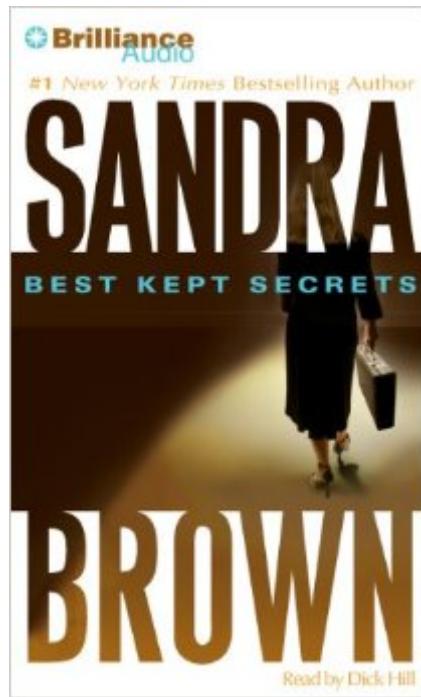


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# Best Kept Secrets



## **Synopsis**

Alexandra Gaither is an attorney who finally has the power to get the justice she needs. Twenty-five years before, her mother had died a scandalous death. Alex believes one of three powerful men murdered her. Each is charming, each is a suspect, and each tries to shield her from his past. But not one of them can stop her passionate search for the truth. Like her mother before her, Alex sparks controversy and excitement in this remote Texas town. Now, as she investigates her mother's former lover, his best friend, and the father figure to them both, she will risk everything to uncover their best kept secrets.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Alex (Alexandra) Gaither, an attorney out to find out who really killed her mother, travels to Purcell County to investigate three men, one of whom she feels killed Celina. She finds herself attracted to Reede, one of the suspects. Bad things happen and she is involved every time especially as her investigation finds her closer to the murderer. I'm not so disturbed about the 18 years difference in ages; she's 25 and two of the suspects (Reede & Junior) are 43. The other suspect is Junior's father. I had a problem accepting the fact that Reede and Junior were both involved with her mother Celina and now wanted Alex the daughter. One could easily have been her stepfather had Celina not died first. I also found that I was angry at Reede most of the time because he was plain nasty to Alex throughout most of the book. I couldn't stand it that he treated her with so much disrespect. He's actually a good guy (deep deep down) but his mean attitude stemmed from an overwhelming desire to avoid the daughter of the woman he loved that had now filled his thoughts. (At least he

acknowledges it's wrong). Junior, in my opinion would have been better for her in some ways as he was always kind to her, but he was such a 'Papa Pleaser'. Lastly, a few issues were never brought to justice and I'm not talking about the murder. Nevertheless, the ending caught me by surprise and the epilogue was good enough to merit the 4-1/2 star rating (Had it been available).

I'm normally a Sandra Brown fan but this is just TOO bad. How a supposedly intelligent young woman could ever find an oafish boor like Reede attractive is beyond me. Alex's mother had died a scandalous death in this small West Texas town 25 years previously and now she's back in her role of A.D.A. to reopen the case and discover her mother's murderer. The premise of the story is ok. but when the hero is portrayed as a man 18 years her senior who grabs her hand and places it on his crotch shortly after meeting her, the feeling of the book turns not to romance but to just plain lust and general nastiness. Could any woman find this behaviour appealing?

I don't know what bothered me more about this book. It could have been the fact that the lead character "fell" for the same man her mom did, or the fact that she was supposedly this strong woman who ended up looking anything but that as the story went on. I found myself getting more and more frustrated as the story went on for not walking away and throwing the book in the garbage. But, I got to a point where I was too far into it to give it up. This really was a pretty bad book. The characters were so superficial and you didn't know who to root for. The premise was a good one-Alex trying to find her mother's murderer, but there was no development to it, and the story could have been so much better than it was. A bad book, with bad characters and a very stupid plot. I need to find out what is wrong with me that I keep reading books by Sandra Brown. She is just not that good.

Reede, Junior, and Celina were always known around town as the three musketeers. As far back as anyone could remember, they were joined at the hip until Celina's untimely death. This murder was never solved, and 25 years later Alex Gaither has made it her mission to bring her mother's murderer to justice. She has been groomed for her current job as assistant district attorney her entire life being raised by her grandmother with the constant propaganda about how pure and good Celina was. After initial research, Alex has determined that there are only three people that could have committed the murder - Reede, Junior, or Junior's father Angus. She travels back to the small Texas town she was born in, and announces to the three of them that the guilty party is going down. Reede is the local Sheriff, and thus responsible for helping Alex as she reopens the

investigation into her mother's death. He reluctantly helps her, and gives her an ominous warning about how some things are better left in the past. As they work more closely together, Alex and Reede fight off the attraction they feel toward each other. She finds herself in a similar situation as her mother with both men becoming an important part of her life. When more of the townspeople become vocal about the life Celina lived, Alex starts to understand Reede's warning when unpleasant tidbits of her mother's life are revealed. Reede takes it upon himself to protect Alex when attempts are made on her life. Apparently someone does not want the killer exposed. I liked the story, but did have some ewwww moments when Reede and Junior made references about how they could have, and at some point wanted to be her father. Being involved with men her mother was involved with was uncomfortable reading at times during the story. Thank goodness Reede never slept with Celina because for me that would have been a deal breaker.

I finished the book because it was interesting enough I wanted to know who killed Alex's mother. But come on....a sheriff and the murdered woman's daughter who she thinks the sheriff may have killed having sex after just screaming and threatening each other! It was a constant theme. It was so far fetched I skipped many pages. Junior, the other main character stating he would been a great daddy to Alex if only her mother would have married him and then in the next sentence begging her to have sex with him!!!! This is the first time reading Sandra Brown and I won't pick up another book by this author.

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