



## OUTSIDE CHILD: A novel of murder and New Orleans

### Reviews

#### Mystery Scene magazine – Reviewed by Betty Webb – Issue No. 102

*A fascinating new character makes an entrance in Alice Wilson-Fried's Outside Child* (Komenar, \$24.95). In pre-Katrina New Orleans, we meet Ladonis Washington, the sole black employee in an otherwise all-white public relations firm. Ambitious to a fault, she attempts to ignore hints of the firm's double-dealings, but when a friend gets chewed up in the blades of an excursion paddle wheeler, she finally decides to investigate. Attempting to help, but just as often muddying the already-stagnant waters, is Ladonis' dope-smoking brother, Heart Trouble, a man not averse to running a few scams of his own.

*Heavy on atmosphere and character, Child evokes a New Orleans that is, sadly, no longer there.* But in these pages, all the wiles and woes of the seductive city are trotted out as Ladonis prowls its now-vanished streets and waterways, experiencing its crumbling tenements and moss-draped oaks, glorying in the city's spicy gumbo of blacks, whites, Cajuns, Creoles, Indians, and alligators. Ladonis makes such *a memorable debut* that I hope this outside child (slang for illegitimate) returns soon to stick it to The Man.

#### Jackson Street Books, Seattle, Washington – Reviewed by Tammy Domike – My Booksense recommendation

*Outside Child*, by Alice Wilson-Fried (Komenar Publishing \$25.95 hc, \$15.95 pb)  
An "outside child" is a child born of an unmarried woman and a married man. In highly class-conscious New Orleans, this will still cause problems among the people who are quick to judge and have memories stretching back for generations.

Ladonis is an MBA graduate, now working for a paddle wheel cruise line. When her boss falls over the end of the boat, it may be accidental or a suicide. But disturbing ambitions of the rest of the management team cause her to wonder if it was accidental at all. She must rely on her street smart brother, Heart Trouble, to help her solve this murder.

*Alice grew up in New Orleans and uses the city in a way no other author has.* Pay attention to the piers along Woldenberg Park. Alice is, to my knowledge, *the first African-American voice to tell stories of modern New Orleans.* The next book in this planned trilogy will take place during Katrina. *I loved this story* and look forward to the next installments.

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