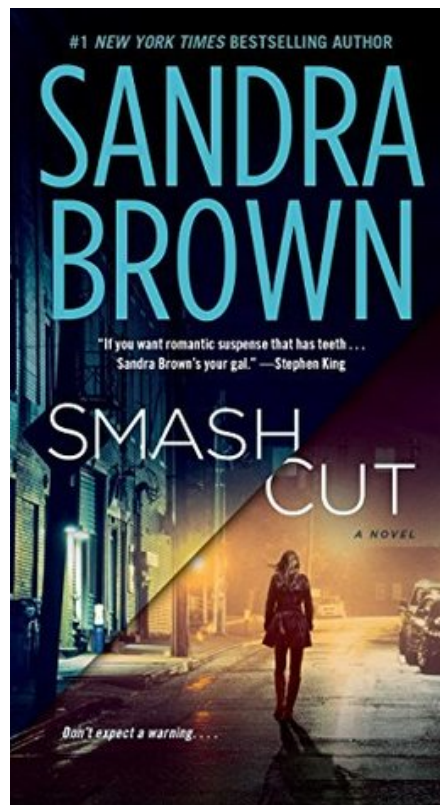




Smash Cut

Sandra Brown

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Updated cover of this Kindle edition.

From #1 New York Times bestselling author of Seeing Red comes this thrilling novel full of jarring, cinematic twists and breathless suspense that will have you on the edge of your seat.

When millionaire Paul Wheeler is murdered, his family retains renowned lawyer Derek Mitchell to defend the victim's nephew Creighton—although the police have not charged the young man with the crime. Wheeler's mistress Julie Rutledge, who is also a suspect, believes that Creighton is the killer despite his rock-solid alibi, and she'll do almost anything in her quest to prove his guilt—even ruin Derek's career. But as Derek learns of Creighton's darker side, especially his bizarre fascination with movie murders, the more he agrees with Julie's suspicion. The clock ticks down to a shocking ending as Derek and Julie join forces to find the truth. Has Creighton begun re-enacting cinema's goriest scenes and, if so, who will be his unwilling co-stars? They won't know until the final Smash Cut.

Smash Cut Details

Date : Published 2017 by Simon & Schuster (first published 2008)

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Author : Sandra Brown

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Genre : Mystery, Romance, Romantic Suspense, Suspense, Fiction, Thriller

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From Reader Review Smash Cut for online ebook

Paula Brandon says

By turns both boring and ludicrous! It works on a dumb potboiler level, but it's silly, brain-dead trash nonetheless!

Creighton Wheeler masterminds the murder of his uncle Paul Wheeler to get his hands on his inheritance, although he's already ridiculously wealthy. He employs a method from *Strangers On A Train*, where he gets Billy Duke to do the murder - a shooting - for him. Billy does this because he owes Creighton for killing the wealthy widow that Billy was fleecing and who was now about to testify against him.

Paul's lover Julie is convinced of Creighton's guilt, despite his rock-solid alibi. When she learns that the Wheeler family is about to employ Derek Mitchell to represent Creighton, she flies to France so that she can wind up on a flight back to the US with him, in order to have sex with him, and thus ensure that he can no longer represent the Wheelers because of a conflict of interest. Yes, really! This is despite the fact that there's no guarantee Creighton will ever be arrested or that the Wheelers could easily find another lawyer. Did Julie plan to have sex with all of them? Derek actually brings this up, but the question remains unanswered - probably because it's so fucking stupid and Brown really couldn't come up with any way to make it logical!

Even though Derek refuses to represent Creighton and returns his retainer, he continues to dig into Creighton's past and possible motives. Despite claiming not wanting to be involved. Huh? Anyway, Creighton is carefully setting everything up to make it look like Julie and Billy were partners in Paul's death, which causes Derek to doubt Julie, even though he wants to have sex with her as well. The evidence keeps mounting up against Julie, causing friction between them, including the fact Paul recently changed his will to leave everything to Julie. But this is mired so deeply in the romantic suspense genre tropes that attempts to make Julie appear guilty are just pointless! By the very nature of this genre, we know she isn't!

