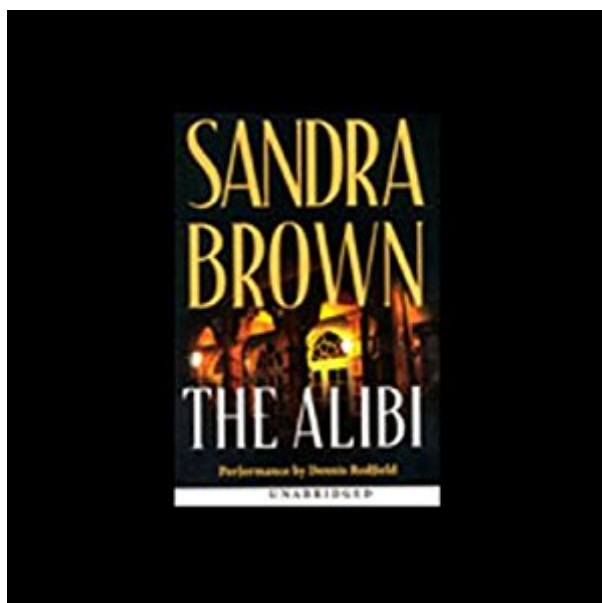


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# The Alibi



## Synopsis

Born into a fine old Charleston family, Hammond Cross is determined to be the city's next district attorney-without sacrificing his integrity. Prosecuting the sensational murder of real estate magnate Lute Pettijohn could be his ticket into the office. Yet while Hammond anticipates his success, someone near him is plotting his downfall--Steffi Mundell, colleague, ex-lover, and rival for the DA's office--Rory Smilow, the homicide detective without equal and Hammond's avowed enemy--the wily and beautiful Davee Pettijohn, Lute's widow and Hammond's lifelong friend, who's too honest to mourn the husband she despised--and Hammond's prime suspect, the mysterious woman who shares the secret that would be fatal to Hammond's ambitions. For the first time in his career, he's bending the rules in favor of the suspect. All clues point to her guilt. Yet she holds in reserve the perfect alibi--Hammond Cross. --This text refers to the Unbound edition.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

\* Another excellent romantic suspense being one of my personal favorites by bestselling author Sandra Brown in this outstanding thriller consisting of distrust, utter betrayal, murder, romance and a shocker of an ending. A must read!.....Special assistant Hammond Cross of the Charlestown Co. Solicitors Office, feels a need to take a long drive and forget about the tedious day that he had. For no apparent reason, he pulled over and decided to attend the county fair. Unsure of where to go, he decided to enter the dance pavillion. Why not? Its a nice atmosphere, he can sit down and besides, the music will calm his nerves. Looking around, he spots the most beautiful woman he has ever seen. She is sitting acrossed the room from him and he is mesmerised. As soon as this lady

attracts some Marines and finds herself in distress, Hammond came to her rescue. He talked her into staying a little bit longer but she leaves. He followed her to the gas station and walked right up to her by kissing her and whispers to her "come with me and don't say no". She does but the next morning she is gone never knowing her name. He is stunned what this woman has done to him but nothing will prepare him for the day he was about to have. When he gets to work, he learned that one of the most feared men in the county, Lute Pettijohn has been murdered. Everybody had a motive when it came down to it even him. Homicide detective Rory Smilo who was in charge of the case hated him the worst. Being adversaries, it didn't help matters as far as this case was concerned. Even the assistant to Hammond, Stephanie Mundel who was greedy for the power that Hammond held wanted his position for spurning her and her hatred for him was out of control. As days passed, with everyone coming out of the woodwork as a liable suspect, never in his wildest dreams did he ever think that his mystery lady would become one. The woman he fell madly in love with who he thought he would never see again somehow might be a part of this? As the mystery unravels itself and the suspect list is as high as it can get, one thing Hammond Cross is quite positive about. This woman didn't kill anybody and neither did he. With everything at risk, his job, his social standing and his rank, he is about to do something that he never thought possible. He was as sure of her innocence as she was of his for the night in question they had spent the night together. However, little did he know that he might just become her alibi. Did she or didn't she?..... This book was outstanding. Between the mounting suspects, twisted love affairs, high motives, it was impossible to put down!.....thank you

This was my first Sandra Brown book and I'll definitely start looking at the others. I found some parts a bit unrealistic, but am still giving it 5 stars. I found the other reviews interesting because I had tried a Sandra Brown sample a while back and didn't care for it. After reading other reviews, I'm assuming my first sample must have been one of her romance books, of which there are all ready too many on the market. The Alibi includes romance but goes beyond into the mystery and suspense mode. I would highly recommend it to anyone looking for something more than "just romance."

When a rich old man everyone despises gets killed, there is a long list of potential suspects. Everyone we meet seems to have a motive for killing this man, so the reader is brought along suspecting first this person and then the next. The story is well-told with a few surprises along the way. A very good read.

THE ALIBI is my 24th Sandra Brown read. In my opinion, Alibi is Brown's best; not only is it her best, it's the best murder mystery thriller I have read this year. Hammond Cross, the protagonist, has been groomed all of his young legal life to become the country attorney general or solicitor general as they are called in Charleston, South Carolina. As a multi-generation descendant of a Deep South politically connected family, a man of integrity and impeccable moral fiber, Hammond Cross has the experience, attitude and drive to perform the difficult job of solicitor general. His investigation as assistant solicitor uncovers evidence of serious corruption in the business dealings of Luke Pettijohn, a well-known but shady entrepreneur and developer who turns up dead in his hotel suite with two bullet holes in his back. The investigation soon zeros in on a well-respected local psychologist, Dr Alex Ladd, who quickly becomes the number one suspect. Complications rear their ugly head when Alex's alibi, and her life, hinge on a night of passion with solicitor Cross, the prosecutor of her case. Further complicating the investigation is the chief detective, Rory Smilow, who in his younger days was romantically involved with Davee Pettijohn, the murdered man's wife who is still in love with Smilow. The primary and secondary characters are well developed and Brown's dialogue is so enticing you sense you are right beside the talker. The intensity of the story grabbed me from the very first page and held me in a state of tension throughout. The story is intriguing with constant directional changes and with enough steamy sex to satisfy the most fervent romantic. I literally could not put this book down. I give The Alibi a strong 5-star rating.

I love romantic suspense books and nobody does them better than Sandra Brown. She is my favorite author of that genre. I have never been disappointed with any of her books. I really liked The Alibi, it keeps you guessing until the end. I liked the love at basically first sight concept. The book moves at a steady pace. I love the character of Hammond Cross. He's an ethical, honest man caught up as the ADA in a murder investigation. He has to contend with an arrogant smug Detective and a jealous power hungry fellow ADA. And the suspect is the woman that he has fallen for. It's a fast, can't put down, keep you on the edge of your seat whodunit and I really liked it.

I read this fast because I wanted to know how they proved who wasn't guilty!!!! So in that sense it was a good read, eh? My only complaint would be the characters are of course gorgeous, intelligent, successful and rich, had rotten parents, rose above it all and come out on top.

I love all her books and this one is no exception. Book has lots of twists and turns, good plot and fairly surprising ending. I didn't have it figured out until the very end. Easy reading, couldn't put it down.

I won't quote anything from this book because I would suggest you read every word yourself. A great mystery combined with a sweet love story is what you'll be reading and you won't be disappointed.

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