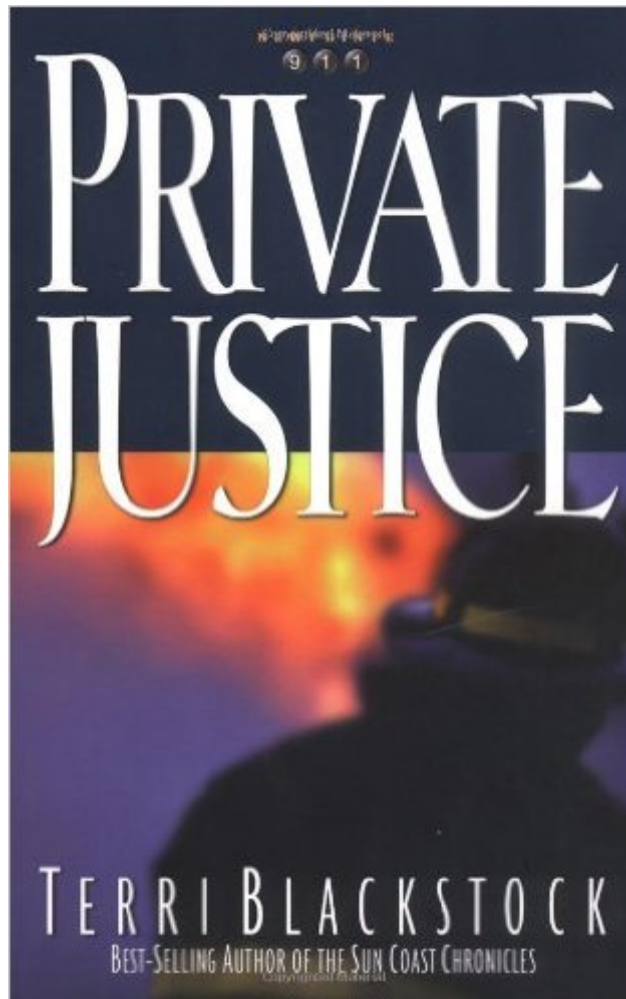


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# Private Justice (Newpointe 911, Book 1)



## Synopsis

Staying together had seemed impossible. Now it's their only hope. A dark shadow of fear has fallen over Newpointe, Louisiana. First one, then another of the town firemen's wives has been murdered, and a third has barely escaped an attempt on her life. Incredible as it seems, a serial killer is stalking this sleepy little southern community. And Mark Branning's wife may be next on the list. Mark is determined to protect her. But keeping Allie alive won't be easy—not with their marriage already dying a bitter death. Unless they renew their commitment to each other and to God, someone else may settle their problems permanently. And time to decide is running out.

This tense and exciting thriller is more than a fabulous read; it has an underlying message about the place of religion within a marriage. Highly recommended.

Library Journal Private Justice is book one in the Newpointe 911 series by award-winning novelist Terri Blackstock. Newpointe 911 offers taut, superbly crafted novels of faith, fear, and close-knit small-town relationships, seasoned with romance and tempered by insights into the nature of relationships, redemption, and the human heart. Look also for Shadow of Doubt, Line of Duty, Word of Honor, and Trial by Fire.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars See all reviews (175 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

The mystery of this novel was intriguing, but the draw of the book for me was the way the author wove the faith of the characters with the crises in their lives. Blackstock pulls no punches as she shows us Christians and non-Christians living out their lives, "warts and all." It's not just a mystery

that has been "christianized" with "god-words," it is an look at believable characters who struggle with their faith, yet persevere. Bad things do happen to Christians, yet the promise of Romans 8:28 is evident throughout the book. If, like me, you are used to Patricia Cornwell novels, you will find that Blackstock is not as developed, but her characters still have a depth that makes them believable. I approached the novel with a bit of skepticism because I'm used to the likes of Cornwell; however, I came away with my spirit lifted in a way that I've never gotten from secular mysteries.

Terri Blackstock has done a masterful job of combining heart-pounding fiction with Christian values. You will absolutely not be able to put this book down and yet you will have no sense of guilt or shame at having read it, because you know the writer is committed to following Christian values. What is also refreshing is that Private Justice doesn't follow a formulaic, Polyanish, everything-is-okay storyline. There are real people, with human flaws, who fail their families and their God. Christians make mistakes. Men are not Knights in shining armor and woman are not breath-takingly beautiful homemakers with perfect waistlines and no bad thoughts. There is a marriage on the rocks that is put together only by God who allows tragic circumstances to force two independent believers to come to grips with His will for their lives. This book mirrors the real Christian life. You as a reader will at times wonder if Terri Blackstock has inside information from your life. What I also enjoy is that Private Justice is so tightly written that she doesn't have to overwhelm the reader with unnecessary minutia about the field of police and fire and rescue. This was my very first Terri Blackstock novel, but I can assure you that I will read many more. She has a wonderful storytelling talent. May God richly bless her work.

My sister has been telling me about this series for months and I didn't think I was going to enjoy reading it. I finally decided to read it and now I am practically pacing the floor waiting for her to bring me the next book so I can find out what happens next! This is a really great book and if you aren't sure if you want to read it or not, I hope that this recommendation gets you to read it!

I don't often write fan letters, Ms. Blackstock, but I felt compelled to send this one today. Regrettably, I was not familiar with your work (even though I read some 40-50 books a year, and have over a thousand volumes in our home library) until my daughter urged me to consider reading your books. I respect her judgment, and began "Private Justice," from your "Newpointe 911" series a few weeks ago. Today I finished the final installment, "Line of Duty," of your five-volume series. It was the 46th book I've read this year (yes, I do keep a log!)... and your "911" series accounted for

five of the last thirteen. This, hopefully, conveys the extent of my interest in and appreciation for your writings. Please accept my congratulations for having developed an extraordinarily unique style... combining tales of interest and excitement, with characters who become real persons; and blending in your compelling spiritual messages in a manner which brings the John Grishams, the Mary Higgins Clarks, et al; together with the Max Lucados, the Philip Yanceys, and the Lahayes. So, again... Congratulations!... On your creative writing talents, your development of suspenseful plots and characters readers come to know intimately... and especially for bringing your inspiring messages to many readers who may not otherwise seek out books dealing solely with your sincere dedication to The Nazarene. I wish for you continuing success... and for many more Terri Blackstone series to come! --Ron Howe (Toby Martin II) / Erskine, Minnesota

I was intrigued by the title and the synopsis and, what the heck, it was free so I grabbed this book. I found the characters to have no personality whatsoever and couldn't buy into the marriage problems of Mark and his unreasonable wife. But, the reason I quit the book before finishing was frustration with the way the crimes and investigations were handled by the writer. If you are portending to write about crime and law enforcement, please try to learn SOMETHING about either. I am a police officer and I was so incredibly distracted by the inaccuracies regarding how the investigation was being handled. As a murder mystery goes, it almost seems as if the murders were an afterthought so that the publishers had something to write in the book description. The murders were kind of forgotten about for a period while we took a break to discuss God, faith, marriages, break-ups... The characters were flat and there was no drama.

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