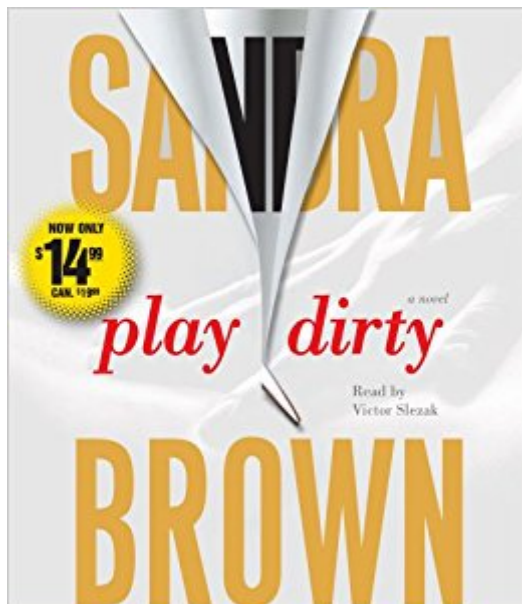


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# Play Dirty: A Novel



## Synopsis

#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.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The seven deadly sins help propel this provocative, sex-fueled thriller from bestseller Brown

(Ricochet). Foster Speakman, an eccentric Texas paraplegic millionaire, offers \$500,000 to Griff Burkett, a disgraced former NFL quarterback fresh out of prison after serving a five-year sentence for racketeering, to impregnate Foster's wife, Laura. Foster insists the child be conceived naturally (The way God intended). Broke with no prospects, Griff takes the job. Meanwhile, Stanley Rodarte, the crooked detective behind Griff's arrest, is bent on pinning an unsolved murder on him and takes to terrorizing Griff and those close to him in the hopes of nailing him when he self-destructs. After Griff's stint as stud takes a bad turn, the ex-footballer must track down the one man who can secure his freedom. The tension builds as lust, greed, pride, wrath and envy threaten to undo everyone in this tightly told tale of modern temptation. (Aug.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Sandra Brown is the author of sixty-eight New York Times bestsellers, including *Mean Streak*, *Deadline*, *Low Pressure*, and *Smoke Screen*. Brown began her writing career in 1981 and since then has published over seventy novels, most of which remain in print. Sandra and her husband, Michael Brown, live in Arlington, Texas. Victor Slezak's films include *The Siege*, *Just Cause*, *The Bridges of Madison County*, and *Beyond Rangoon*. On television, he appeared in PBS's *The Ponder Heart* (director Martha Coolidge), and HBO's *Path to War* (director John Frankenheimer). His Broadway performances include *Salome*, with Al Pacino, *Jackie: An American Life*, and *The Graduate*, opposite Kathleen Turner.

This is a review so there are \*spoilers\*. Another good book by Sandra Brown, a strong 4.5 stars. After spending 5 years in jail, former football player Griff Burkett was released from prison. He had been convicted of throwing a championship game to pay back a big gambling debt. He had no friends, family, or job opportunities. He was hated by everyone. He unexpectedly receives a call from Foster Speakman, a multi-millionaire offering him a job. You know the old saying "if it sounds too good to be true, it usually is", and it was. From there starts a fast past story which involves a 5 year murder, a death, and a dirty cop. All this makes a very good action thriller. Foster Speakman is found dead and Detective Rodarte is blaming Griff and is doing everything, legal or not, to chase him down. A fast pace hide and seek ensues with only Mrs. Speakman believing Griff. I'll not go into the job Mr. Speakman hired Griff to do, but you will find it very unusual and exciting. At least, I did. Griff is a very defined flawed hero. All the characters were necessary for the story and the bad guy was a scary vicious bully. The story flowed fast without any silly secondary story to distract the

reader. The action scenes made me feel like I was right there looking over my shoulder. Good job Ms. Brown. I highly recommend this book to anyone who likes mystery/thrillers. Good reading to all, retired to read

**\*\*Bestselling author Sandra Brown does not disappoint with this exciting novel "Play Dirty". It's a must read!.....With his five long years finally served, Griff Burkett vows never to go back to prison ever again...no matter what! There was time in his life that he had it all. During that time while being star quarterback for the Dallas Cowboys, the sport that he loved more than life itself. He did the unthinkable. He allowed money, women and all the luxuries in life go to his head, even to the point of getting involved with gangsters forcing him to throw the most important game of all. The game to get his team to the Super Bowl. Now he lives in disgrace from friends, his old teammates even the whole damn world. As he left the prison, he knew without a doubt that he had to find a job of any kind just to survive. That is why he was totally dumbfounded when he learned that one of the richest men in the world, Foster Speakman wanted to see him. Why would the owner and CEO of SunSouth Airlines want to see him? Once the introductions were made, Foster Speakman makes Griff an job offer of a lifetime. He wants Griff to impregnate his wife! In shock, he realized Speakman is nuts but when he first met Laura Speakman, he is at a loss for words. And so is she. With severe money problems, Griff finds himself accepting the job but deep down he was feeling lousy about it. However, meeting Laura every month to try to perform the deed wasn't easy for him because he was slowly falling in love. And even crazier, so was Laura. With a crooked and deadly cop on his heels, an unsolved murder surfacing, being blamed again for something he didn't do, threats made on his life including Laura's, this time Griff will fight for what's right for total redemption and most importantly, to protect the woman he loved!.....Sandra Brown at her finest!.....thank you**

Have loved everything from Sandra Brown thus far, and even liked this one till about 100 pages from the end...kinda predictable which made it very disappointing....if the ending had been different, this would have been Brown at her BEST, which this is not....:(

This book isn't as bad to me as it is to some others that left reviews. That's okay because we all have our own opinions and likes. I get the dislike for the two main characters but I liked Laura. I think she tried to do the right thing but her husband's mind was a bit twisted and she loved him so she went along with him. That's just my opinion. Now Griff on the other hand....I was not a fan of his

at all. I guess that was supposed to be the twist at the end that redeemed him but I'm sorry, it was not believable at all. Anyone that watches football would have known what happened on that play, not just 'Coach'. That's the part of the book that really irked me. to try to make it seem that nobody but Coach would have known.. I guess it irks me because I love football and am very knowledgeable about it. Oh and I can't stand the Cowboys..

I've been on a steady diet of Sandra Brown novels for the past few months, devouring each and every one. I was intrigued by the premise of this story. I'll admit, at first, I found the whole 'pay Griff to play stud' concept hard to buy into, and even a bit repugnant at times. But I knew that eventually it would all make sense, and there would be a logical (however twisted) explanation for it. Griff and Laura's third encounter was the turning point for them and me. Wow. The intensity of that moment was palpable. It was clear to see this was more than a job for Griff, and Laura wasn't simply a grudging participant anymore. Death, deception, and denunciation turn the lovers into fugitives. The heart-stopping action picks up and doesn't stop until the final pages. The subject matter of this book isn't for everyone, but for me it solidifies Sandra as one of the gutsiest, most gripping authors I've ever read!

Love that Sandra Brown. Where does she come up with her ideas? This was one based on something I had never encountered and brought up all kinds of considerations. Surprising story. Fast-paced. The ending was a little bit predictable, but then I was looking for a satisfying end and it came as expected. I'm a big fan of her writing.

A little too much sexual content for me. I love a good mystery but not excessive graphic violence or sexual content..

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