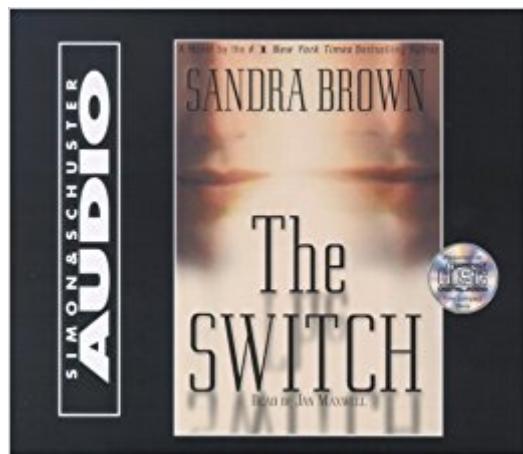


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# The Switch



## 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

Identical twins are fair game for a thriller writer, and in *The Switch*, queen of suspense Sandra Brown (*The Alibi*, *Standoff*, *Fat Tuesday*) makes the most of an intricate setup involving Gillian and Melina Lloyd, a pair of thirtysomething Dallas beauties. When Gillian hears her biological clock ticking, she puts herself in the hands of the world-famous Waters Clinic and is artificially inseminated (as described in a somewhat plodding first chapter that omits no detail of the

procedure). The action picks up when Gillian switches places with her twin, a media escort, and chauffeurs sexy astronaut Chief Hart around town. It turns out to be a fatal attraction, and suspicion falls on Chief when Gillian's mutilated body is found the next day. The dead woman's smarmy and enigmatic boyfriend, Jem Hennings, has a vested interest in focusing police efforts on Hart, but Melina has her own reasons for thinking him wrong. Jem's connection with a charismatic preacher known as Brother Gabriel is at the heart of this mildly creepy mystery, in which the plucky Melina tracks Brother Gabriel to his lair and uncovers his diabolical plot while simultaneously revealing her own dark secret. The ending is telegraphed well in advance, but that won't deter Brown's many fans from relishing the details, including some sex scenes that are spicier than most of the florid prose that usually turns up in romantic thrillers of this sort. But that may be why the author inevitably rockets to the top of the bestseller list, where *The Switch* is destined to land. --Jane Adams --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

With some 60 novels, including 40-plus bestsellers already to her credit, it seems a sure bet that this new romantic thriller will not blemish Brown's phenomenal track record. On a whim, the same day she is artificially inseminated at a Dallas fertility clinic, Gillian Lloyd switches places with her identical twin sister, Melina, a professional celebrity escort assigned to chauffeur astronaut Col. Christopher Hart (or "Chief," as he is called by his NASA cohorts because his mother was a Native American). It's lust at first sight. Swept away by Chief, Gillian is caught up in a marathon frenzy of lovemaking in his hotel room. Slipping out in the wee hours of the night, she is found brutally butchered in her own bed the next morning. From an obscene blood-smeared scrawl on the bedroom wall, her sister realizes that the killing was related to Gillian's love tryst with the astronaut. Hours later, the killer, an employee at the fertility clinic, commits suicide. The resulting investigation connects him to Brother Gabriel, the charismatic, egomaniacal leader of a powerful TV religious cult who is mysteriously linked in turn to artificial insemination clinics nationwide. Determined to avenge Gillian's murder, Melina and Chief become the targets of professional assassins masquerading as FBI agents. Potential witnesses are murdered as the trail eventually leads the pair (now fighting to keep their hands off each other) cross-country to Brother Gabriel's mountain stronghold in the remote reaches of New Mexico. Displaying her talents for fast pacing and tricky plotting, Brown delivers one of her patented twists in the denouement, setting the scene for a breathy, rose-colored climax. 700,000 first printing; major ad/promo. Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

This is a must read! Page-turning, edge of seat thriller that is always 2 steps ahead of any conclusion you may come up with. Furthermore, the research put in and facts about Native Americans were informative and positive. For once, they weren't depicted as savages and some of their skills were highlighted and enlightened me to their history and their plight. Loved this book! Love this author! This is why I will continue to rely on true authors who put in work to artistically convey reality and captivate me with their poignant penmanship and unique stories. To escape reality to another reality is what Sandra Brown does for me. Thank you Sandra!

Good story. Lots of twists and turns. Love her books always keeps you guessing about the ending which is something I love.

And this was definitely a WOW of a story. When I rate 5 you can be sure it's a 5! Great story, didn't want to give it up for a moment! A little confusing at the start, but then I was hooked and couldn't stop reading. My 2nd Sandra Brown book and looking for another!

I didn't need the details of the love-making....too explicit. Enjoyed the description of Chief, and the unexpected ending on the Indian territory. Unlikely to ever find twins so perfectly i.d. was the most unbelievable, and to imagine that there could be such an egomaniac as the evangelist was beyond expectation. The story was definitely inventive, and was not predictable, but you always suspected clarification would show up sooner, who was the dead girl. It was a surprise... because I live near Dallas, I enjoyed some of the references.

Never disappointed! If your a fan you'll be delighted, if a first of Brown you'll be hooked! The switch was a page turner wow!

Wow! What s great read. Lots of twist and turns. Anyone who enjoys Sandra Brown's books will love this one. Shell really knows how to hold your Interest. Quite a story seller!

It was easy reading and had a nice flow to the story. I usually like Sandra Brown,'s for it's main characters

Great book and kept me guessing! I'm usually really good at figuring out what is going to happen next. Not in this book!

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