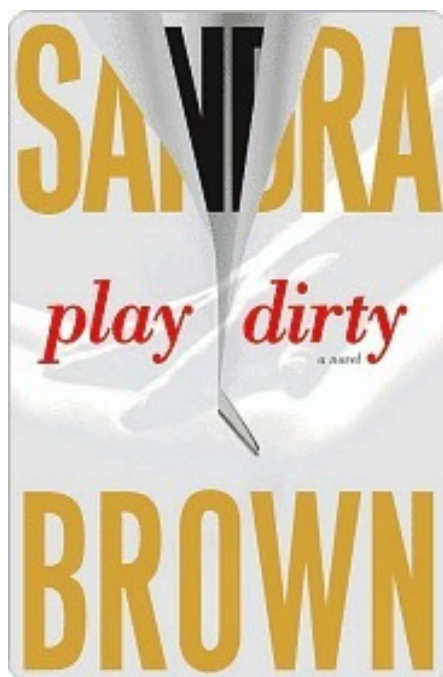




Play Dirty

Sandra Brown

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Play Dirty

Sandra Brown

Play Dirty Sandra Brown

#1 New York Times bestselling author Sandra Brown is back with a gripping story of obsession and its deadly consequences.

After five long years in federal prison, Griff Burkett is a free man. But the disgraced Cowboys quarterback can never return to life as he knew it before he was caught cheating. In a place where football is practically a religion, Griff committed a cardinal sin, and no one is forgiving.

Foster Speakman, owner and CEO of SunSouth Airlines, and his wife, Laura, are a golden couple. Successful and wealthy, they lived a charmed life before fate cruelly intervened and denied them the one thing they wanted most -- a child. It's said that money can't buy everything. But it can buy a disgraced football player fresh out of prison and out of prospects.

The job Griff agrees to do for the Speakmans demands secrecy. But he soon finds himself once again in the spotlight of suspicion. An unsolved murder comes back to haunt him in the form of his nemesis, Stanley Rodarte, who has made Griff's destruction his life's mission. While safeguarding his new enterprise, Griff must also protect those around him, especially Laura Speakman, from Rodarte's ruthlessness. Griff stands to gain the highest payoff he could ever imagine, but cashing in on it will require him to forfeit his only chance for redemption...and love.

Griff is now playing a high-stakes game, and at the final whistle, one player will be dead.

Play Dirty is Sandra Brown's wildest ride yet, with hairpin turns of plot all along the way. The clock is ticking down on a fallen football star, who lost everything because of the way he played the game. Now his future -- his life -- hinges on one last play.

Play Dirty Details

Date : Published (first published January 1st 2006)

ISBN :

Author : Sandra Brown

Format : Kindle Edition 418 pages

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



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From Reader Review Play Dirty for online ebook

Mei says

Sandra Brown's book are often a guarantee!

After several not so good books, finally a ood one!

I really enjoyed the twists and turns in the story! I loved how everything matched andhow the love story developed!

There's a plain villain (who I wanted to castrate!), the undecover villain (who I wanted to make tetraplegic!), the wronged hero (who I wanted to punch!) and the heroine (coereced by her love to act in a very improper way). WOW! What a mix!

Nobody is innocent here. Most of the characters are simply human (to the exception of the dirty cop!) with human weaknesses and failings.

What worked for me is how thirs actions and reactions drove the happenings here! Soooo good!

Fatimah Alfareed says

3.5 stars

Can't win 'em all I guess _(?)_/_

This was more of a romance than it was a mystery or a suspense book. Which would've been fine if I was in the mood for it, but I really wasn't.

I knew from the get-go that that guy was a complete and utter lunatic, so there went the Mystery.. out the window.

As for the suspense, there was some, but I couldn't help but to compare it other SB books, and in that regards, I found this one lacking.

