



The Alibi Man

Tami Hoag

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She was a vision. She was a siren. She was a nightmare. She was dead. Now he needed her to disappear. And he knew just how to make it happen. The Palm Beach elite go to great lengths to protect their own—and their own no longer includes Elena Estes. Once upon a time a child of wealth and privilege, Elena turned her back on that life. Betrayed and disillusioned by those closest to her, she chose the life of an undercover cop, the hunt for justice her own personal passion. Then a tragic, haunting mistake ended her career. Now Elena exists on the fringes of her old life, training horses for a living. But a shocking event is about to draw her back into the painful vortex she's fought so hard to leave behind.

First she finds the body—a young woman used, murdered, and dumped in a canal. Not just a victim, but a friend. As Elena delves into her dead friend's secret life, she discovers ties not only to the Russian mob but also to a group of powerful and wealthy Palm Beach bad boys known for giving each other alibis to cover a multitude of sins. A group that includes a man Elena once knew very well—her former fiancé, Bennett Walker, a man she knows has already escaped justice at least once in his life.

Finding her friend's killer will put Elena at odds with her old life, with her new lover, and with herself. But she is determined to reveal the truth—a truth that will shock Palm Beach society to its core, and could very well get her killed.

From the Hardcover edition.

The Alibi Man Details

Date : Published (first published June 23rd 2006)

ISBN :

Author : Tami Hoag

Format : Kindle Edition 450 pages

Genre : Mystery, Suspense, Thriller, Fiction, Crime

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From Reader Review The Alibi Man for online ebook

Dawn Cauthen says

Enjoyed the continued adventures of Elena Estes. Really liked her character in the first book, though it has been quite a while since I read Dark Horse, this book seemed to flow pretty seamlessly from that story line to this one. Definitely had me guessing as to who did it, was surprised by some twists and incidents, some were quite shocking. Enjoyed it!

Frank says

Listened to this abridged audio version on a long road trip back from house hunting in California. I kind of zoned out when I was listening to it but overall a pretty good thriller.

Emily says

Very quick read...I got it done in two days! A lot of mystery...a couple gruesome parts (if you are a visual person like myself you can only imagine what it would be like). Keeps you guessing til the end...unless I'm just real slow on the uptake.

kostas vamvoukakis says

καλ? και πολ? γρ?γορο αστυνομικ? χωρ?ς ιδια?τερη πρωτοτυπ?α... γυναικε?α σκοπι?... πολ?
ευχ?ριστο στο δι?βασμα... για παραλ?α

Rebecca says

I thought the depiction of polo society was well done. However, the rich guys as bad guys felt sort of cardboard, as did the Russian mobster. I enjoyed the twist at the end as to who the killer was, and while I saw it coming, it wasn't so early on that it spoiled the ending for me. I liked the main character, Elena Estes, for the most part, but sometimes she acted overly aggressive for no particular reason. I preferred the moments when she gave in to her softer side and was less jaded.

Tiffunee says

The Palm Beach elite go to great lengths to protect their own-and their own no longer includes Elena Estes. Once upon a time a child of wealth and privilege, Elena turned her back on that life and chose the life of an undercover cop. Then a tragic, haunting mistake ended her career. Now Elena exists on the fringes of her old

life. But a shocking event is about to draw her back into the painful vortex she's fought so hard to leave behind.

Elena stumbles upon the body of her groom (horse farm) and calls Landry. She can't keep her nose out of the mystery and uncovers many details that Landry doesn't have access to. She's a great detective but the attitude gets annoying real quickly.

This was a great read. The surprise ending truly catches you by surprise. I honestly didn't see it coming. I tried to guess the killer but was once again wrong.

Cheryl says

Great book...although I didn't realize that I should have read Dark Horse 1st. Oh well...I am looking forward to more of Elena Estes' adventures.

Linda says

Elena Estes is working on a horse farm in Palm Beach polo country, recovering from psychic and physical injuries received during her final days as a cop. While exercising one of the ponies, she is horrified to discover the body of a co-worker submerged in a swampy canal, badly mauled by alligators. An experienced detective, Elena is not content to leave the investigation to her former department, even though it's lead by the man with whom she recently ended an affair. The dead woman, Irina Markova, was a party girl, hooked up with a group of rich and powerful men who've formed the Alibi Club. They have no problems providing alibis for each other, no matter how degenerate the behavior. Irina was also entangled with Russian mob boss Alexi Kulik, who makes a threatening visit to Elena. Heartbroken over Irina's murder, he charges Elena with finding the killer. Her estranged father, a wealthy criminal defense attorney, and her former fiance, one of the alibi men, further muddy the waters.

