



# The Runaway

*Terry Kay*

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## **The Runaway** Terry Kay

Tom and Son Jesus, two 12-year-old boys--one black and one white born the same hour of the same day--are best friends, bound by deep ties and who spend their days dreaming, fishing, and trying to escape work. But their fun comes to an abrupt halt when they discover a human bone, which later turns out to be part of the skeletal remains of Son Jesus' long missing father. As sheriff Frank Rucker, a World War II hero, begins an investigation into remains, he unmasks the racially motivated killer known only as Pegleg. The sheriff's findings divide the people of Overton County, forcing a surprising conclusion--or beginning of justice.

Set in the 1940s and using the relationships of two boys--one black and the other white--as a springboard for the beginning of desegregation in the South, *The Runaway* examines the joys, sorrows, conflicts, and racial disharmony of their historical biased environment.

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