(?)/__(?)_/__(?)_/__(?)_/__(?)_/_

♥Sharon♥ says

Play Dirty is another Sandra Brown winner for me. Honestly, I didn't expect to enjoy it as much as I did. I read the blurb, pieced a little bit together, and I wondered if this story was going to work for me. Well, she did it again. SB writes in such a way that she doesn't waste any time sucking you in and then as your turning the pages of each chapter she gives you these teasers that she so strategically strings you along with throughout the book. I must say she really has perfected that talent! :)

If you have read my other reviews for her books you know that they are pretty vague. I always worry that I am going to give away something that I shouldn't. Read through the blurb. SB gives you everything and only what you need to know.

Griff Burkett had life by the balls. But things began to spiral in a direction that left him condemned by the very people that looked up to him and who loved him. He had done the unthinkable and was paying the price.

Laura Speakman had a happy life. I guess, but maybe not really. A decision was made. Something happens. And life as she knew it changed. Moving on and coping wouldn't be easy.

What Griff, Laura and her husband Foster agreed to really wasn't an ideal situation for anyone involved but the end goal was beyond worth it for Laura and Foster. Griff was really ambiguous about everything. Secrecy was easy enough. It is the unexpected that would mess with him.

Things are often not what they seem. People aren't always who they appear to be. On the outside they appear one way and on the inside they are crumbling....cracking.

I'm not sure if I got my fill of sexy times in this one but what happens between Griff and Laura was different. It was sensual. It was emotional. (IMO)

There were the typical SB twists and turns. Things that happen in the last 40% will keep you on your toes. There was that asshole character too. Stanley Rodarte really got on my nerves. Gosh I really hated him.

I was hoping for one ending but got something different. I loved it though. Thinking about it now, it really was the perfect way to end it.

ElaineY says

After staying away from Sandra Brown the last few years, I was pleasantly surprised by Ricochet last year. So when my bookstore handed me Play Dirty, I decided to buy it, hoping that SB had returned to her previous sensual romances.

Well, I was wrong about the sensual romance. There is hardly any between the H&H so don't go buying this book expecting a good ol' Sandra Brown of old - the one who gave us the unforgettable Slow Heat in

Heaven, Where There's Smoke, etc.

Having said that, Play Dirty wasn't bad even if I missed the steamy romance. It IS suspenseful and fast-paced and Griff was a refreshing change from the typical romantic suspense hero. You know the one. He's totally alpha, is the expert at his profession and in control all the time. Not so with Griff. I have never wanted a book to end just so the hero could be put out of his misery. Griff's circumstances, from start to end, are such that I was groaning in sympathy and helplessness for him.

This is not to say SB's latest hero is a loser but he must have appeared jinxed to himself. Griff's character is well-developed and I was relieved, actually, for the lack of sex, considering the circumstances. The heroine did not fare so well in this book as it was very much Griff's story. As a result, Laura's character was underdeveloped and it was hard to sympathize with her. If SB had given me a chance to know her better, I would have been able to buy into Griff's falling for her. As it was, he hardly got the chance to know her and all the reader gets is a bit of background info on her relationship with her husband. All Griff and Laura had were a couple of sessions of sex-for-procreation and even though they do finally do it for pleasure, that does not for a Romance Novel make.

The solution to the possible problem posed by Griff to Laura's husband is so obvious the reader would be able to pre-empt it the minute Griff agreed to the plan. Despite this, the book is good enough to have kept me turning the pages wondering what would happen next and why. While I enjoyed the book as I was reading it, in hindsight it is not the type of story I would automatically buy within this genre. I still want a strong romance when I plunk down my money for a romantic suspense and Sandra Brown these days does not give me that. In my opinion, her books shouldn't be put under the Romantic Suspense category anymore.

Note: I had to put this book under Romantic Suspense even though I don't consider it a true romance but I don't read non-romantic suspense these days so no point creating a shelf for it.

Audrey Dry says

Creo que ha sido la primera vez que no he sabido cómo calificar un libro. La sensación la he sentido muchas veces, pero no como esta vez. Esta vez ha sido muy diferente.

Para empezar, voy a confesar que me encanta Sandra Brown, es una de mis autoras favoritas en este género de romance-suspense, y debo decir que nunca deja de sorprenderme. Sin embargo, en este libro me lo ha puesto muuuuy difícil.

