



# Alibi

*Teri Woods*

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## Alibi Teri Woods

A break-in at the stash house of Simon Shuller, one of Philadelphia's biggest drug lords goes horribly wrong and Nard, the only survivor, finds himself on the run and in need of a plausible alibi. If he can't find one, he faces life in prison or, even worse, death on the streets.

## Alibi Details

Date : Published August 6th 2009 by Grand Central Publishing (first published July 18th 2009)

ISBN : 9780446581691

Author : Teri Woods

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## From Reader Review *Alibi* for online ebook

### Endya Melvin says

Teri Woods did a phenomenal job with writing another great novel. “*Alibi*”, is an excellent novel about a young lady who runs into some deep trouble and the only way to clear her name is having an airtight alibi. Daisy is already living what we would call the fast life and fast money is all she knows. She will do just about anything to make more money even if it means risking her own life. Being a stripper and a barmaid at a local nightclub is not good enough for Daisy because she wants and needs more to support her lifestyle. This realistic fiction is a page turner with many twists, turns, and excitement. Teri’s use of writing craft with characters, conflict, setting, inferring, leads, and ending is great. Her most powerful writing elements in my opinion are her use of characters and conflict in this drama filled novel.

“*Alibi*”, is an exciting fiction novel with superior characters. Teri Woods not only made all of her characters come alive, but made them realistic and took her audience through the life of each character. Character writing in my opinion seems to be one of the hardest things to do when writing because you have to keep up with so many details about a person that doesn’t even exist but Teri makes character writing look like a piece of cake. She describes each character from head to toe so vividly that it creates an image of these people in the reader’s mind. Taking us into the life of the main characters used in the book helps readers to relate to the book even more because of how well the characters in the book tell the story. You can almost feel what they’re going through, physically see how they look without ever seeing this person in your life, and relate to them on a personal level.

Creating Daisy and all the other characters was a task within itself, but the personality of these characters is what really makes the reader feel connected to this type of book. Teri does a great job in making these characters come to life. Their dialogue, lifestyle, and individual voices will get the attention of any reader who enjoys these types of novels. Making them so interesting with each of their unique elements is what makes a true character a character. The characters is what makes her novel the page turner that it is. There isn’t a dull moment in the lives of these characters that she created for this novel. The personality that is written for each character is how I believe she used this writing craft so well. She gives her characters a name, describes each one physically even if they weren’t a main character in the book, and gave them their own voice which makes her writing fantastic.

Another writing craft that’s used so well in this book is her use of conflict. Nothing but drama seems to happen in this book which is why I couldn’t put it down when I first started to read it. Daisy, who is the main character, can’t seem to make herself happy with the lifestyle that she lives and she does anything to make it better. There are several types of conflict from money, drugs, infidelity, and enough police drama that could start a sitcom marathon. Making her characters’ life filled with drama is how I believe she uses the writing craft of conflict so well. There is so much going on in this book that it’s hard to keep up.

I would definitely take some character building techniques away from this book to teach students when they are writing a story that consists of different characters. Teaching students how to give their characters personality, voice, and vision can be turned into a mini-lesson that can teach students to better their writing techniques when building characters. This book is also filled with drama and a lot of conflict that I could use to teach students as well. Overall this was an incredible drama filled novel that I would recommend to anyone. Since this book is not really school appropriate, there isn’t really any passages that I could use in a mini-lesson, but I could take some character writing strategies out of the book that can be used to teach students.

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## **Shonds says**

I loved this book from start to finish don't know why it got bad review but it's a must read

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## **Monique D. says**

When an attempted robbery goes awry, Nard finds himself caught up in a triple homicide investigation where all fingers point to him. Desperate to evade a life sentence in prison, he turns to his boy, Sticks, to come up with a plan and execute a rescue mission. Sticks claims to have everything under control, as he puts things in motion to guarantee Nard's freedom, but this is far from an open and shut case. Sticks finds out the hard way securing an alibi that sticks is a lot harder than he imagined.

Daisy Fothergill, a young stripper turned prostitute, is quickly drowning in a game she is ill-equipped to play. When Sticks asks her to provide an alibi for Nard, she thinks it is well worth the small fortune he pays her to tell the little white lie. But when things quickly start to spiral out of control, Daisy finds herself forced to make a decision that may cost her her life. The death of her mother sends her on a tumultuous journey. Just when she thinks she is able to pick up the pieces of her shattered life and start over, the ugliness of her situation brings her right back to reality. Will Daisy escape with her life?

ALIBI had an intriguing plot that had me guessing until the very end. However, I felt Terri Woods' execution was poor. There were several occurrences throughout the novel that lacked enough detail to make an impact on the story. I was confused by the detailed back story given about Daisy's mother that completely removed the reader from the current story and gave unnecessary information that did nothing to move the plot forward. There were several twists presented throughout the novel, but they were so quickly rushed through, I never got a chance to settle on one before the next one presented itself. The plot was compelling, but the writing was not.

Reviewed by Monique D. Mensah  
for RAWSISTAZ(tm) Reviewers

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## **Kimberly Rogers Merrill says**

Not the best book I ever read. Very predictable, plodding pace.