Alibi Man is based on a complicated plot with numerous characters, within which author Hoag expertly spins out the mystery and suspense, maintaining a level of control that avoids the confusion that so often occurs in similar books. She also provides an insider's view of a world of privilege, power, and polo, one where justice does not always prevail. Her protagonist is a gutsy woman with no illusions but plenty of principle, and by the time the murderer is found, Elena has gained a valuable piece of self knowledge that may permit her to finally find the happiness she deserves.

Ashy Khaira says

Elena finds the body of her friend floating in a canal following a horse ride. Having been a cop herself before she does her own investigations following the murder. Based on some pictures of whom Irina the victim spent time with, she is drawn back into a world she left long ago. an interesting read

Stacie Haden says

It may be me. I've been avoiding thrillers lately because "thriller" seems to be synonymous with gruesome. Tami Hoag is one of my favorites, but this one was lacking for me. It was missing depth and surprisingly for her, there was too much repetition. It felt like it was written in a mad dash to make a deadline.

Frederick Masterman says

By F. J. Masterman "The PlanetCare Discoveries" - See all my reviews

Although I have been a fan of Tami Hoag for her former novels, The Alibi Man has put her at the top of my favorite writer list. This fast-moving story, centered on the corruption of wealthy Palm Beach society, is one of long-overdue justice finally coming home. The protagonist, the former detective Elena Estes, is one of the most compelling characters I have come across in reading. She is flawed, fearless and entirely engaging. Though there are several points of view in the story, she is the primary voice, and whenever she's "on" there's literary electricity that made me not to want her to stop. A marvelous characterization, and although other persons in the story are well drawn out (especially James Landry, whose unrequited love for her is a wonderfully understated theme)-- none come close to Elena. Her reflections, attitude, and honest internal conflicts make the entire novel a powerful experience. Elena was introduced in Dark Horse, which I also thoroughly enjoyed, but she blossoms into a fully deep and real person in The Alibi Man. I only hope the author will choose to create another story with her as protagonist. She's an unqualified winner.

Liz says

I usually like Hoag. The mystery in this is good, but the main character, Elena Estes is obnoxious. I am not the type of person who has to like a character to like them. I mean like in terms of, like to have tea with them or something. Some of my favorite characters of all time are awful people and I detest them, but they're compelling. . . There is nothing compelling about Estes.

She is whiny and mean spirited and so terribly sorry for herself. She is the type of person who loves their own pain, and those type of people are tedious.

It is true, her life has been tough and bad things have happened, but instead of that making her interesting or sympathetic, I just want to shake her a little bit, tell her to get over it and, if the memories are SO painful then move to a new place and start over. Instead, we have a wallowing heroine mucking up a perfectly good mystery.

CD {Boulder Blvd} says

This was a good follow up to the first book in the series. I was pulled into this book faster than the first one in the series since I was already familiar with some of the characters. Again, I liked the mystery that Ms. Hoag created and aside from the 1st person POV, liked the writing style. One of the few negatives again was the lead female character, Elena. Although I like strong females, she also managed to get on my nerves as she pushed everyone away and tends to be bitter carries a ton of guilt.

Shaun says

Second installment in the Elena Estes series is solid.

I think Elena's character has more depth in this particular, partly because we learn more about her past and thus her vulnerabilities. The romantic tension between her and Landry is also well played out.

Should enjoy this if you are a Hoag fan.

The only downside to Hoag's writing is that she often reuses some of the same devices between books and between series. For example, this is the second series in which the protagonist's best friend has been a stereotypical gay man.

Still, I love her ability to construct a good mystery that keeps you guessing, sometimes right up until the end.

Jo Jenner says

A slow start left me debating whether this was for me. If this had been the first Tami Hoag I had read I would probably have given up.

However I persevered and it paid off. A fast paced ending and an ending I wasn't expecting tidied everything up nicely.

I liked Elena Estes and wanted her to win. She is broken from a past that is explained through out the book and as this is the second book she is in I might have understood more if I had read the first one. However I don't think I was left disadvantaged by not having read the first one and I will probably go back and check it out at some point.

Overall a good book but just lacking something to make it a real page turner. If you're a fan of Hoag give it a go but if this is your first Hoag try something else.
