectations for this book, and Terri Blackstock delivered it with a smack down.

This book opened my eyes even more to the world we all live in. Again, I didn't want to accept our world but sadly, I had to. I had to realize our world is not so perfect and it is filled with evils that most of us can't even imagine.

Blackstock unveiled a wolf in sheep clothing with Vicious Cycle. I admire her work as an author, and as a Christian.