La historia comienza con Griff saliendo de prisión. Un ex quaterback que cumplió condena por chantaje. Griff ha sido uno de los personajes que más me ha costado digerir. Al principio me caía mal, luego bien, luego mal y, menos mal, que en el final resultó caerme bien. Es un tipo con mucho carácter, el cual no controla. Es volátil. Al principio no llegaba a comprenderlo, luego tampoco. Las únicas veces que me caía bien era cuando demostraba algo de cordura y simpatía. (Bueno también me cayó bien cuando en un capítulo iba vestido con un polo, vaqueros y botas vaqueras. No sé quién en su sano juicio se viste así. ¿Vas a jugar al golf o hacer el camino del Rocío? Pensé que si lo volvían a meter en prisión, se lo tenía merecido por alterar el orden público XD. Lo siento, pero tenía que decir algo al respecto).

Por otra parte, Laura ha resultado ser agradable todo el tiempo. Su sufrimiento y silencio me ha parecido doloroso, aunque tampoco es que en el libro se profundice mucho en el sentido psicológico.

El marido, Foster... No sé qué pensar de este personaje, pero sí sé lo que voy a decir. En la sinopsis dice que es un excéntrico millonario. De acuerdo, voy a obviar la parte de "millonario" y voy a centrarme en "excéntrico". Este personaje padece un TOC, y que yo sepa, padecer algo así no te hace ser excéntrico. Loco no está, seamos claros, lo que tiene es mala leche. Una cosa es tener un TOC de perfeccionamiento o lavarte las manos cada x tiempo, y otra diferente es ofrecer a tu mujer para tener un hijo concebido de forma natural como si fuera un sacrificio. WTF. Entiendo el motivo por el que ella accedió, pero el TOC no tiene nada que ver para actuar de una forma tan cruel.

Otra cosa que me llamó la atención fue que al parecer su empresa tuvo éxito gracias a su TOC. Ya ... Seamos honesto, su fama y capacidad empresarial no tiene nada que ver. Llegó lejos porque sabía hacer las cosas, no porque sentía la necesidad de hacerlo perfecto. ¿Por qué digo esto? Muy simple. Las personas con este trastorno se encierran en su propia perfección, que puede ser correcta y lógica para los demás o no serlo. Casi siempre NO lo es. Se encierran en bucles que no tienen sentido dentro de la normalidad, pero sí dentro de su cabeza. Este personaje tiene un TOC del perfeccionamiento, que bien no podía ser lógico para los demás (de hecho, no lo era), así que no se puede adjudicar que el TOC le haya dado fuerza empresarial. Honestamente, es imposible. Es millonario porque tiene capacidad emprendedora, no porque tenga que hacerlo como su TOC indica.

Otro punto negativo, honestamente me ha parecido horrible, es que hay un personaje que es de El Salvador. Digamos que en cierta parte del libro se hace cierto comentario sobre más allá de la frontera. No sé cómo era el comentario exacto porque no marqué la página, pero era algo así como "se va de vuelta a la selva". No suelo ser una persona sensible ni suspicaz, pero ese comentario está fuera de lugar. ¿Qué pasa, que más allá de la frontera es la selva y la parte de arriba es el mundo civilizado? Me pareció muy fuerte, e incluso racista. Independientemente de cómo estén las cosas en un país (y ningún país es perfecto), las personas son personas, y no animales salvajes que viven en un jungla. Fue una línea muy desafortunada.

Ahora voy a hablar de la parte que sí me ha gustado.

La relación de Laura y Griff ha sido extraña, porque a pesar de que en la primera mitad apenas tienen escenas en común, luego se vuelve dulce. Las primeras relaciones íntimas que mantienen son duras por la situación en la que se encuentran. Sin embargo, la primera relación que mantienen de verdad es muy sexy. En la segunda mitad de la novela su relación es más estable, aunque en ciertos puntos Griff me caía un poco así así.

