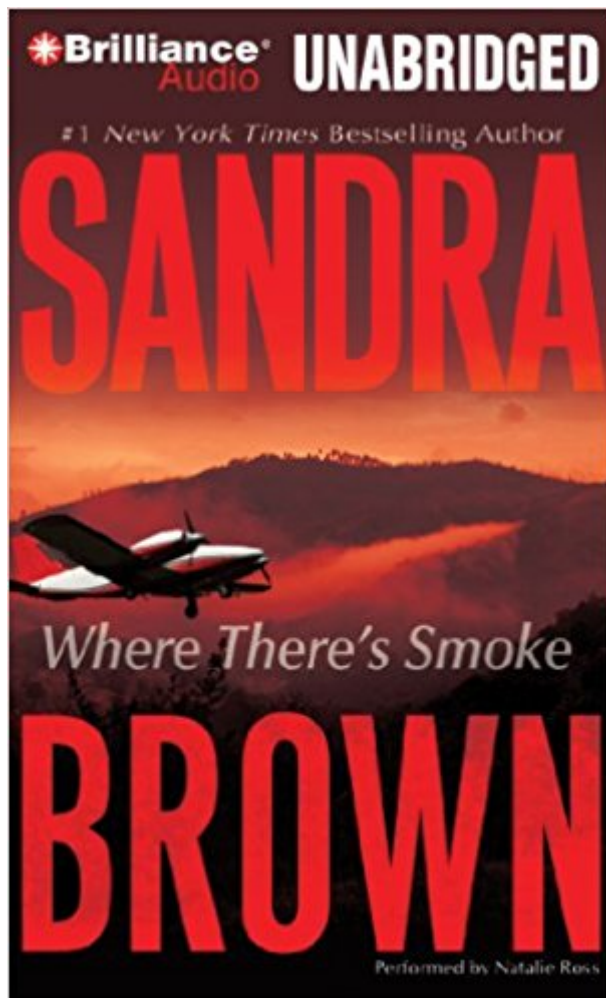




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# Where There's Smoke



## Synopsis

No one knows why Lara Mallory opens up her medical practice in the rowdy Texas town where Tackett Oil owns everything. But everyone remembers her role in the well-publicized scandal that caused the downfall of White House hopeful Senator Clark Tackett. Now the ironfisted matriarch of Tackett Oil intends to use her money and power to drive Lara out of town—especially when Lara meets Key, the hell-raising, youngest Tackett son. Before long, this determined woman doctor and brash, daring flyer find themselves hurtling on a soul-searing quest for the one secret that can destroy the Tackett empire, as rumors start flying that—Where There's Smoke

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Brown's fast-paced melodrama portrays a family oil empire in East Texas. Literary Guild main selection in cloth . Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

More frustrated passion, political scandal, and true Texas grit from Brown--this featuring the simmering love-hate bond between cool, beautiful Dr. Laura Mallory and the savage blue-eyed younger brother of the politician whose life she reputedly destroyed. The mystery is why Dr. Mallory set up practice in Eden Pass, Texas, in the first place. The focus of a national scandal when she was photographed years before being escorted in her nightgown from young Senator Clark Tackett's Virginia home by her husband, Ambassador Randall Porter, Mallory and Porter were summarily banished to the no-account Caribbean nation of Montesangre--where Porter and their

baby daughter were murdered in a rebel ambush, while Tackett drowned in a Texas fishing accident that may have been a suicide. Mallory returned to the States to find her professional name permanently sullied and, in desperation, accepted the modest doctor's home and office that a remorseful Tackett had deeded her in his tiny hometown of Eden Pass. Predictably, Mallory is shunned by a community ruled by Tackett's mother, Jody, the iron-willed widowed dowager of Tackett Oil and Gas. But the beautiful doctor accepts the situation, living meekly off her savings until Tackett's reckless, handsome younger brother, Key, returns from the Middle East. Then she goes to work to convince Key--who is, naturally, torn between loathing the good doctor and wanting to tear off her clothes--to fly her to Montesangre to locate the site of her daughter's grave. Murder, terror, dark hints of concealed homosexuality, and the shocking resurrection of husband Porter follow as the backdrop to Mallory and Key's romance ("I don't want to be one of Key Tackett's women." "Yes, you do. Tonight you do"), making for an unusually perilous and gruesome journey toward marriage and a house on the lake. More sophisticated than Brown's Texas! books, this mainstream romance could well expand her already enormous readership. (First printing of 250,000; Literary Guild Dual Selection for Spring) -- Copyright ©1993, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