Julie and Derek become convinced that Creighton plans to knock off the girl Ariel Williams, who apparently dated Billy and then testified against him. She also could have linked him to Creighton. Except it was actually her roommate Carol who dated Billy, which doesn't make much sense, but anyway. So it turns out that Creighton is actually off to murder Carol, so they all race off to save the day.

In the end, it's revealed that Paul was actually Julie's father, not her lover. Yes, that's why they had a weekly meet-up at a hotel! She claims it was to protect her parents (her father raised her as her own) and protect Paul's relationship with his deceased first wife, who couldn't have children. She wanted to spare them all the scandal. Except they all knew about the situation and were fine with it. So what's the scandal? Is this the 1960s or something?!? Julie claims she doesn't care if people thought she was Paul's lover - scandalous in itself - so it makes no freaking sense for her to care about the "scandal" of a unexpected pregnancy!

This revelation apparently also makes it okay for her to fuck a stranger on a plane, because she wasn't actually in a relationship with the person we believed she was in a relationship with. What I reckon is that Sandra Brown could have spent an extra five minutes to come up with a far less staggeringly contrived way in which to get her two main characters together! Absolutely nothing about that set-up made a lick of sense, and basically rendered the entire book very difficult to take!

I kept wavering between 1 star and 2 stars, but went with 2 stars because I suppose getting so riled up at a book's utter stupidity and inanity meant I was somewhat engaged with the material!

Mo says

Ok. I think it is widely known now that I love SB. Most of the books I have read by her have been 4 and 5 stars. And even her "bad" books are good.

When Paul Wheeler is shot dead during an armed robbery, his lover Julie Rutledge is convinced that Paul's prodigal nephew, Creighton, is responsible for the murder. Creighton has a passion for movies and Paul's murder has all the elements of a blockbuster: family rivalries, incalculable wealth, and a prominent man dying in the arms of his beautiful mistress.

As with all books by Ms Brown, you can't really say much for fear of giving something away. I really liked both main characters. Derek was fantastic. Sexy, smart, humorous.

The kiss was thorough and deep and sexual, not a conclusion in any sense, but a prelude, a foretelling of what would happen ...

Creighton, he sure was some piece of work. Derek got it right ...

**"You're an asshole.
You're a prick.
Furthermore, you're a prick made stupid by his own arrogance."**

"A man's gotta do what a man's gotta do."

It's peppered with reference to films (movies) - some I have seen and some I really want to see.

I used to work as a legal secretary when I lived in Ireland. I swears to ya, there were no sexy lawyers there!!

I've seem some friend's ratings of the next book are not that great. What to do - read it nor not?

Lea's Audiobooks Hensley says

Narrated by Victor Slezak

I first listened to Smash Cut immediately after discovering Sandra Brown's Envy – my first of her romantic suspense audios. As I listened to one Sandra Brown/Victor Slezak combination after another searching for another Envy, I discovered there simply isn't another one. It stands alone as Brown's best and my favorite romantic suspense of all time. But that doesn't mean Smash Cut isn't an excellent listen as well. When I listened the first time around, I graded it a B+. After all, it wasn't Envy. When I recently relistened, I realized Smash Cut is A grade material all the way around. I was riveted to Brown's intricate suspense plot and enjoyed every minute of Victor Slezak's outstanding performance.

Once again, Brown takes us to the South – this time Atlanta. After Paul Wheeler's murder in an elevator with his companion, Julie Rutledge, at his side, the murderer makes a clean getaway. No one can find even a trace of evidence anywhere. However, Julie believes it can only be one person, Paul's nephew Creighton. Paul Wheeler is quite wealthy and Creighton his only heir. Besides, Creighton is just plain creepy despite his rich boy, tennis playing persona. Read the rest of the review at AudioGals
[http://www.audiogals.net/2013/01/smas....](http://www.audiogals.net/2013/01/smas...)

♥Rachel♥ says

3.5 Stars

Lisa - (Aussie Girl) says

Another great Brown with twists, turns and the big reveal that turns the book on its head in the final pages.