La historia en general es muy entretenida, y es algo muy positivo. Me ha gustado desde el primer momento a pesar de los puntos que no me han agradado o no he comprendido. Mantiene el suspense y desarrolla bien lo que piensa cada personaje. En resumen es un libro que he disfrutado, y aunque me he debatido entre darle 3 estrellas o 4, al final he optado por 4 porque ha cumplido su función, que es entretenerme.

Mo says

Read the blurb for this one and said to myself.... "Who is going to read that silly book?" Put it out of my head. Have been on a bit of a SB marathon and sort of wanted to keep reading her books. Saw some friends had given this one 5 stars so decided to take the plunge. I loved it.

After five long years in federal prison, Griff Burkett is a free man. But the disgraced Cowboys quarterback can never return to life as he knew it before he was caught cheating. In a place where football is practically a religion, Griff committed a cardinal sin, and no one is forgiving.

Enter stage left, Foster Speakman, owner and CEO of SunSouth Airlines, and his wife, Laura. They have a proposition for Griff and, as he is down on his luck with little money and no job prospects, he accepts.

**He was bored.
And possibly for the first time in his life, lonely.**

"I'd say 'Fuck you, lady', but I already did."

He wasn't as much of an alpha asshole as some of her other heroes. His childhood had been tough. He felt unworthy of love, I thought.

Time. It had become his enemy.

There was no time to get bored with this one. It seemed to be full on, all the way.

"He stuffed his shirttail into his jeans as though he was furious at it. He buttoned up his fly with dispatch, but his belt buckle presented a challenge. When he finally managed it, he slapped it lightly into place and turned to face her. 'Why did you lie to me?'"

He felt an expanding pressure inside his chest. He'd never felt anything like it before, so he couldn't put a name on it.

My review might be a bit vague but I think you are better off going into a SB book without knowing a lot about it.

**When he came, so did she.
And it was crashing.**

Fani *loves angst* says

Oh my, this was great! It's a 500 pages book and I read it in less than 3 days because I couldn't put it down. The action was non-stop, the hero gorgeous with a traumatic past to wake up the maternal instinct in me and there were no unnecessary descriptions or deviations to drag you away from the plot. I loved that the plot started right away with the couple suggesting to the hero to father their baby, and I did not have to wait for introductions to the protagonists and their history before starting with the main story. I have to mention my only pet peeve, that the romance was very limited; this was mainly a suspense book with just a touch of romance to appeal to the female readers. Despite buying it for the romance as well as the suspense however, I did not regret it since I enjoyed it anyway. Highly recommended for readers looking for adventure and suspense; readers interested only in romance might have to skip it.

Edit: Upgraded to 5 stars on second read. I really love Griff and compared to a couple other Romantic Suspenses I read recently, this one's much better even in the romance department. One problem I still have with it though, is that I could not feel Laura's love for Griff; Brown didn't convince me it was anything more than lust and some affection. And I wouldn't place my hand on fire about Griff's love for her, even though it seems more likely than hers for him. But I do believe that they have a chance in love after all, so I'm ok with it.

◆ Anna's ?^?????g\$ ◆ says

[A billionaire in a wheelchair pays a fallen athlete to get his wife pregnant. In *au naturel* way.

Sex with a cheating license.

The wife loves her husband. The athlete feel

Sandra ~ ♥ Cross My Heart ♥ says

Another addictive read - a masterful job of manipulation of characters and plot. No one does it better. While I picked up on one character's deceit, there were still some surprises to be had. Intense & heart-racing action from cover to cover. A Must Read!

Jacqueline says

I couldn't put this book down. I really liked it mostly I think because Griff was such a flawed person. I liked that he went bad after having been given such a new start on life with his high school coach. So many novels have them all turned around and on the straight and narrow never to stray again. I get tired of shiny perfect heros all the time. The only thing that bothered me is that he didn't seriously look for a job after getting out of prison. He basically talked to one guy about a job. I'd have liked it better if he had beat the bushes a bit and tried sooner to straighten himself out and get an honest job. But I guess the point was, he was always looking for the easy money. Still I do like my flawed characters to grow and learn and he really didn't do that

until the very end.

Still it was a page turner. Griff was a wonderfully drawn character and made the entire book. I choked up a couple of times.

