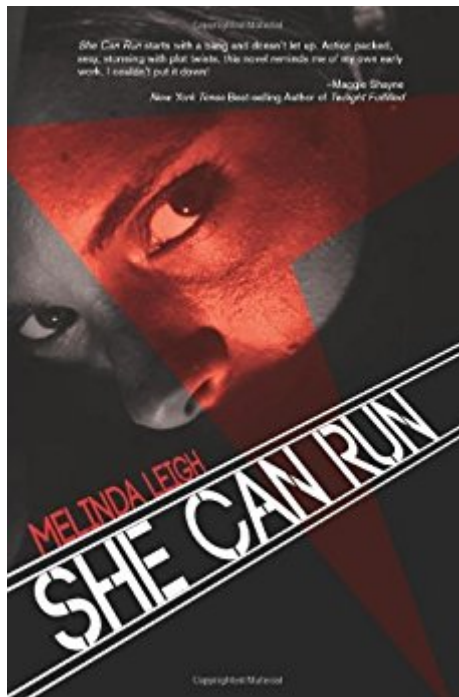


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# She Can Run (She Can Series, Book 1)



## Synopsis

Elizabeth was a young widow with two small children when she met Congressman Richard Baker. Handsome and wealthy, with a sparkling public image, Richard seemed like the perfect man to provide the security that Beth and her kids were craving. But when she uncovers a dangerous secret about her new husband, Beth realizes he will go to any lengthsâeven murderâto keep it. After barely escaping with her life, she and her children flee. They eventually make their way to a secluded estate in the Pennsylvania countryside, where Beth dares to hope she has found a safe place at last...Forced into retirement by an unexpected injury, Philadelphia homicide detective Jack OâMalley is mourning the loss of his career when his uncle abruptly dies, leaving Jack to dispose of his crumbling country house. Unbeknownst to him, his uncle engaged a caretaker just before his death, a mysterious woman with two children and a beautiful face that haunts his dreams. Determined to know her, Jack begins an investigation into Bethâs past. When he uncovers the shocking truth, and a local woman is viciously murdered, Jack puts his own life on the line to keep Beth and her children safe. A 2012 International Thriller Award nominee for Best First Novel, *She Can Run* is a sexy, satisfying debut from award-winning author Melinda Leigh, packed with enough suspense and romance to get even the tamest heart racing!

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I was really looking forward to this, I read some of the good reviews but apparently none of the bad, and I was incredibly disappointed. I only finished because I am too stubborn and curious for my own good. The heroine- if you can call her that- is a teeny tiny woman with incredibly large eyes and a great ass (according to the male characters description anyway- don't writers like to write of any other type of woman?), who is continually praised as being smart and brave, but does nothing to deserve that reputation. She seemed sort of stupid and helpless to me, and I am sick of reading weak female leads. The 'killer' was obvious from the start, along with who they wanted us to think was the bad guy, it was all really predictable. Add to that a psychic uncle and the fact that her new 'rescuer' is an ex cop, who has just inherited millions - and it makes the bad language and explicit sex scene seems like only a small problem. I liked the dog.

Elisabeth Baker is hiding from her politician husband who wants to kill her. She is too dangerous to him alive and she is running for her life. She is working as a caretaker in a remote area of Pennsylvania while she struggles to protect herself and her 2 terrified children. Her employer Jack is an ex-cop who knows something is very wrong and tries to gain her trust - a task which seems impossible at times. He does make some progress with her children though. The scenes between 7 year old Katie and Jack are particularly touching in a book which goes way over to the dark side in other places. The children and Jack are the best parts of the book. Elizabeth's terror comes through from the very first page - as does her love for her children. Ben (12) and Katie are very well written as they begin to learn to relax and trust. But the danger keeps coming closer from more than one direction and it will keep you reading. Some of the things that happen are a little over the top but all in all, this book is well worth your time.

"She Can Run" is literally about a woman on the run ... on the run, with two children to care for, a psychic ex-military Uncle who is on her side, and an ex-policeman that pushes all her buttons. Beth accepts a job as a caretaker on a remote Pennsylvania estate, only to arrive just ahead of a storm, to be greeted by a hearse at the front door. The old gentleman who hired her has died, leaving his estate to his wounded ex-cop nephew, who isn't even sure that he wants to live there. So there she is, using an assumed name, trying to protect herself and her children from her husband, who is trying to kill her before she can make his biggest secret fodder for the media. Now she may have

nowhere to go, and if she stays on the estate, she will have to deal with an ex-cop who is more interested in her than she cares for. The story line is fairly good - wife on the run, violent husband with a secret, injured ex-cop who is all too interested in her, and a serial killer that is targeting small, dark haired women just like her. Then there are the neighbors - single men, one who seems okay, and one who is verbally abusive and way too aggressive. One downside, for me, anyway, was that there are far too many sex scenes, and the general presentation of sex throughout the book is too graphic. The other downside was that it was a bit too easy to figure out what the nature of the husband's secret, and who the serial killer actually is. Other than that, I found the book interesting in that it combines mystery, romance and a touch of the paranormal. A nice read to just sit back and relax.

This story was a predictable thriller; woman on the run, brave, strong (horny) protector, abusive husband, etc. There were absolutely no surprises; I knew who the bad guys were the very first time I met them in the story. That would have been ok if the story had been less icky. Does an abused wife on the run \*really\* wear a black thong? Is it necessary for us to know every erotic thought in the mind of the characters? The sex scenes were far too graphic, and the profanity was truly unnecessary. I didn't even really like most of the characters. In fact, the only character I enjoyed in this book was the dog.

I got this one for free and I wish I'd picked a different book with that Kindle voucher. One gets the feeling the author played a game of mystery/romance tropes bingo and threw this story together. The hero, Jack, comes across almost creepy as the serial killer with his constant inner dialog that is preoccupied with how he can have sex with the incredibly perfect, well put together (but underfed and fragile) Beth. While I can buy the Congressman husband being vengeful, I can't see him suddenly deciding to commit murder just because he thinks he can blame it on the serial killer (who coincidentally also has set his sights on Beth). There is way too much going on in this book and things that might have made it more believable were given very short shrift...things like actual character development that would make you feel something for the characters aside from eye-rolling impatience. The children and the animals were okay, but the rest of the book is too much of a mish-mash to be at all satisfying. I also think it's creepy that the author feels like men can think of nothing aside from their ever-tightening groins. I'd laugh if it wasn't so tiresome.

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