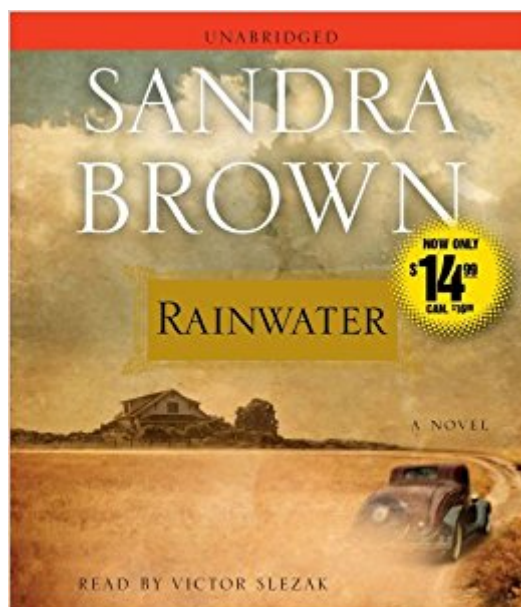


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# Rainwater



## Synopsis

#1 New York Times bestselling author Sandra Brown's *Rainwater*, a tender historical novel set in Great Depression-era Texas, is now available unabridged for only \$14.99. The year is 1934. With the country in the stranglehold of drought and economic depression, Ella Barron runs her Texas boardinghouse with an efficiency that ensures her life will be kept in balance. She also cares for her ten-year-old son, Solly, a sweet but challenging child whose misunderstood behavior finds Ella on the receiving end of pity, derision, and suspicion. David Rainwater arrives at the house looking for lodging but Ella senses that admitting him will bring about unsettling changes. However, times are hard, so Mr. Rainwater moves in and impacts her life in ways Ella could never have foreseen. The changes are echoed by the turbulence beyond the house walls. Friends and neighbors now face financial ruin and in an effort to save their families from homelessness and hunger, are forced to make heart-rending choices. The climate of desperation creates a fertile atmosphere for racial tensions and social unrest. Conrad Ellis, a privileged and spoiled and Ella's nemesis since childhood, steps into this arena of teeming hostility to exact his vengeance and demonstrate the extent of his blind hatred and unlimited cruelty. He and his gang of hoodlums come to embody the rule of law, and no one in Gilead, Texas, is safe. Particularly Ella and Solly. In this hotbed of uncertainty, Ella finds Mr. Rainwater a calming presence. Slowly, she begins to rely on his soft-spokenness, his restraint, and the steely resolve of his convictions. And on the hottest, most violent night of the summer, those principles will be put to the ultimate test.

## Book Information

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Best Sellers Rank: #1,311,301 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #22 in Books > Books on CD > Authors, A-Z > ( B ) > Brown, Sandra #786 in Books > Books on CD > Romance #2331 in Books > Books on CD > Literature & Fiction > Unabridged

## Customer Reviews

Starred Review. Bestseller Brown (Smash Cut) brings Depression-era Texas to vivid life in this poignant short novel. At the recommendation of Dr. Murdy Kincaid, Ella Barron, a hardworking woman whose husband deserted her, accepts David Rainwater, a relative of the doctor's, as a lodger at the boarding house she runs in the small town of Gilead, Tex. As the local community contends with a government program to shoot livestock and the opposition of racist Conrad Ellis, a greedy meatpacker, to poor families butchering the meat, Ella grows closer to David. Meanwhile, David becomes a special guardian angel to Solly, Ella's nine-year-old autistic son. Dr. Kincaid has gently suggested Ella put Solly in an institution, but she refuses to do so. Brown skillfully charts the progress of Ella and David's quiet romance, while a contemporary frame adds a neat twist to this heartwarming but never cloying historical. (Nov.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Mass Market Paperback edition.

Brown, a master of contemporary romantic suspense, makes a huge genre leap in her latest novel. Radically switching gears, she sets this gentle tale in Depression-era Texas. The historical setting is not her only departure from her tried-and-true formula; this bittersweet morality play also features a hardworking single mother, an autistic child, and a mysterious boarder with a terminal medical condition. The moment Ella Barron agrees to let a room to David Rainwater, her hardscrabble circumstances are irrevocably altered. As the townspeople, farmers, and ranchers struggle both economically and spiritually, a malevolent evil in the form of a menacing town bully threatens their tenuous hold on survival. Though initially suspicious of Mr. Rainwater, Ella falls passionately in love with a man she knows is doomed. When he makes the ultimate sacrifice to save her misunderstood son, he leaves behind a precious final gift and a lasting legacy of grace and compassion. Though Brown fans may initially balk, many will be irresistibly drawn in by this mesmerizing little fable.

--Margaret Flanagan --This text refers to the Mass Market Paperback edition.

One of the best books I've read in a long time. The characters were beautifully brought to life with the description of their physical and spiritual essence. The story took so many different twist and turns that I couldn't put it down. Literally right up until the last page. It was a great read and I would highly recommend it

I loved how this story unfolded, with the opening acting like someone telling a story, without it seeming like one. I felt as if I was in the time period, where I rooted for the townspeople, and

frustrated at the injustices committed. The ending was what made me really love the book. I, highly, recommend reading this!

Good Old Fashioned Storytelling at it's Finest. Very simply, but very well written. Flows well, is a great story, and you don't want to put it down . . . and then don't want it to end. I love the writing technique. A departure from Ms. Brown's usual fare, but very welcome. Don't pass this one up! You won't be sorry.

Beautiful love story! It is one of the best novels I have ever read. The characters are beautifully drawn, the plot is seamless, the writing is excellent. I was fascinated by the historical turbulence of the times in which these characters lived. I didn't want the book to end.

I loved this book. Her characters were so spot on. The two sisters reminded me of my grandmother and her sister. I fell in love with Mr. Rainwater myself. And I know the town bully and the crooked sheriff. This book was a whole lot like the small West Texas town where I was raised. It's haunting and has stayed with me.

Over years of enduring boring historical novel tomes, slash and crash tough guy former SEAL et al Chuck Norris type tripe and slogging through cop stories, eventually each genre begins to sound the same...because they ARE the same! Now comes a writer who moves out of her comfort zone of cop stories to write something of value and thoroughly entertaining. Rainwater has depth, emotion, action, romance and an awakening to a (then) unknown childhood problem: Autism. Set in Depression Era Texas (Ms. Brown calls the town Gilead, but from other references to the region, it would seem the town is actually Goliad. Don't know why she wouldn't use the real name.), readers are transported back to the hard times of rural living, bigotry, lynching, arson, and the ever present redneck mentality as fostered by one of the characters who is a member of the town's more well off families. This isn't a cop story. It isn't a story about a former something macho guy who cleans out the town single handedly. It isn't a story whose dialog is made up mostly of variations of the F word (a sure sign that a writer has little talent). It's a beautiful story, a moving story, a story of love, hate and other emotions in a town where times are hard and people are struggling. Some have likened it to Grapes of Wrath...the era yes, but otherwise not quite (Grapes of Wrath was sorely off base geographically as far as its Oklahoma locale and where the so-called Dust Bowl impacted. Don't think Steinbeck ever visited the state.) If you're tired of the same old themes, read Rainwater. Yes,

it's emotional. Yes, it's sad. Yes, it's haunting. And yes it's a good read!

Not a Nobel Prize read but a good story with carefully developed characters and the sadness of finding the right one but with a cruel twist.

And heartwarming. This book gave me tears. Awesome story and surprise ending that I never saw coming. Well done. I highly recommend it.

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