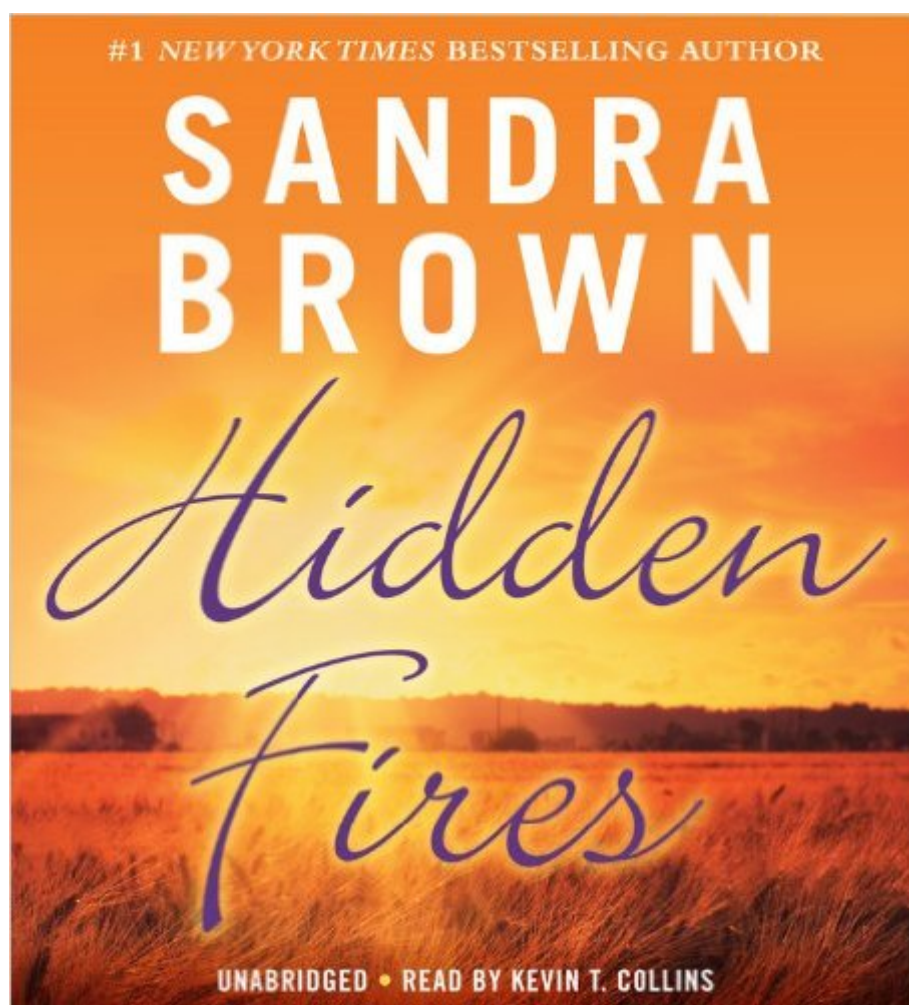


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# Hidden Fires



## 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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Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars Â Â See all reviews Â (212 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #887,485 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #19 in Â Books > Books on CD >

Authors, A-Z > ( B ) > Brown, Sandra #593 in Â Books > Books on CD > Romance #2084

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## Customer Reviews

Set in the territory of Texas during the 1800's, Lauren Holbrook accepts the position of the family secretary offered by Mr. Lockett to escape her life of confinement as the preacher's daughter. When she arrives, she discovers that her dreams are no more. Mr. Lockett has died of a heart attack and his widow is hostile towards Lauren, thinking Lauren is a former mistress of Lockett's. To keep from being dismissed and sent home, Lauren accepts the proposal of an arranged marriage (purely a business arrangement only) to their son and heir, Jared Lockett. Jared is rebellious and wild- not ready to settle down, but will follow through to please his demanding mother. Lauren stumbles upon family secrets- and things start to crumble and be revealed to Jared. It's a good read... the marriage is to be in name only, but Jared and Lauren find passion and truth.

This book is just wonderful, and keeps its emotional brilliance time after time of re-reading. There was magic in the story of naive, sweet Lauren and playboy Jared. This book was set in the 1800s in a vilgalante style Texas, adding to the romantic aspect, but still left the reader completely feeling for and identifying with the believable characters. Character development was wonderfully done, not only for the personalities and background of the lovers, but the suporting characters were so

important. They were believable, and real. They played a part in the story's plots: each character's individual story, the romantic plot of Lauren and Jared, and the business-oriented plot of a railroad and the surprising turns that plot took. All in all, I can't think of a single complaint for this book. It is suspenseful, sexually electric, believable, well developed, and leaves you with a good feeling afterwards, and a desire to reread and relive the tale all over again.

This is my first American Historical Romance book & my first of Sandra Brown's as well. I am happy to say that I am not disappointed at all! This book kept me up most of the night. The story is so exciting, each page makes me squirm in wonder to read what's next. In the beginning, I was frustrated in Jared's attitude towards the sweet, beautiful & innocent Lauren. Eventually, as I read along, I understood his indifference towards her, yet I still feel sorry for Lauren. I was relieved to see improvements in their relationship as the story progressed... this is also when the love story twist becomes heart warming. This book doesn't only concentrate on the hero/heroine alone. It contains many unique characters that surrounds the couple. Each character is described realistically & it makes you understand the hero more... In my opinion, the additional interesting characters makes the book more appealing. I can't wait to read more of SB's book. This one is definitely one of my best books to reread many times in the future.

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.

After she runs from a possible scandal and religious foster parents who don't believe her, Lauren goes to seek out a long time family friend, Ben. He recently had visited the family and extended an invitation to young Lauren to see Texas, a land only seen in her dreams. It's beautiful, and rough. It's the perfect place to start over. The only thing that isn't perfect is that her host, Ben...What is Lauren to do now? The son of the family doesn't want her there, but he needs her. Jared, slowly discovers that his contempt for Lauren is unfounded and turns into..LOVE? LUST? It couldn't be..he knows what this tempest is all about..getting ahead and taking advantage. He's been around Texas for a while, he knows what women want, what they're like, what they're after. All Texas women want

the same thing...but Lauren isn't from Texas! This was my first Sandra Brown book and although there were some confusing parts and parts that seemed to happen out of no where it was truly a good read. Pick it up if you are interested in historical romances and want a nice mindless read for the weekend.

I have read other Sandra Brown novels, but this was the first of her "classic romance" novels that I have read, and my first historical romance. This novel did a great job of taking me back in time, and I really felt like I got to know the characters well. This book really elicited emotion from me...I hated Olivia and Kurt, I rooted for Lauren and Jared to work out, etc... I read this book in one day because I could not put it down. The plot of this book was not as predictable as other romance novels (like a lot of Nora Roberts books, etc), and there were some elements of suspense near the end. I will definitely be reading other Sandra Brown romance novels based on this book.

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