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## **Becky says**

Daisy gives an alibi for someone and then every thing goes down hill from there, does she testify? who lives? who dies? One thing is for sure, I really wanted to finish this book to find out what happened. It wasn't that good of a book though but it was a fairly good story. At times I felt bad for the main character Daisy, who lived "in the hood" in Philly. But a few times she definitely made me want to scream at her for doing some dumb things. Would I recommend this book, well, it's one for adults only, rated R for sure but it is a quick easy read and if that's what you're looking for then it's not bad and there is a sequel coming out in 2011. I do have other books I'd recommend before I'd recommend this one though, and if you're looking for

something more intellectually stimulating then skip this one.

Sweet and short of it:

Rated R for adult content, sexual content, and language

Quick easy read

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## **Teri says**

I was not the target audience, but it had some interesting moments.

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## **Diana says**

Boring... Mediocre at best. This book was so slow, it took me like 3 days to read it because I kept putting it down. I hate when people write about TN because they get it all wrong. Those country ass names and that silly country mess... Idk. The names were corny, the plot was corny, and things get introduced and never spoken about again like someone finding out they have herpes. This book was a fail. I can't believe the same chick who wrote True to the Game wrote this mess.

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## **African Americans on the Move Book Club says**

In the urban literature tale *Alibi*, Terri Woods tells the story of Daisy Fothergill, a 22-year-old stripper who has trouble making ends meet. All at once, she sees the chance to get ahead when her street hustler boyfriend Sticks offers her \$2000 if she will complete one simple task: she must provide an alibi for murder suspect Nard. Daisy does as she is asked but unwittingly gets herself in a whole new world of trouble. *Alibi* could have been a compelling look at a young woman trying to get her life together but instead falls into cliché. The book that tries very hard to build suspense to its predictable climax, well, doesn't. The characters are one- and two-dimensional at best and the reader can find no reason to care about what happens to them. Worst of all, this is a pretty boring read. Woods tries to focus more on character development rather than the sex and violence that pervade the book, but the results are lackluster. Seriously, the most exciting part of this book is the preview of the inevitable sequel due out next year. Yet, after reading *Alibi*, you might find yourself looking for your own to avoid reading *Alibi II*.

TaKeshia Brooks

AAMBC Book Reviewer

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## **Crystal says**

This is an interesting review to write. Why? You might ask. Well because I read this book and didn't really enjoy reading it, yet in the end I felt I really got the message of the book. So time was definitely not wasted reading the book and my dislike of it should not factor in because I feel it was one of those that truly didn't

appeal to me but I am sure someone else (and maybe everyone else) will love it.

Why didn't I like it - first the language was horrible, and I know it was needed - it was showing a different life than one I am use to, one of a prostitute who was involved with drug dealers. This is not a gentle life and I know it's a tough life and this book gave me some insight into that, but I had a hard time with all of the bad language. Second, it jumped around a bit to much for me. In the end I see where everything was going and it was brilliant, but I couldn't figure any of it out during the book - it all seemed very unrelated. But again that may have been just me.

Why I did like the book - Daisy Mae - she was an exotic dancer/hooker who made the wrong decision at the wrong time and got hooked up being an alibi for someone she never met. As the tides change for Daisy Mae, she grows as a character and I enjoyed watching that growth. Her character was amazing and that is what shines the most to me for this book and why I still recommend this book to others.

I think the description of this book is a little inaccurate - it mainly describes the first 20 or so pages of the book, the real story centers around Daisy Mae who becomes Nard's alibi, and what happens to her after she makes this life-changing decision.

I hope there will be more books with Daisy Mae. If there are I will gladly read them - I would love to continue to see her growth as a person.

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## **deondra tharpe says**

Deondra tharpe

January 21, 2011

Period 1-2

I am currently reading a book called alibi. The book was written by the infamous Teri woods' have written in my logs maybe 4 times. When I write a reading log it sometimes may be a half of a page. For sometimes the book is interesting and by writing it takes me away from the book.

In the book the characters are Lance, Jeremy, nard, daisy, Felix, poncho, sticks and the f.b.i.the book started with drama.hmmmm..... In the book lance and Jeremy thought they could rob somebody for they're money and drugs. Oh nope!!!! It didn't go down like that. Once it happened. It meaning they broke in the house and fought. While it was Jeremy lance poncho and nard only one made it out. Because nard wouldn't give lance what they wanted he pulled out a gun. And by nard being who he who he was pulled out a burner too. Well, well it was a shoot out and only nard made it out. While nard was coming out the house a little boy and his momma saw him. Oh boy could this mean more trouble????????

Once all of this happened daisy who worked at a strip club called "the honey dipper". Anyway nard needs help. The police done found out what he done did. They caught him ands sticks told him that he got him. Sticks made a proposition to daisy. If she made a statement to the investigator he would pay 2 grand. Daisy really needed the money so she did what she could do. Her mother died so she really needs a person.

