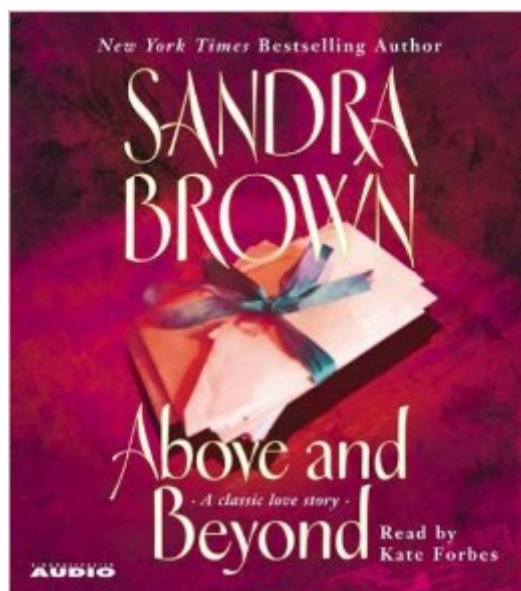


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# Above And Beyond



## Synopsis

LETTERS OF LOVE The letters Kyla sent to her husband, Sergeant Richard Stroud, stationed a world away, spoke of a love that stretched across the ocean and held the young couple together. But when tragedy ended their marriage too soon, Kyla was left a widow with a newborn son. And Richard left behind only a metal box filled with his wife's declarations of love. Trevor Rule had been Richard's best friend. Returning home from military duty, he carried with him the letters Kyla had sent. And with each one he read, he fell more in love with the gentle, passionate woman who had penned them. Now he needs to convince Kyla of his feelings, and that they both have the right to be happy, to move past the tragedy of Richard's death. But Trevor is harboring a secret, one with the power to destroy the love he is trying so hard to protect.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This was one of Sandra Brown's best! The story line was excellent and the characters of Trevor and Kyla became almost real to me. Trevor is the kind of man that every woman dreams about. Trevor has in his possession all of Kyla's letters that she had written to her dead husband. He had been stationed with her husband and had been sent these letters along with his other belongings. While healing from very serious wounds in the hospital, her letters give him the will to live. He would read them over and over until he had them memorized word for word. He falls in love with Kyla through these letters and how he arranges to meet Kyla after he is released from the hospital is one of the best story lines that I have ever read. It is worth adding to your book collection.

Great storyline, great characters, sweet love scenes that don't get gross with graphics- a great read! It will be a keeper for me! Kyla's husband, Richard- a marine who is guarding the embassy- dies during a bombing, the day after the birth of their little boy. Trevor, also a marine, survives the bombing losing his left eye as well as his left side being crushed. He survives the extensive pain, surgeries, and rehab by reading and rereading letters that were in with his belongings returned to him. Sweet love letters written by Kyla to Richard. He decides he wants to meet the woman of such love. When he finally gets out of rehab 1 1/2 years later he heads to where Kyla & son are now living with her parents. She's a "knock-out!" Love at first sight for Trevor- so he starts finding ways to meet Kyla and get to know her better, become a part of her life and introduce her to the man he has become. He can't just go up to her and introduce himself to her because he was known as "Smooch"- if that tells you anything. Richard had shared "Smooch's" adventures with Kyla & she detested him. But life has given Trevor a 2nd chance. And he wants to prove that to Kyla before she finds out the truth of who he was. A great love story! Trevor is a doll and Kyla is a sweetie that has to finally give up her husband's ghost to love another. It is easy for us to say "Kyla get real and go after Trevor!" But until Trevor she has been living for her son, convincing herself that there will never be another love for her. It is easy as a reader to say give it up but put yourself in her place. It's a keeper of a book!

the writing was a little choppy, but I found the characters both likeable and human. Kyla's loyalty to her late husband is frustrating because this is a romance novel and she's one of the obstacles to the HEA the hero and heroine are seeking, but her reluctance to move on is entirely understandable. Everyone grieves at her own pace and Trevor is incredibly understanding, despite how hard Kyla makes it for him. At first, Trevor's obsession with Kyla was a little creepy, but, under the circumstances, believable and after Kyla finds out who he really is, Babs does put a positive spin on it and shows that he hasn't really done anything all that awful. I think it's more complicated than that, but this is one of Sandra Brown's earlier books and she was restricted by the limits of a category romance. It was interesting reading this reprint nearly twenty years later and seeing the way the military and the Middle East were presented in popular fiction after the Marine barracks bombing. It wasn't the thrust of the book, but for me it was enticing. The only thing I didn't like about this book was that Trevor's injuries were never an issue. Yes, superficially they sort of affected the plot. There were a couple instances where people stared and he was a little self-conscious with Kyla about the damage to his leg. But Brown presents him as just so sexy that it's not really an obstacle for him. I think I would have liked him more if he had not been a ladies man suddenly changed by

this terrible tragedy into a one-woman man but who still has all the charm and charisma and sex appeal that make him the town's most eligible bachelor. I think of all our servicemen who weren't incredible ladies' men before terrible injuries in Iraq and Afghanistan and find their story to be missing here.

In a senseless act of terrorism, Kyla loses her husband Richard the night their son is born. Distraught, she vows to honor his memory and remain in mourning. Trevor is devastated when he discovers that the only reason that he survived the bombing is because he passed out in his best friend's bunk. While recuperating in the hospital, his personal effects are delivered, including heart-wrenching love letters that Kyla wrote to Richard while he was stationed in Egypt. With each letter, he finds himself more and more attracted to Kyla and the life that Richard was not able to return to. Now disfigured (and wearing an eye patch as a badge of honor), former womanizer Trevor returns to the US and rather than work at his father's law firm, decides to become a building contractor, seeking out the widow he has fallen in love with. After watching from afar, he finally introduces himself, and slowly chips away at Kyla's armor. Through the letters, Trevor knows just how to get to her. Brown does a good job with the material, but I would have liked to have seen more of his recovery, particularly since his personality took a 180, as well as reactions of others to his supposedly disfiguring injuries which never seemed to bring negative attention to him. After finishing the story, it just did not seem complete to me.

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