\*Bestselling author Sandra Brown leaves us with another exciting romantic suspense as the master she is. A great read!.....After purposely getting shot by his current lover in order to cover up her own actions when her husband decided to return home unexpectedly, Key Tackett is not only furious but has a mind to go back and wring her neck. At the moment though, he knows he's in dire need of medical attention and his only thought is to go over to old Doc's house and get patched up, imagine his surprise though when beautiful Dr. Lara Mallory answers the door instead. At a loss for words, he allows her to treat him but now he must talk her out of calling the authorities. She explained having a gunshot wound it was the law to report it. With a wide grin he told her who he is and the old deputy sheriff wouldn't do a thing anyway. With a smile back, she decided not to call and will continue to treat him, but he continually hints that he would like to see her again and she lets him know only on a professional manner. When he is gone, Lara Mallory knows everything there is regarding the handsome Mr. Tackett and she has plans of her own. The next day Key is confronted by his mother, the notorious Jody Tackett who always let it be known about her love for her son Clark, never Key. With the Tackett's owning the Tackett Oil and Gas Company, everyone in town was terrified of Jody Tackett except for Key. He was known to be a total womanizer, drinker, and not a true believer of love. No such thing! Now face to face with Jody, she told him to stay away from

Dr. Lara Mallory on no uncertain terms. Why? Because she's the one that had an affair with his brother Clark and he was everything that his deceased brother wasn't but he still had to find out regardless of why his mother hated Lara so much. Why did she want him and his sister Janellen to hate her too? When Key's mind had gotten the best of him, he did the one thing he did best which was flying and he was great at it and even had his own plane. Now learning more about Dr. Mallory and the huge scandal involving his very own brother, he is livid. On his way over to confront the dear doctor, he is trying to remember the scandal involving Lara, Clark and her husband. Over what? An affair? Finding himself on her doorstep with an attitude to go with it, he is shocked by how much he is drawn to this woman and without him knowing, she feels the same way about him. She needs him for something and when she told him her outlandish idea, he is appalled. All the two of them can show is shared hatred for the other but eventually Key gives in to Lara. What is this plan or idea that Lara wants to Key to do? Did Lara really have an affair with Clark? Whatever happened to Lara's husband? And why did Clark will the medical practice to Lara? Most importantly, what is the true reason why Jody wants to drive Lara out of Eden Pass, Texas being their hometown? When Key gives into Lara and agreed to fly her to her destination, all his questions are soon answered. Everything! Now with their lives at stake and their fate in question by thinking he has feared the most in his life but, nothing could compare or prepare them both for the shocking and riveting spellbinding ending! .....Excellent read.....thank you

Sandra Brown can do!! I got really bogged down on some of the fighting with Jody and all and finally the trip to retrieve Lara's baby girl. I'm sure glad I did not put it down. What an action packed finish -- surprises like Clark & Randall; poor Heather & Tanner -- she really turned the table on Fergus & Darcy and poor Jody. I really got it wrong thought Janellen & Bowie were in the honeymoon suite in Eden Pass and there they were in Louisiana! Wow that was good. And finally, the way she finished with Lara & Key was just awesome. There was a lot of good old fashioned retribution. Just the way I like it. This was a "good read."

This was an entertaining read. The small town, one major employer setting was described well; there's the one powerful family that almost everyone is afraid to cross, there's the right side of the tracks residents and the white-trash wrong side of the tracks residents, there's the established southern Texan residents who know each other's entire family histories and the northern Yankee interloper who is treated with suspicion and shunned, and there's a charismatic good ol' boy hero and the appealing Yankee heroine. The author fleshes all of that out and brings the town and its

residents to life. Some of the characters were mean and nasty, some were slutty and some were average people just getting on with their lives. Their interactions with each other and with the heroine were what drove the plot and created the conflicts. I didn't feel that anything was overdone or over the top. Everything played out naturally and at a good, even pace. The reason I am giving this book four stars instead of five was because I didn't enjoy the plot line where the heroine and hero go out of the country to find her daughter's body. It didn't spoil the story and most people probably think it was a crucial element in the story. To me, it felt a bit awkward and briefly slowed the Texas part of the story; I thought the author could have found a different way to introduce another central character. There was language and graphic sex scenes in the book, as well as teenage heavy petting. It was all pretty mild, but those who don't like those elements should avoid this book. This was a nice story to relax with and pass the time. It engaged me and I liked several of the characters. Those I disliked were necessary to the plot and made enjoyable protagonists who livened up the story. The author's descriptions and dialogue brought the characters to life, making for a very entertaining read. I recommend this book to those who like romantic suspense books, with the emphasis on the romance. This wasn't Sandra Brown's best book, but it ranked up there as a very good one. I liked it enough that I bought the Kindle version to replace my paperback.

I would love to think I've become Sandra Brown's #1 fan, but I know I'm joined by many others. Loved this book. The twists and turns in the plot were interesting and kept me wondering what was really going to happen to Lara. Sandra has gotten better through the years and I would rank this as one at the top. My message for the author - your books are a wonderful escape into the worlds you create. To readers - treat each of her books as another world to be lost in.

Read this book a while ago, then loaned it out. I love books with an unexpected ending, so when I read this book, it didn't disappoint. She keeps the story flowing.

I would recommend if you like a little suspense, twists and turns, and rough, edgy hero's. The story was very good and had me up reading til all hours of the night. There was good deal of romance as well with a HEA. One of my favorite books of 's. Brown's, and I've read many. I would give a 5 star but it took me just a little bit to like the hero, but then I really did.

There were a number of twists and turns in the book that kept me hooked. Also, there were a number of characters developed which let you feel like you were looking at a slice of a town rather

than just two characters.

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