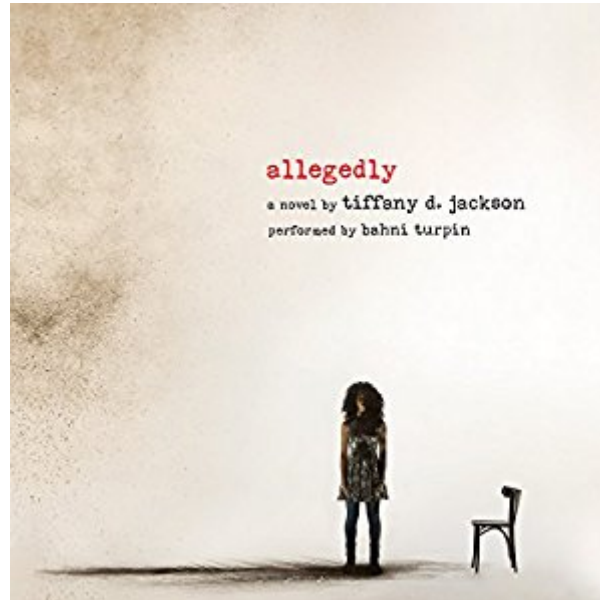


The book was found

Allegedly



Synopsis

Orange Is the New Black meets Walter Dean Myer's *Monster* in this gritty, twisty, and haunting debut by Tiffany D. Jackson about a girl convicted of murder seeking the truth while surviving life in a group home. Mary B. Addison killed a baby. Allegedly. She didn't say much in that first interview with detectives, and the media filled in the only blanks that mattered: a white baby had died while under the care of a churchgoing black woman and her nine-year-old daughter. The public convicted Mary, and the jury made it official. But did she do it? There wasn't a point to setting the record straight before, but now she's got Ted - and their unborn child - to think about. When the state threatens to take her baby, Mary's fate now lies in the hands of the one person she distrusts the most: her momma. No one knows the real Momma. But does anyone know the real Mary?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I started reading *Allegedly* by Tiffany D Jackson on a whim. I was looking for a book to read in between books and was drawn to the title. When I read the premise, I knew I had to read a bit more. It became one of those books I tore through, felt it was a bit longer than needed to be, and then disliked the ending so much it almost ruined the rest of the book. Mary Addison murdered a baby when she was 9 years old, allegedly. She has moved from "baby prison" (solitary confinement) to juvie to a halfway house where she is allowed to leave under supervision. Her fellow prisoners torture her regularly, from simply throwing her stuff on the floor to much worse things later in the

book. Mary has been in the prison system so long, she is numb to most of it. The worst part is everyone knows her story. Her story has been written about in a ton of books and it looks like it will be made into a movie. In a place where people assume, knowing your crime is a different story. Mary gets visited by her mother regularly on Sunday, where her mother stays for about 15 minutes to talk about her new life. Mary also works at an elderly home, where she has met Ted, an 18 year old who has gotten 16 year old Mary pregnant. Mary has also gotten a new roommate who is working through the justice system with an independent group who helps those who have received injustice get justice. The connection to that is Mary has started to remember things about that night when she allegedly murdered a baby that don't seem to add up. I'll begin my review portion by stating, this is not a light book to read. For those who have triggers, there is abuse, statutory rape, torturous conditions, and of course the murder of an infant which gets described in great detail several times. The funny thing is this is marketed as a book for teens. My guess is because the protagonist is a teen, but this is NOT a teen book, maybe a young adult, but definitely not for early teens. I am also going to go a tiny bit negative. There were three things that bothered me about this book. The first was the length. At about 400 pages, it becomes a bit too long. The second was the Ted story, as it was a bit cliché. As soon as Ted is introduced, you know he is going to get her pregnant and you know he is going to be something else (I won't spoil, but you learn pretty quickly what that something else is). Finally, the ending. I have talked to a few people online who also disliked the ending. You journey through 390 pages or so and the last few pages simply ruin the book. I am not going to spoil, but just be prepared. Now for the positives, as there were more than negatives. Mary's story about that night unfolds wonderfully. You get glimpses here and there, but you don't get the whole story until you need to. Her relationship with her mother is well described and thought out. It would be a tense relationship between them. It is also an incredible look at the injustice found within the justice system. How can someone prove her innocence when the whole world knows her story? She was 9 when the crime happened, it is now 7 years later and she has no hope of getting justice. Overall, I sort of enjoyed this one. It was a good story, but it is brutal in places, so how could one enjoy brutality? I gave this one 3.5 stars.

I read this book in less than two days, so tangled up in the story that I had to find out what happens to Mary, the girl in the group home serving time for a murder of a baby - allegedly. Jackson is a master at manipulating the reader's feelings, turning everything topsy-turvy on you when you least expect it. She rips you through all the feels, all the exclamations and leaves you shattered at the end of it all. When I reached the end, it was a huge WOW moment for me. And I'm still thinking that,

WOW. This is a book that I'll be thinking about for a long time to come. Tiffany Jackson has a long career ahead of her and I can't wait to read her next book!

If you're okay with a severely disappointing ending, go ahead and check out *Allegedly*. A good story with a lot of wasted potential. (Spoilers) This book had a lot of potential, rich with complex relationships that mimic the darker side of reality. As you read, you become more and more sympathetic for Mary and the constant line of struggles she suffers trying to keep her baby. Eventually you begin to wonder where her break is as her court case against her mother takes off, but she loses boyfriend Ted and gets beaten by her juvenile roommates. Her one friend in the boarding house quite suddenly turns out to be crazy and evil, with little to no indication or foreshadowing of the fact. The end is much like this, tossing aside all of the buildup of stories about the abuse from Mary's mother to say that Mary lied the entire time to get away from her mother and replace deceased baby Alyssa in the Richardson family. Again there was little to no indication through out the book to this ending, so much so that it seemed to go entirely against the book. She went from a resolution that had her being sympathetic to her mom even though she had been used and betrayed, trying to drop the case as she realized her mother would die in the system, to suddenly being morbidly happy that her mom could go to jail and she was free from her with Mrs. Richardson as her new mom. Her tone also does a complete 180, taking on a random childish voice that we never saw in the first 17 chapters. This book could have been amazing, but seriously flopped at the ending with a cheap twist. Very disappointed.

It did take me a while to get into the book but once I did, I didn't want to put it down. It became really good until the last chapter. Things went left..I'm confused. There was also no closure for Mary. Everything was prolonged with no answers at the end. I do however, love all the articles, interviews, and documents used in the story line. I can tell the author really took her time with those. If the author releases a part 2 I will read it .

So let's start off by saying I had no clue this author changed her pen name to her real name , she used to go by Blu Daniels . The two previous books she released were awesome so I was saddened when for a while I hadn't seen any new work from her until now While *allegedly* is a young adults book, it's really a book for all ages instantly looping you in as the story progresses. What I perceived to be the truth later revealed itself to be different with the main character Mary. How the story came together from beginning to end kept me interested. I will say that there were

points that I felt it was dragging and found myself needing to stop for some days because the content was lengthy but overall i thoroughly enjoyed this read. I'm eager to see what new works this author contributes and what's next in new literary career.

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Allegedly

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