



# Fall 2007

## Brother's Keeper

Steven Owad

**Where has Teddy been, and why is his brother's life suddenly in danger?**

Vince Maguire has spent a decade as a features writer at an English-language daily in Warsaw. A club-hopping dance addict, he isn't big on self-awareness. The days are an expat drift, with distractions aplenty and few thoughts of his life back in New York. The ease ends when the dark world of his estranged brother intrudes.

Teddy's in trouble, but is he victim or villain? He has fallen in with criminals who are trying to kill American oil executives in Warsaw. The last time Vince saw Teddy, the younger brother was an always-sunny drifter who couldn't hold a job.

But now Vince finds himself framed for an attempted hit. While evading the Polish cops and seeking leads to Teddy's whereabouts, it strikes him that his lost relationship with Teddy is only one aspect of a greater loss. How did he get to a

point where his old dreams no longer mattered? How did Teddy get to a point where his "friends" kill without hesitation? Just who is Teddy Maguire?

The answers appear to lie in the frozen oilfields of northern Alberta, a new Wild West where the normal rules of behavior don't apply. The oilsands plants north of Fort McMurray are churning bitumen into oil and blackening the aurora borealis with Dickensian smoke.

If Teddy's in Fort Mac, does he work for an oil company, or is he an environmentalist? Whatever he's doing, it's important enough for two heavies to be tracing Vince's steps from Warsaw's streets to the icy Athabasca River.

All questions lead to answers, but are they answers that Vince—or Teddy—can live with?

- Second book for RendezVous Crime by the author (first was **Bodycheck**).
- Hip, fast-paced style appeals to readers of both modern thrillers and hard-boiled novels.
- Alberta oil sands locale is a hot-button environmental issue at the moment.

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