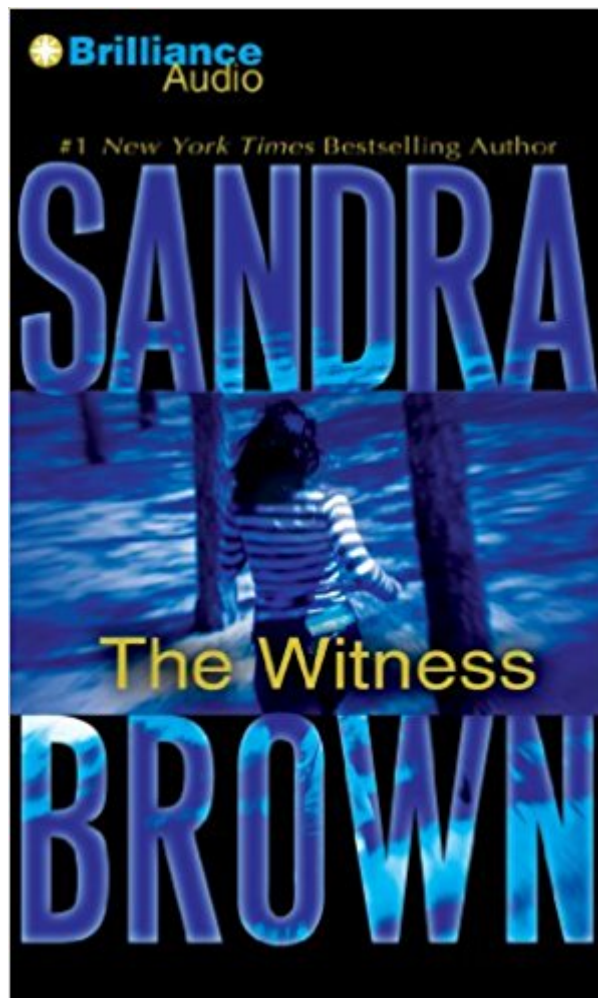


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The Witness



Synopsis

Kendall Deaton pulls herself and her baby out of a wrecked car, and a mixture of courage and fear gets her to the top of a ravine, where she flags down help. But she doesn't dare reveal her true identity to the authorities. Instead, she plans her immediate escape. Her perilous flight begins. The best public defender in Prosper, South Carolina, Kendall had stumbled upon the town's chilling secret – and her marriage to one of the town's most powerful men has become a living hell. Now Kendall is a terrified mother trying to save her child's life – a reluctant witness who knows too much about an insidious evil – and a woman surrounded by forces that will stop at nothing to protect what is theirs. • This page-turner is a must on any summer beach reading list and a testament to Brown's gifts as a talented storyteller. • USA Today

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Millions of readers clamor for the compelling contemporary novels of Sandra Brown. And no wonder! She fires your imagination with irresistible characters, unexpected plot twists, scandalous secrets...so electric you feel the zing. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Brown's latest thriller, in which an idealistic public defender discovers a terrible secret about her new husband, spent 11 weeks on PW's bestseller list. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.

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This was only the second book of Sandra Brown's I read. I loved the first one, *Friction*. I think she is an excellent writer at plotting and story telling. But this book was awful. Gratuitous and unnecessary violence and gore which was so shocking and unexpected.. I ended up skipping over many sections because they were too awful to read. I don't know how Sandra Brown thought this one up in her writer's mind but skip it unless you like blood and guts and characters that no one can believe.

Okay. So when I bought this book, I didn't realize it was as old as it was. I think it may have been written in the 1990s, but what I was reading sounded more like the 1970s. The sexism and the racism are completely blown out of proportion. I will concede that a few people, even well-respected people in a southern town in the 1990s may have been discreetly bigoted. But in this town everyone is openly and unabashedly racist and sexist to the point where they all conspire together to make sure women stay in the home and blacks only work menial jobs. I haven't read the whole book yet, so that is not a spoiler, just the general feeling I get from the dialogue. From the plot synopsis, however, I do know that the town is supposed to have a secret and it has something to do with the antiquated behavior of the citizens. Okay, so that explains the behavior of the people of Prosper, but anyone from out of town would not be so easily accepting of their behavior. The heroine thinks it's perfectly normal that the whole town is in an uproar over a female attorney. I'm not buying it. And she is not allowed to invite black people to her wedding. The N word is used by public officials in the course of duty with no repercussions. Battered wives deserved what they get. It is impossible to rape your wife because she is obligated to have sex with you... It goes on and on. It's very melodramatic and not realistic for that time for an entire town's behavior. So, why does the heroine just act like this behavior may not be admirable, but it is par for the course? And why does she marry her husband? Did she know anything about him before saying, "I do"? Did she just marry him for his looks? A little ways into the book, it is apparent that on every single level the heroine and her husband disagree. It even says that they met because he wrote an editorial about how a woman could not handle the job she had. How can you marry someone like that? And then be shocked that he's total scum? None of this book made sense to me and it just didn't jibe with the time period. Sandra Brown must have a warped view of the world.

I have read a number of ms Brown's book but this is one of the worst. I really wanted to give it one star but felt a little guilty doing so. The first half was mediocre at best and the last half was just plain ludicrous. There were so many stupid characters and stupid dialogue that I can't believe I even bothered to skim it, it was that bad. I don't want to read about morons especially if they could have

been completely left out of the book. Their inclusion in the book did it in for me. I read mystery or suspense for just those reasons, I don't want weak attempts at humor. I am so irritated by this book and those characters that I'm not sure I can continue to read her books. Also, the plot completely broke down and became silly. At one point the heroine is curled up asleep on the heroes chest but then the page turns and same heroine is in the shower. Which is it? She's either asleep or showering but you can't have both. Those little inconsistencies and the complete stupidity of the side characters made this a pretty lousy read.

After reading a couple of other books by this author, I decided to give this one a try. It is way beyond fiction, it is unbelievably down right stupid. The main character Kendall Deaton (an assumed identity to land a job) is on the run with her 3-month old baby who practically slept thru the entire book despite the fact that they are being chased by her murderous ex-husband & father-in-law who are in a brotherhood similar to the KKK. Her best friend is a nymphomaniac who will bed any man that comes near her. Sadly I don't know how these 2 ladies fared at the end of the book, I couldn't take it anymore and didn't finish it. Some of the best fiction I have ever read makes you believe or want to believe the story really happened. I wouldn't wish this story on anyone.

After several years of waiting and hoping, *The Witness* by Sandra Brown is finally on Kindle. It made the Kindle list in June 2013, and I ordered it immediately, ending my frustration of constantly searching for it on Kindle without success. Basically, the decision to add it to Kindle rested with the publisher. At last count, *The Witness* already has 486 reviews. I'm not going to write a long review, since the 486 reviews covered it well. However, I will add these comments: The author goes from present day to past and then present day. The main characters, Kendall and John, were mutually attracted from the moment they laid eyes on each other. The secondary characters, Rickie Sue, Kendall best friend, and FBI agent Pepperdyne, were comical. The story line had a lot of twists and turns until the last page. *The Witness*, published in 1995, is one of my favorite books written by Sandra Brown.

I had to force myself through this book, my first Sandra Brown novel. She used every southern stereotype possible, including character names, half-witted brothers, Klan types and hillbilly accents. Kendall, the main character, has a big secret that creates some suspense, but is such a letdown. Add some sex scenes for good measure. Yuck!

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