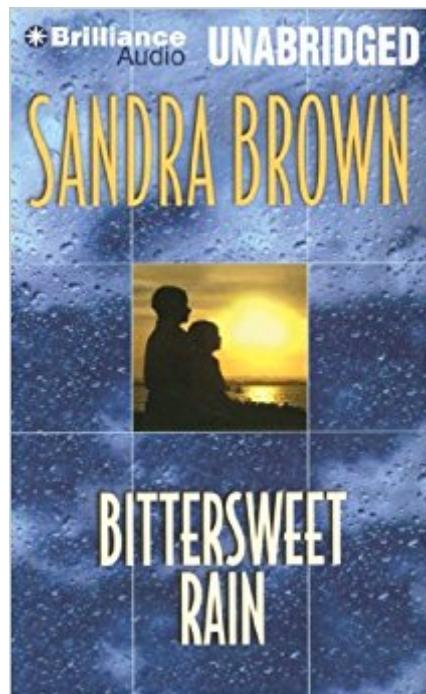


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# Bittersweet Rain



## **Synopsis**

Caroline Dawson survived the town gossips who whispered behind her back. She survived the slow death of her husband, Roscoe Lancaster, the richest man in the county and her senior by three decades. But she feared she might not survive Rink Lancaster, her husband's son. Years before she married, when she and Rink were teens, he had introduced Caroline to her first tremulous taste of love - and then broke her heart. Now Rink is back. He says he wants to settle his father's estate. But driven by a storm of emotions as undeniable as before and more dangerous than ever, what he really wants is to settle the score with Caroline.

## **Book Information**

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Best Sellers Rank: #3,602,791 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #91 in Books > Books on CD > Authors, A-Z > ( B ) > Brown, Sandra #3462 in Books > Books on CD > Romance #9722 in Books > Books on CD > Literature & Fiction > Unabridged

## **Customer Reviews**

Sandra Brown is the author of numerous New York Times bestsellers - including most recently Smash Cut, Smoke Screen, Play Dirty, Ricochet, Chill Factor, White Hot, Hello, Darkness, The Crush, and Envy. She is the recipient of the 2008 Thriller Master Award from International Thriller Writers, Inc. She and her husband live in Arlington, Texas.

Virile son and his young stepmother struggle with a blazing mutual passion under the nose of the disagreeable old father/husband. This plot line has long inspired great writers, including Racine and O'Neill. It now forms the plot line of BITTERSWEET RAIN, a melodramatic romance novel by a leading practitioner of the genre. The author pushes all the usual buttons despite her numerous intelligent solecisms. Joyce Bean narrates in kind. She has the perfect blend of personality and style for this material--safely middle class, adult but not overripe, with just enough intelligence and

technique, and no depth whatsoever. Y.R. © AudioFile 2005, Portland, Maine-- Copyright © AudioFile, Portland, Maine --This text refers to the Mass Market Paperback edition.

I've read more recent books by Sandra Brown and really liked them, so I thought I'd give this one a shot. Should have known better. First off, reading the scenes where the heroine, Caroline, is 15, made me feel like a pedophile. And we're supposed to think that some 22-year old guy who takes advantage of an obviously naive 15-year old is a good guy? Just because he oh-so-nobly decides to wait to have sex with her until he tells his dad about her, that makes it OK? Next, how can you have any sympathy or respect for a romantic heroine who flat out admits that she married a nasty, horrible man for wealth and status? She had a job, she was supporting herself fine. It's not like she was living on the streets and that was her only way out. Chalk up two in the ick factor. Finally, while it was much better handled than the rest of the story, the subplot involving a developmentally disabled girl and a much older Vietnam vet bothered me, probably because Brown was never consistent or detailed in explaining what the developmental disability was. And the descriptions of her actions were inconsistent as to her capabilities. The net result is, it feels a little creepy. And even though she does try to make it sweet, the first time the vet kisses her, he's feeling her up. Which again, makes it feel like she's taken advantage of. All in all, while I still really like Sandra Brown, I'm sticking to her books that were written in the last decade. I would also caution anyone against buying this on a Kindle, as the spelling and punctuation is awful, so that you have to go back and reread whole paragraphs just to figure out what it's supposed to say.

There is something about this book that makes me feel vaguely dirty every time I pick it up. The heroine is unlikable, weak, and a sort of disgusting gold-digger. The hero started his seduction of her when she was 15 and he was graduating college, ran off with another woman, and then returns full of vengeful anger at HER for marrying his father for the guy's money and his big house. Ew all around. He returns when his father is on his death bed, only to begin verbally abusing the heroine, practically molesting her before her husband (HIS FATHER) is actually dead, stomping all over her consent in just about every way in some sort of macho intimidation tactic (pushing his way into her room at night to "talk" to her, dictating where she goes, cornering her, grabbing her, etc.) Mix in some seriously shaky ground with the side-plot romance (between a Vietnam war vet and a mentally disabled 22 year old girl who's described as having the mind of a young child), and the whole book just makes me want to boil my Kindle to get the ick out.

the joy of falling in love for the first time is something you will remember for all of your life. of course the first time you feel your heart break, you'll always remember that too. this is probably the best book ive read dealing with both of those issues. sandra brown has the ability to bring the same sort of excitement to the reader that the characters are going thru as well as the let down. in bittersweet, we have two different love stories going on. the first dating back to childhood between caroline, the daughter of the town drunk, and rink, the son of the towns most wealthy family. the second, between laura jane, rinks sister, and steve, the hired hand. sparks fly between rink and caroline, mostly because of rinks dad, carolines HUSBAND! laura jane and steve are absolutely wonderful. i didnt want this book to end. ive read reviews where people say things like "they felt like friends that i had to say goodbye to when the book was over" but until this book, ive never really understood what that was like. this one is a keeper ::smile

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