



## Tough Customer: A Novel

By Sandra Brown

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### Tough Customer: A Novel By Sandra Brown

When a hardened cop turned Private Investigator gets a call about a woman he hasn't seen in thirty years, he must race to Texas to stop the stalker terrorizing her. A blistering new thriller from the bestselling author of *Smash Cut*.

Colleagues, friends, and lovers know Dodge Hanley as a private investigator who doesn't let rules get in his way—in his private life as well as his professional one. If he breaks a heart, or bends the law in order to catch a criminal, he does so without hesitation or apology.

That's why he's the first person Caroline King—who after a thirty-year separation continues to haunt his dreams—asks for help when a deranged stalker attempts to murder their daughter...the daughter Dodge has never met. He has a whole bagful of grudging excuses for wishing to ignore Caroline's call, and one compelling reason to drop everything and fly down to Texas: guilt.

Dodge's mind may be a haze of disturbing memories and bad decisions, but he arrives in Houston knowing with perfect clarity that his daughter, Berry, is in danger. She has become the object of desire of a coworker, a madman, and genius with a penchant for puzzles and games who has spent the past year making Berry's life hell, and who now has vowed to kill her.

Dodge joins forces with local deputy sheriff Ski Nyland, but the alarming situation goes from bad to worse when the stalker begins to claim other victims and leaves an ominous trail of clues as he lethally works his way toward Berry. Sensing the killer drawing nearer, Dodge, who's survived vicious criminals and his own self-destructive impulses, realizes that this time he's in for the fight of his life.

From acclaimed bestselling author Sandra Brown, *Tough Customer* is a heart-pounding tale about obsession and murder, the fragile nature of relationships, and, possibly, second chances.

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### Editorial Review

From [Booklist](#)

Brown's latest thriller reintroduces a character from her previous outing, *Smash Cut* (2009): Dodge Hanley, a grizzled investigator who used to be a cop. Dodge is awakened one morning by a call from Caroline King, a woman he hasn't seen in 30 years—since the day their daughter, Berry, was born. Now Berry is the target of a frightening stalker who has just broken into Caroline's house and shot Berry's coworker, Ben Lofland. Dodge reluctantly agrees to travel from Atlanta to Texas to help the police hunt down Berry's tormentor, the vengeful Oren Starks. The police deputy on the case, Ski Nyland, is suspicious of Berry and convinced she is hiding something. As Dodge works with Ski to track Oren, his feelings for Caroline resurface, and he recalls how they first met—and the reason their torrid relationship came to an end. Though a late-in-the-game twist seems somewhat farfetched, the draw here is the appealing Dodge, a character Brown fans will have no problem rooting for. --Kristine Huntley

### Review

Praise for Sandra Brown -- : 'It's a great, entertaining read, with lots of surprising twists and turns, credibly flawed characters and a love affair that's as steamy as a Savannah summer.' -- Lisa Scottoline, Washington Post on *RICOCHET* 'A masterful storyteller, carefully crafting tales that keep readers on the edge of their seats' -- USA Today 'Perfectly plotted' -- People Magazine 'An edge-of-seat thriller that's full of twists ... Top stuff!' -- Star 'Fast fun' -- Cosmopolitan 'Millions of readers clamour for the compelling novels of Sandra Brown. And no wonder! She fires your imagination with irresistible characters, unexpected plot twists, scandalous secrets ... so electric you feel the zing' -- Literary Guild

### About the Author

Sandra Brown is the author of sixty-seven *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.

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