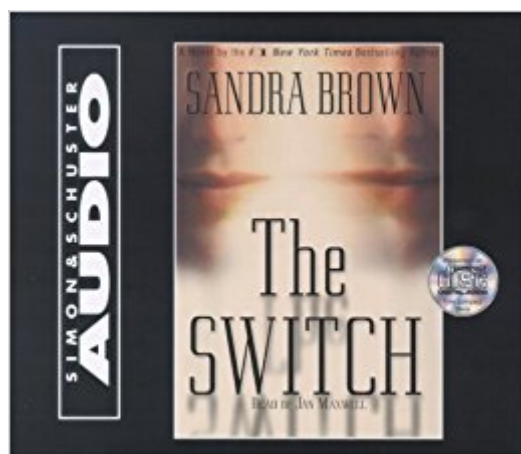


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# The Switch



## Synopsis

It isn't the first time that identical twins Gillian and Melina Lloyd have switched identities. Melina, the more impetuous twin, proposes that her circumspect sister take her place as a media escort to NASA astronaut and national hero Colonel Christopher "Chief" Heart. Although it's an enticing offer, Gillian declines for a very personal reason. Besides, she warns Melina, such a switch could have unexpected consequences. Media-savvy Chief turns out to be an easy assignment for Melina. But the following morning, police arrive at Melina's door with the worst possible news: her beloved twin has been murdered, and on the walls, scrawled in blood, are obscenities directed at Gillian, along with insults that indisputably link Chief to the crime. Dissatisfied with the official police investigation, Chief and Melina form a grudging alliance. Striking out on their own, they uncover more questions than answers, and are eventually led to the threshold of an inner sanctum, where a megalomaniac lies in wait for Gillian's replacement, her identical twin -- Melina. A story that reveals the powerful, almost mystical bond between twins -- bond that compels a woman to go to impossible lengths to avenge her sister, *The Switch* defies every prediction.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I have been a Sandra Brown fan from day one. Her romance novels have been some of the best I have ever read. Her early mainstream novels are better than her recent ones. If you read the inside flaps on the dust cover of "The Switch", you will basically know the story and the author does not stray far from the review. "The Switch" was a fair read but could have been so much better. For starters this book was too long! (469 pages) This story could have been told with 100 less pages.

There were few characters and the information relayed between them at times became repetitive. I did not find any surprises. The murderers are revealed at the time of the murders and the reader is aware of the diabolical plot and just tags along for the ride. By the time you are halfway through the book you should be able to figure out Melina's "dark secret". I questioned it at the very beginning. And spicy sex scenes? Ms. Brown just does not write them like she once did. In short I found this book to be an OK read although predictable and a bit long. If you want to read one of her better novels try *Charade* or *Exclusive*. *The Switch* seemed to have so much potential but did not deliver for me.

Gillian and Melina Loyd are identical twins, so it comes as no surprise to Gillian when Melina comes up with the idea of switching places for the night (the twins played the switching game as children, but never as adults), Gillian declines the offer to take her sister's place as a media escort for astronaut Christopher "Chief" Hart. Melina begs her sister, but lets the idea drop after Gillian explains that she underwent an artificial insemination procedure earlier that day. The following morning, Melina, is awakened to the terrible news of her sister being murdered... Demanding to see the crime scene, Melina, witnesses the blood and obscenities scrawled over Gillian's bedroom wall, the obscenities referring to "Chief" Hart. With Hart being the main suspect, the police endlessly question him, but after another twist in the case occurs, the police let Hart off the hook. The desire to find the killer, sends Hart and Melina on their own investigation, turning up more questions in this bizarre murder. As the two become deeper in the case they will find a trail of clues leading them to the clinic where the artificial insemination was performed. The pages turn FAST in "*The Switch*", the reader is kept glued to their chair uncovering secrets and cliffhangers in each chapter, as the novel roars along to the stunning conclusion. Sandra Brown has crafted another top-notch thriller that will immediately land on the bestseller list's. Nick Gonnella

Sandra Brown is one of the more skilled writers in the romantic suspense genre, capable of coming up with mysteries that keep you guessing until the last minute with more than a fair share of steamy sex scenes. While "*The Switch*" is much better than her last book "*The Alibi*", it still does not rank up there with "*The Witness*" or "*Exclusive*." The latter two books had genuine "gotcha" endings, that threw the reader unexpected curve. Anyone who has read a mystery involving twins and exchanged identities can probably guess how "*The Switch*" ends. That said, Brown's tale maintains suspense as Melina tries to figure out exactly what was the motive behind Gillian's murder, and who was responsible. Brown is also to be commended for creating a Native American leading man in Chief

and giving historical background on the past, current, and future struggles of the Native Americans. Their plight is treated with respect, and is successfully incorporated into the plot. The chemistry between Chief and Melina feels forced at times, and because of that the romance between the characters is not that convincing. The sex scenes, revealed mostly through flashbacks by Chief, is the only time when the two seemed connected and bonded. As some other readers have noted, the book is a little long and the plot suffers for it, making "The Switch" a chore to finish in some parts of the book. However, this is definitely one of Sandra Brown's better efforts and hopefully it indicates she is returning to the style of some of her more suspenseful and tightly paced novels.

I really enjoyed this book, as I have most of Sandra Brown's other books. This was a real page turner, and it kept my interest all the way through. The plot seems simple but just when I thought I had it all figured out, BAM, something else comes up I was not anticipating! It is a good, quickly moving story, and I did like it better than her last book, Standoff. (Probably because it was much longer and seemed to be a better storyline.) I have come to like Ms. Brown's novels better now that they are more than just steamy romances..I like the action she has incorporated in this book and others, like Witness, Fat Tuesday, Exclusive, and Alibi. If you liked those, you will enjoy this one, as well. Good job, Sandra Brown.

If I sat here all day, I couldn't begin tell you how much I enjoyed "The Switch". Being a fan of Sandra Brown's, I bought the book the day it hit the shelves as I always do with each of her titles as they are released. I was kind of expecting the typical 'twins switching places and getting into trouble' story, but what I got was sooo much more ! Ms. Brown has worked her magic on an old story and given it a brand-spankin-new-twist! It's the kind of mystery that keeps possible endings hanging in the back of your mind, just waiting for the most bizarre shocker to pop out. The ending of this book had me whooping for joy ! Outgoing Melina and reserved Gillian know each other better than they know themselves and when Gillian is brutally murdered after taking a life-altering risk (by being artificially inseminated), you can almost feel the anger and the loss her twin feels at the life that's been so cruelly wasted. When her sister informs the police that, just the night before, the women had switched places so that Gillian (impersonating her media escort sister) could meet astronaut Christopher 'Cheif' Hart, things begin to get a little jumbled. But Sandra Brown only manages to weave the web tighter. After only two chapters, you'll be frantically turning pages trying to guess what's coming, and solve the mystery. This is definately a book to invest on in hardcover. Don't wait for the paperback version. Get it today, and enjoy it.

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