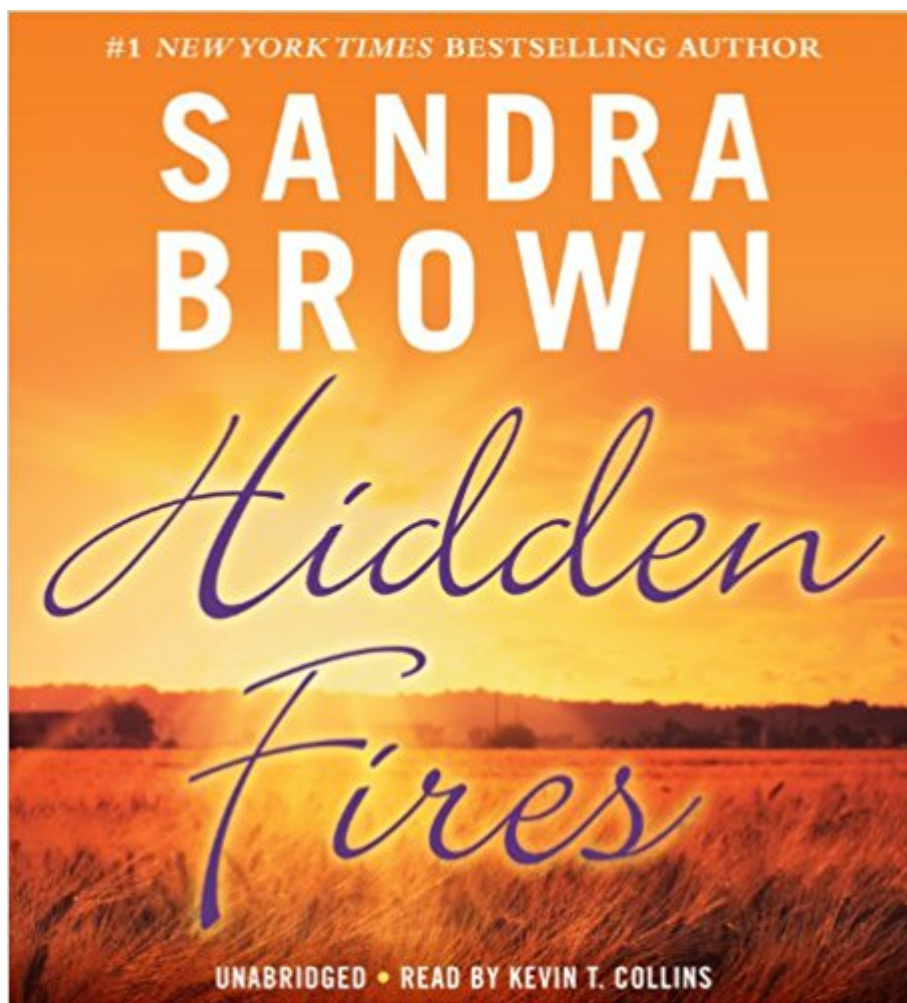




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# Hidden Fires



## Synopsis

Preacher's daughter Lauren thinks that she is going to work for wealthy Olivia Lockett as a secretary. Instead, the matriarch makes Lauren a scandalous offer to marry her son in name only. Lauren has strong feelings for him but are they strong enough?

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"A MASTER STORYTELLER."-- Newport News Daily Press --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

In a Texas of cattle and railroads, family dynasties and ambitious schemers, Sandra Brown's classic historical romance brings readers a riveting story...The moment preacher's daughter Lauren Holbrook walked into the Texas mansion, she suspected she had been tricked. Instead of becoming wealthy Olivia Lockett's secretary, the matriarch presented her with a scandalous offer: to marry, in name only, the Lockett dynasty's heir -- playboy rebel Jared Lockett. Lauren could not know Olivia's real motive, but she was achingly aware of her feelings for Jared. Now, in spite of terrible risks, she had to trust her reckless husband -- and fight to make their marriage as strong as her love. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

A breathtaking historical romance by Sandra Brown, that shouldn't be overlooked. Combined with false impressions, wrong conclusions, mystery, betrayal, and love. It's a must read!.....Throughout her journey to Coronado, Texas, Lauren Holbrook couldn't wait to see Ben