Ingela says

Written March 21, 2015

4 1/2 Stars - Stunning thrilling crime drama (with a nice romantic twist)

I was really impressed by my first Sandra Brown novel (Envy - 4.7 stars) just some week ago. When I saw this 13:40 hrs audiobook for *Audible* sale (\$6.95) I couldn't resist. Even this time narrated by the amazing fantastic Victor Slezak. Just he alone is worth all those hours and \$\$\$.

• • •

Wow! I liked a "SB" incredible much...again

Quite scary, fast paced, heartbreaking exciting. All the time with a high quality well-thought-out plot. I couldn't guess the journey to the end even if I tried.

If you like me enjoy crime novels as well as romances is this yet another one I dare to recommend you.

Play Dirty is set in a present times *Dallas, U.S.*

It is most of all the story about the disgraced 'Cowboys' football quarterback **Griff Burkett** who at last is a free man after some hard long years in federal prison.

Free but a lonely man without future or any friends

Five years ago was Griff caught cheating, a cardinal sin. A sin no one is forgiving. Not even all these years later. He might have been the lucky goodlooking blond footballs star. That's all forgotten now. Without money, job, friends, relatives or a clue how to start a 'life' again is it quite hopeless. — But maybe is there a possibility? — This adventure starts when Griff gets an odd proposal to make a rich mans wife pregnant. Is it for real? And all those dollars.

Foster Speakman, owner and CEO of *SunSouth Airlines*, and his wife, **Laura Speakman**, are (or at least was) a golden couple. Two successful, ambitions driven, business associates who later became a beautiful enviable married couple. Then a horrible accident in ways changed their wonderful love-filled life and they can no longer get what they (both?) want most of all; their own baby kid.

These characters aren't always easy to like and take to your heart. They surely have lacks and less good sides. This isn't in any way a sweet romantic pink Barbie fairy tale world. Far from lovely sugary smexy moments to start with.

I have to admit that I didn't even like any of them that much in the beginning, but they 'grows' on you. My heart kind of pained for Griff's bad luck, dumb decisions and, at least to start with, quite egotistic and incomprehensible remarkable actions and life-choices. Not just Griff's, the Speakman couple's as well. ~ But this is so wittily and cleverly done so not until half through the book, if even then, was I absolutely sure who to really care for and not.

There were some really nasty, cruel situations here. Sometimes when this ugly 'Enemy Number One' (view spoiler) was around (I don't want to spoil more) wasn't I far from cover my ears and drop my earphones. I'm not exaggerating if I say that it was a good deal of exhausting scary moments. Like in horror movies are usually an elaborate malicious threat (from a scary villian) much more frightening than an bloody act or hard fight. Nail-biting...

Good stories should never be spoiled or revealed, and in that was be destroyed for others, too much. Especially not if it's a crime / suspense story with a very nicely done and clever intrigue. So this may be enough for now.

I already like Ms Brown's style so much but I must warn you, *Play Dirty* is not the usual kind of sweet romance I most often read. More a crime fiction with an added romantic love-story (and a few very sweet moments), than a sweet steamy romance book. ~ But 'hey - high five' so freaking well done. And grand romantic...

[More than one time under these thirteen (quick) listening hours, did I congratulate myself for my good choice in audiobooks.]

And the end? Will you get a nice 'romances' HEA?

Don't worry, there is a good satisfying end here and I left "them" in a good (view spoiler) place.

Okay now is it two. — There are tons of Sandra Brown books to choose between. So my dear GR friends: *Please recommend me your favorite SB books.* Which should I start with?

I LIKE - terribly exciting well-made novels

A 'Favorite Sandra Brown Novels' list to check out here on GR.

Amy (Foxy) says

It's that time of the year again → the **SUPER BOWL!!!** Play Dirty was my pick for a football book to get ready for the game on Sunday.

Griff is the former Dallas Cowboy quarterback who has just been released from prison. He did 5 years for his *dirty playing* on the football field. He was being paid to throw games. We meet Griff on his release day from prison. Unfortunately, the city of Dallas has not forgotten how Griff disgraced himself and *America's Team*.