Daisy had called herself going with Reggie but Reggie dipped. He left her pregnant wit not 1 but 2 diseases. She had to run away because sticks were after her. What turned from a statement went to a court date. She

moved with her auntie in Texas and fell in love. In the end she had to go to a witness protection program. That was the least of her worries because she had fallen in love and he proposed to her. Until next time.

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### **Deedee Henson says**

Good read

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### **Sachi Sabella says**

STUPID ASS BOOK!

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### **Lori says**

I found this book in a free bin and grabbed it, thinking it might work on my bookshelf at school for my middle-schoolers to read. When I read the back cover blurb, I decided that wouldn't be a good choice, but I hung on to it, thinking it sounded interesting. The story begins with Nard the night he killed two people, but focused more on Daisy, Nard's alibi. I ended up liking Daisy quite a bit, but the way she handles events in her life just don't quite ring true to me. The story bounces between several characters, but other than Daisy, none of them are really fleshed out, and she barely is. Living in Tennessee, I am also a bit put off by the author's depiction of Tennessee and the people who live here. I'm not sure if I will seek out the sequel or not.

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### **Julie Smith (Knitting and Sundries) says**

This review was first published to my blog: <http://jewelknits.blogspot.com/2010/0...>

From the publisher's website:

Two men think they've found the perfect opportunity--a chance to rob the stash house of Simon Shuller, one of Philadelphia's biggest drug lords. But their plans are spoiled when one of Shuller's men catches them as they break into the stash house. Temperatures flare as the men capture Shuller's worker, Poncho, and force him to show them the goods. What they didn't expect was for Poncho's partner to be armed and very dangerous. An altercation breaks out and when the smoke clears, Nard, Poncho's accomplice, is the only one left standing.

My take: And thus begins a journey into the bottomless pit that is nitty gritty urban street life.

I found this book to be a well-timed study of how one person can easily get caught up in something bigger than themselves, especially when life hasn't been good to them and they don't know any better.

Nard is an 18-year-old drug runner for Simon Shuller, and Poncho is his partner. Sticks is part of Shuller's team, and was supposed to be the lookout on the day that two young street thugs decide that they can make a

quick buck by robbing the two drug runners as they sit in the stash house. Unfortunately, it doesn't work out very well for them, and now Nard needs an alibi.

Enter Daisy Fothergill, a 22-year-old stripper who is one of Stick's "girlfriends". Stick offers her money to provide Nard with an alibi for the day in question and she willingly accepts, even though she's not a very good liar. She thinks, "I'll just tell this to the investigator, and that will be that."

Bodies start piling up and Daisy realizes that she is in a world of deep trouble. When she comes across an unexpected windfall, she uses it to leave both Philadelphia and city life. The FBI, the police, and Shuller are all after her. The question now is, "Who will find her first?"

The story ends up being a page-turner, and really pulls you into the thoughts of people whose lives are nothing like the "norm". You quickly understand, however, that the events depicted are the "norm" for many of the people living them, and, while you may not condone the actions that the characters take, you get some sort of understanding of why they take them. I will state that for me, this was with the exception of Sticks, who has no moral compass whatsoever.

This book would make an excellent book club selection, as there are so many points of discussion that you will probably need more than one book club meeting to get through them all. The first few pages will have you shaking your head, but push past them, and the story is well worth reading.

Sensitive reader: This book is not for you, based on the strong language and sexual content.

Quotes (also not for the sensitive reader):

"Mommy, no. Don't hurt my mommy." The young fellow charged the dark figure after seeing his mother gunned down and ran into him, almost knocking him down.

Even though abortions were frowned upon, Dr. Vistane felt he was actually saving poor, black souls. Dr. Vistane believed that blacks were the lower class, not just financially, but all of the way around the board, and to help rid the world of another black bastard baby was something that needed to be done.

Daisy would starve on the street before she would sell her body away. No, not her, not no more. She'd never be sacrificed that way ever again, a naked, lost soul on display for men to lust after, pay, have their way with, then walk away from, still a man.

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## **Mel says**

There were a lot of subplots in this book. A LOT. But then there was no storyline cohesion.

It starts out with Nard. Who I thought would be a main character (maybe from the blurb). Nard kills two guys trying to rob him in the very beginning. But its really all about Daisy. A 22 year old stripper who (at the start of the book) is "dating" <----- loosely phrased Nards boy/crime affiliate Sticks.

Now at the beginning Daisy said Sticks lived with her. He was also every woman dream because he was "light skinned with "Good" hair"? OK... As the storyline went on, no mention of that living situation came up again. Because he was knocking every time he came over.

Then her mom died. We get the moms whole story about how she was basically sold away to an older man to be married by her father. Mom played a tiny part in the book. Sooo...



Sticks needs Daisy to be an alibi for Nard at his trial.

Daisy meets a "nice" guy who turns out to be running some sort of check fraud scheme. We find that out later.

Roofied, gang raped (set up by Sticks) with a coworker who wasn't right after. No mention of trauma. Barely mentioned to Sticks.

Herpes and an abortion with a doctor who sounded like he was giving out hysterectomies.

A move to Tennessee to be with her aunt and cousin. The only relatives she has left.

FBI and Sticks on her tail.

Don't do it. I love Teri's other books. Just not this one.

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