Lockett again. He had been very kind to Lauren when he had visited her in her hometown of Clayton, North Carolina, and being a close friend to her father, Ben had invited Lauren to his ranch after her father's demise. However, once she did arrive at his ranch, she discovered the terrible news of Ben's sudden death, and even worse, was the merciless fact that she was greeted by the hardest and coldest woman Lauren had ever met in her life, Ben's wife! But with all the comments, rude remarks, and total insults, nothing could prepare Lauren for the likes of Jared Lockett! He was outrageously handsome but with all his good looks, he was also rude, obnoxious, arrogant, and a total scoundrel, and yet, she couldn't prevent the feelings that were overpowering her mind, every time he looked at her with those cold and calculating eyes of his. Why was she so attracted to him? He was nothing but a nasty drinker, a gambler, a total womanizer and if Lauren had any sense at all, she would put Jared Lockett out of her mind once and for all. The moment he laid eyes on her, Jared Lockett thought she was beautiful but since his father was the one who sent for her, he also believed that Lauren wasn't who she claimed to be. Jared was going to prove that Lauren Holbrook was a phony, to learn her motives and then have some fun, by unleashing her lies and deceit to the good people of Texas. But not even Jared and Lauren could foresee their future, when Jared's mother came up with a devious plan, shocking them both. As heir to his father's legacy, Jared had developed a dishonorable reputation and if his family ever expected the railroad to get through at all, he would have to mend his ways, settle down, marry, and start a family but when it's suggested by his mother, that he marry Lauren and pretend a fake marriage, Jared and Lauren were outraged, especially since they despised each other. They did, didn't they? Once the wedding was over, Jared still allowed false impressions to hinder his heart, but in due time, his resolve weakened for his new bride and they both turned to each for solace, turning hidden fires in each other they never thought possible. When Jared comes to the wrong conclusion breaking Lauren's heart from his own wrath, she is kidnapped against her will by a ruthless adversary bound on hurting her, and it was in that moment, how he truly felt about her. Can he save her in time? Or did he just lose the the only woman that ever mattered? Will true love find a way?.....I just loved this book by Sandra Brown.....thank you.....

I'm beginning to think that all of Sandra Brown's heroes are super grumps....Why any self-respecting woman would fall in love with these men is beyond me. Jared is angry and usually rude to his wife, even though she basically had no choice in the matter of their marriage either, but he never seems to think about her side of the deal He sulks and growls around and usually stomps off when things get frustrating, which seems to be 80% of the book. It just seems hard to invest in

these characters.

Sandra Brown is one of the best authors around. She has been writing for 40 years and her books are wonderful. This one is an early effort. She has come a long way but clearly wasn't as good when she began as she is now. She grew into her craft from these week early books. I can't help but wonder what she could do with this idea now. The main character, Jared, was completely ridiculous but I can see how his character could have been handled well. Very little in this book rang true. It was too long with too much forced angst going on too long. Just didn't work and I started skimming to get to the point. Some of the secondary characters were very interesting-Rudy, Crazy Jack in particular. A reworking of this concept could be so so good. But this version is not. Sandra has come a long way which is very clear from this book.

Little did innocent Lauren Holbrook, raised in a parsonage, suspect that she was being set up for marriage when she accepted an invitation to go west. She would probably not have accepted if she hadn't been a victim of attempted rape. She meets drunken Jared Lockett, who is her unsuspecting intended. Jared runs hot and cold towards Lauren. The whole Lockett family suspects Lauren had an affair with Ben, the Lockett patriarch. But everyone likes sweet Lauren, all except her bitter, evil mother-in-law. A good fast read in the historical west.

This is not the type of book I enjoy reading. Old west, cowboys, racism, arranged marriage, turn of the century. OMG, it was a love story NOOO!. However, it was a Sandra Brown book, and I like her writing. It was surprisingly good, I read it in 3 days A lady and a man going thru life's tribulations and finding love. It has lots of action, and drama. The end had a pretty good twist. I truly recommend this book.

The setting for this story is the territory of Texas in the late 1800's. It is a historical romance. While it is an older work by Ms. Brown, it was well written. Initially the story is slow to develop but begins picking up, after the author sets the scene and the back story for two of the significant characters. The manner in which the author writes, is like a well made film, unfolding before you, a visual masterpiece. The story is so well put together and believable, the characters are all very three dimensional. Well worth reading. I rate this book at 4.5 and assign a sexy rating of 5. Well worth reading and different from her later novels.

I have read many of Sandra Brown books and expect a good story line, strong leading men and equally capable women. When looking for a good steamy love story with a little suspense, her books provide it in spades.

I have read this book numerous times since it was first published. It is one of my all time favorite books so I was delighted to find it now as a Kindle book. Other reviews give a good synopsis of the story and the main characters Jared and Laura so I won't go there. But I will say that Sandra Brown paints a good love story with the reality that was Texas at the time - and that reality makes the story more believable. The mores of the time gave women in the late 1800's few choices that most of us today can't even imagine living within. I'm glad that I am able to read and enjoy those times and not living them!

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