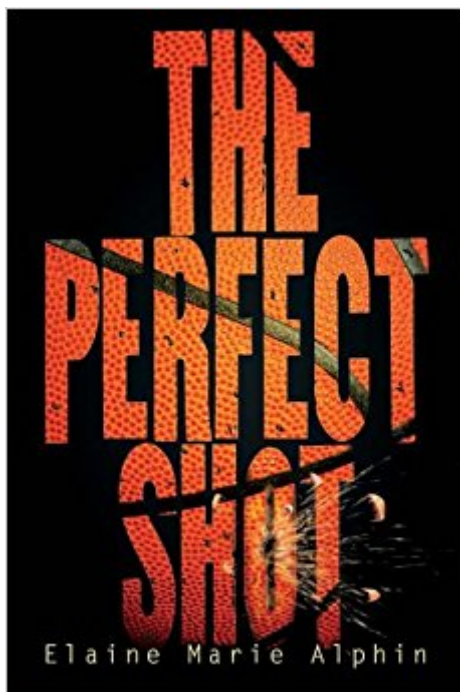


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# The Perfect Shot



## Synopsis

Someone murdered Brian's girlfriend, Amanda. The police think it was her father. Brian isn't so sure. But everyone he knows is telling him to move on, get over it, focus on the present. Focus on basketball. Focus on hitting the perfect shot. Brian hopes that the system will work for Amanda and her father. An innocent man couldn't be wrongly convicted, could he?

## Book Information

Paperback: 360 pages

Publisher: Carolrhoda Books; Reprint edition (September 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0761381384

ISBN-13: 978-0761381389

Product Dimensions: 1 x 5.2 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 19 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #815,141 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #115 in [Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Sports > Basketball](#) #567 in [Books > Teens > Mysteries & Thrillers > Law & Crime](#) #2153 in [Books > Teens > Mysteries & Thrillers > Mystery & Detective](#)

Age Range: 12 - 17 years

Grade Level: 7 - 12

## Customer Reviews

Starred Review. Grade 9 Up—This engrossing thriller weaves issues of civil rights, racial prejudice, the judicial system, and the lessons of history into a suspenseful tale of a high-school senior who wants to do the right thing. Brian's girlfriend, Amanda; her sister; and their mother are shot to death in their garage. The girls' father is put on trial for the crime. On the day of the murders, however, Brian saw something that he thinks might affect the case. The story is told in flashbacks as he struggles for his life after being shot—as readers will suspect—by the true killer. What might have been a straightforward mystery grows richer as Brian compares Amanda's father's situation to the 1913 Leo Frank murder case he is researching for class. Another thread follows the arrest of Brian's friend and basketball teammate Julius, one of the few African Americans in their small Indiana town. Brian must also cope with pressure from his father to excel in basketball, and with his overwhelming grief over Amanda's death. Some of the insights about the flaws in our justice system come across as preachy, but Brian's personal dilemma—should he speak

out and make waves or keep his doubts to himself. -- prevent the story from turning into a lesson on social justice. This novel will resonate with readers long after the final page. Sports fans will also enjoy the action-packed games as Brian attempts to lead his team to victory. -- Miranda Doyle, San Francisco Public Library Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. -- This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

Since her first novel for young readers appeared in 1991, Elaine Marie Alphin has published 27 books for young people and one for adults (about writing for young people). Elaine writes for readers of all ages, from Davy Crockett in Lerner's History Makers series for beginning readers up through teenage mysteries such as Counterfeit Son, winner of the Edgar Award for Best Young Adult mystery. Elaine particularly loves research, and that love impacts on all of her writing, from biographies for middle grade readers like I Have Not Yet Begun To Fight: A Story About John Paul Jones in the Creative Minds series through young adult fiction such as the history-inspired mystery, The Perfect Shot to her newest book, the stand-alone nonfiction young adult book An Unspeakable Crime: The Prosecution and Persecution of Leo Frank. Elaine is currently at work on a new young adult novel.

A very problematic book, exploiting the tragic Leo Frank case for author's personal agenda. This book is not recommended for family reading.

I enjoyed the ending the first time I read this book, but since I've read more and more thriller books it seems as if you can see the ending coming from a mile away. Also, some of the subplots seem to move too quickly with out any real explanation so it leaves the reader feeling unsatisfied and questioning the novel. Not a bad way to spend a lazy afternoon though.

This book shows today's issues with the world. Unfair justice, racial discrimination. I couldn't put this book down. Brian has to go through many difficult choices in this book while learning new things among the way on how people are judged on how they look or act. Would recommend this to anyone.

This book keeps you wanting to continue to read. The end is unpredictable. The only part I felt was boring is during the games in the book it is very descriptive. If you like sports this won't bother you.

I'm in 7th grade. It was a group book. I loved it. It was so good. I loved it sooo much that I finished it a week before we where supposed to! I got caught up in this book and couldn't stop reading. Elaine Marie Alphin wrote a AMAZING book!!

Was what my daughter needed for school assignment...received an online copy as the local bookstores were out and not sure when they would have it back in stock...

I must admit, I had not heard of this book before it appeared during a search for YA novels. The jacket sounded interesting, so I ordered it. I usually have stacks of books to read and this would have taken its place on the bottom. But something grabbed my attention as I read the flap once again: Alphin was not just telling the story of one young man's struggle to fit in, be a hero, and win the girl - like so many stacks of YA's. She was rambling through the back roads of lives and history, picking at scabs, and scars, and bones, unraveling tales and mysterious happenings through decades of lies, cover-ups, and misdeeds. I am always in the mood for a read that can't be put down - and this one is one of those! Its genuine, and brings all of us back to the place where "but for the grace of God go I." Where we need to understand that things are still not right in our world. Discrimination. What shame we still carry on our backs. I found a strong, daring, defiant young man in Brian. I would have wanted him for my son, my friend. He reminds me of a line from Ted Kennedy's eulogy for his slain brother, Robert, "He saw wrong and tried to right it." That is Brian. He wouldn't walk away. He couldn't walk away.

This book was phenomenal. From a chilling mystery to social injustice to grieving. This book has it all and is definitely worth your time.

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