4.5 stars

Cheri says

I would give this book 5 stars and then some. I am actually tongue tied over this book. I don't think I actually took a breath until I had finished it. One incident in the story horrified and disgusted me. I had to put it down for awhile to get past it. Everything that came after that was pure shock material for me. There were quite a few things I didn't see coming. This author never ceases to surprise me or let me down. A fabulous mystery/thriller. I would recommend it to all that like this genre.

♥Sharon♥ says

I'm running out of opening lines for my Sandra Brown reviews. I keep saying the same things over and over. I Loved it. It was fantastic. My love affair continues. This was another remarkable book. But I guess if the

shoe fits wear it right.

Smash Cut was a bit different. For me it was like going to dinner and starting with the dessert. SB treats us to some sexy, Mile High Club moments right from the get go.

The story also unfolds kind of ass backwards too. Early in the story you can start to put together things but you continually ask yourself what the heck is SB up to with this one. Undoubtedly there will be many questions. And there were. Undoubtedly there will be a twist that you will not see coming. And there was.

We find ourselves in Buckhead, Atlanta where the murder of Paul Wheeler takes place at a local hotel. The crime is coldblooded and the crime scene leaves us with many troubling thoughts and uncertainty. You have Julie who is a beautiful and sexy Art Gallery owner as the one suspect and Derek who is a Defense Attorney finding himself in a spot where he had no intention of being in.

As usually SB not only gives us two amazing main characters in **Derek Mitchell** and **Julie Rutledge** but in this one she surrounds them with two additional characters that added so much to the story.

Creighton Wheeler was a sick son of a bitch to put it bluntly. He was also that guy that had it all. He was good looking, had loads of money, women at his beck and call and had a love for movies. We find his love for movies at the center of this mystery. With each snip it you get there is more intrigue.

Dodge Hanley was a private investigator that played by his own rules. He was Derek's right hand man. The way he got things done was not always ethical and his methods of doing things were not always above board. But their relationship worked. I loved the banter between him and Derek. Dodge was a bit of a wise guy which I loved.

Though you are aware of a lot at the beginning of the story, as each chapter unfolds there is so much more that happens. Everyone is questionable. The reasons are doubted and when the twists comes OH MY GOSH. I had no idea. I would never have guessed it and did my typical shake of the head and mumble of...what the hell!! And Derek and Julie's relationship was volatile throughout the story. They had some sexy moments and you could always feel the undercurrent of desire they had for each other. I loved how things were wrapped up with them too.

I am looking forward to reading on to book 2 to get Dodge's full story. SB will continue to be my superwoman of Romantic Suspense.

Tina says

I feel like a sicko. Speeding through, interested only in the violence

I actually felt like a frustrated reader, speeding through, interested only in getting to the end.

Paul Wheeler, a wealthy man, is shot and killed in an elevator full of people. He is the only casualty of what at first appears to be a senseless act of violence during a run-of-the-mill robbery. The woman, Julie Rutledge, with whom he shared a standing Tuesday afternoon tryst at the hotel where the robbery/murder occurs, is convinced it is murder. And she is convinced his amoral, free loader of a nephew, Creighton Wheeler, is the culprit. Although he has an airtight alibi, Julie is sure he arranged the whole thing. Her belief is so strong that when Creighton's parents decide to engage the most famous pit-bull of a defense attorney, Derek Mitchell, as a pre-emptive strike, just in case, Julie arranges it so that if Derek takes the case it would be considered a conflict of interest.

But Even as Julie is proclaiming long and loudly to the police that Creighton is responsible, things begin to look like maybe there is another guilty party. Her.

This book started out very strongly. I was really delighted and sat back to settle in and read a good thriller. That feeling lasted about three chapters. The minute Creighton went all bat-shit over his mother touching one of his DVDs, I knew he was not only the killer but an unrepentant sociopath with no redeeming qualities and a penchant for hookers. In other words, a boring villain.

Some reviews and blurbs of this book that I've read called it 'clever' with a 'diabolical villain' who is also a 'slippery fiend'. I don't think so. The book is goes something this:

JULIE: Creighton did it.

COP: We've found evidence in your house linking you to the crime

(Somewhere Creighton laughs diabolically while getting a blowjob from a call girl)

JULIE: Creighton is framing me.