Right away the plot takes off because Griff has been offered a secret business proposal from an affluent couple; the Speakmans. They own an airline and are highly regarded in the community. The business deal Mr. Speakman offers Griff is one that will assure that Griff will never have to worry about money again. BUT EVERYTHING MUST STAY BETWEEN THE THREE OF THEM. If anyone finds out about this deal Griff will no longer collect his yearly million dollars.

Legally the deal is legit but morally it leaves Griff questioning his self worth. At first the money appeals to him but as the task continues he is left feeling used.

A little over halfway through the story something happens that throws a huge wrench in this secret business deal. The suspense picks up and the reader is left wondering if Griff is guilty. All the evidence is stacking up against him. The author leaves the reader waiting for clues to figure out **WHO** and **WHY** they did it. Yes, it is resolved at the end of the story.

Mo has this way with her reviews that after I read them my interest is piqued. Since my romance genre reading didn't start until three years ago I've never heard of most of these established authors until I look to see what Mo's reading. Thanks, Mo, for always knowing what book to recommend to me.

STANDALONE

Oana says

Excellent pace, wonderful male character, believable villains, perfect dialogue and banter. Typical Sandra Brown, and one of her best, IMO.

And talk about a lolwut premise.

-y.a says

reread: br with Amanda:)

first read/2014

Griff is unlike any other heroes in SB novels I have read.

Is he a loser? Yes.

Is he an alpha? No.

Did he make bad decisions that changed his life for the worse? Yes.

Are MCs relatable ? No.

The romance? Unusual. No hearts and flowers.
Pace? Page-turner.

Surprisingly I really enjoyed reading this rather weird, a bit unrealistic story that hooked me from page one. The author placed Griff in such an ill-fated situation that I couldn't help but wholeheartedly root for him despite his many flaws. It is an interesting pick for fans of Sandra Brown.

Jane Stewart says

Subject did not appeal to me. It was not entertaining. It was unpleasant and depressing. I wanted it to be over.

S. Brown is a talented writer. I don't know what she was thinking when she chose this subject. Maybe she wanted to try something different. The only value I see is for athletes to learn from someone else's mistakes. The hero Griff is a pro quarterback. He makes stupid choices. He does stupid things. He goes to jail. Everyone (the public) hates Griff for what he did. An evil cop is stalking Griff throughout the book. The cop beats up Griff and anyone who is a friend to Griff. The cop's hatred of and power over Griff is depressing.

I can accept a flawed hero but I did not like the author misleading the reader by implying Griff was bad and later showing that he was not so bad. When some truths were revealed I was annoyed at the way the author had twisted things. See Spoiler 2 below.

I prefer stories told in a linear logical time line. I'm willing to accept some flashbacks, but this book is full of flashbacks and backstories. Examples: 1. A couple is going to have sex. The author then jumps to a future time. Later we hear what happened during that sex scene. 2. Griff has a meeting with someone. The author then jumps to a future time with Griff on the run from the cops. Later we get the backstory of what happened during that meeting causing Griff to be on the run. 3. Griff appears in someone's hotel room. Later we learn how he got past the security cops to get there. 4. And then we hear what he did to get away from the cops earlier in item 2. This method allowed the author to take short cuts in the telling. For example in item 4 she only told "a few of the things Griff did while on the run" instead of having us in his mind and seeing his actions while running.

The publisher's blurb says millionaire Foster hires Griff to impregnate his wife Laura. It says Griff quickly realizes he's been set up. I would not describe it that way. There is no complicated "set up." And it's not "quickly realizes." See Spoiler 1 below.

Don't read this for romance, although there is a hint of future romance at the end. I liked the happy ending for Griff.

NARRATOR:

The narrator Victor Slezak was excellent.

DATA:

Narrative mode: 3rd person. Unabridged audiobook length: 13 hrs and 43 mins. Swearing language: strong but rarely used. Sexual language: none. Number of sex scenes: 4, briefly told. Setting: current day Texas. Book copyright: 2007. Genre: mystery suspense thriller.

CAUTION SPOILERS:(view spoiler)