DEREK: You lied to me. But I think you're hot, so I believe in you.

JULIE: Creighton is crazy. He likes movies. A lot.

COP: Who cares. Your hair was found in a place that makes you look guilty.

JULIE: Creighton is framing me.

(Somewhere Creighton twirls his mustache, while looking at his beautiful self in the mirror, while jerking himself off)

COP: You have....a MOTIVE!

JULIE: oh, dear.

DEREK: You lied to me again. But we totally did it, so I believe in you.

COP: Why am I not arresting you? I have so much evidence.

JULIE: Creighton is framing me. And he likes movies. And he's a genius.

(Somewhere Creighton muses on how much a genius fiend he is as he watches a movie while doing a call girl)

JULIE: We must catch Creighton on our own. We Smart. Cop dumb.

DEREK: Ok. And you're hot.

Well... you get the gist. It was tedious and really Sandra Brown can plot better and create more interesting villains than she did here. I give it two stars because the beginning was really good and the end was very exciting.

Oana says

Another gripping tale, with a twist I could have never seen coming, brought by the same absolute master of the romantic-suspense genre, making me happy since 1995. God, I love this lady! Though I didn't completely bought the premise (the one night stand turning into a healthy lasting relationship - which seems to be a close to the heart subject for Ms. Brown), I still loved this couple. But, concerning this sexual premise, I shall be quoting the ladies from *Sex and the City*: "Urban myth. Never happened."

Fatimah Alfareed says

It's Sandra Brown..

Judy says

For some reason it took me a couple of tries at this, but glad I did. It is a great mystery, and holds the reader in suspense. I like old movies; so the references to various films were especially interesting. Though we learn early on who the culprit is, there are still twists that keep one guessing. And who doesn't like an interesting love story.

Ingela says

Written July 25, 2015

4 Stars - Solid good quality suspense - I'm happy!

I just finished the 12:45 hrs audiobook edition of *Smash Cut* narrated by Victor Slezak.

A suspense filled with Hitchcock references

As so often with Sandra Brown's novels, a really well told suspense romance. Not her best book but without doubt "good enough" (...for very rainy Swedish summer days).

A well known millionaire is murdered in a hotel elevator:

« When millionaire *Paul Wheeler* is murdered, his family retains renowned lawyer **Derek Mitchell** to defend the victim's nephew *Creighton*— although the police have not charged the young man with the crime.

Wheeler's mistress, **Julie Rutledge**, who is also a suspect, believes that Creighton is the killer, despite his rock-solid alibi, and she'll do almost anything in her quest to prove his guilt—even ruin Derek's career. »

“In film, a **smash cut** is exactly what the term suggests: a technique where one scene cuts abruptly to another without transition, thus startling the viewer...”

Not much steamy romance maybe but a good creepy thrilling storyplot. If you are a movie fan will you love this one.

My ears were on high alert and sometimes was it so amazingly creeping (insinuating) scary that I just wanted to turn off and take a breath break. Ms. Brown is really a quite superb master at creating nasty cruel psychopath-like characters. (I want them dead... and buried...deep down) ~ You never know who of all characters that will survive to the end and it makes me so nervous.

There where a lot of interesting characters here and I like the light and funny feel (bantering) in the middle of the horror.

“Dodge, I'm going to tell you something.”

“Judging by your tone, you're going to have to kill me after. Frankly, I'd just as soon not known.”

“During the opening credits, he said, *‘We're in the back row. Want to just mess around instead?’*”

She looked across at him, and he grinned. "It's been hours, after all.”

“Half that time you've been furious with me.”

“Doesn't mean I don't want to jump your bones.”

Audiobook and narrator:

As always did *Victor Slezak* a phenomenal narrator job. He is still my #1 favorite SB audiobook voice. Simply perfect.

I LIKE - and I'm looking forward to the next one

◆ Anna's ?^?????g\$ ◆ says

4 STARS

Tim says

While the beginning and end are exciting, in between drags and lacks adequate editing. 6 of 10 stars

Tea Jovanovi? says

Good one, good story, binge read... :)

Solidan prevod... :)
