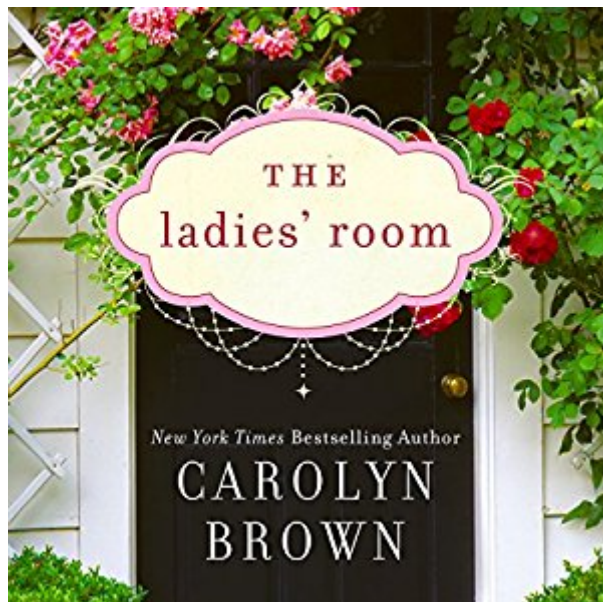


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# The Ladies' Room



## Synopsis

Secrets told in the church ladies' room are supposed to stay in the ladies' room. But that doesn't mean that what Trudy overhears there during her great-aunt Gertrude's funeral won't change the rest of her life. Trudy has a daughter in the middle of a major rebellion; a two-timing husband who has been cheating for their entire married life; and a mother with Alzheimer's residing in the local nursing home. She doesn't really need a crumbling old house about to fall into nothing but a pile of memories and broken knickknacks. Billy Lee Tucker, resident oddball in Tishomingo, Oklahoma, lived next door to Gert, and in her will she leaves him the funds to help Trudy remodel the old house. That's fine with Billy Lee, because he's been in love with Trudy since before they started school. And just spending time with her is something he'd never ever allowed himself to dream about. A beautiful home rises up from the old house on Broadway, and right along with it rises up a relationship. But is Trudy too scarred from what she heard in the ladies' room to see a lovely future with Billy Lee?

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book started with a powerful situation--a woman at a funeral overhears information about her husband that turns her world upside down, and she is wounded enough to take matters into her own hands and make changes happen right now. And she has many adversaries: her family, the people of the town, her soon-to-be-ex, her grown daughter. Their protests all sound like this: "Get back in line, Trudy. Behave yourself. What will people think?" But for once in her life, Trudy rebels. She

becomes her own woman and, because this book is a romance novel, has a chance at love. What I liked about it was the southern flavor and Trudy's wise-cracking narrative. There's a lot of very satisfying emotion, beautiful descriptions, and personal growth, all things that I look for in a book. The ending wasn't the blockbuster I wanted but it was still very satisfying. I liked this book enough to look for more from this author. (PS I tagged it OA fiction and midlife because Trudy is turning 40, but truthfully, she's a little young for those categories.)

This is a great beach read. The main character, Trudy, upends her entire life when she learns what a sleaze her husband has been. The author uses great voice and gives Trudy her own spunk. There's no overwheims drama, nor twists and unexpected turns, but just a sweet story with some humor thrown in. I do feel that Trudy walking away from a twenty years marriage was portrayed as a little too easy, especially walking away from her daughter, but overall I'd recommend it. It reminded me of Savannah Blues in some ways, which is great read.

Got this free from Prime a couple months ago. Was pleasantly surprised at how much I enjoyed it. I'm not a huge reader, probably because it's hard to find books that have no violence, profanity or explicit sex, but this was a nice read. The story line was enjoyable and the outcome predictable, but there were expressions and emotions that made me feel fuzzy inside. Sometimes I wish I had the guts to stand up and speak my mind like Trudy learned to do. Anyway, a fun book that you didn't have to fight to figure out.

Not your usual romance, this couple is forty years old and have known each other for forty years. She's over weight, she must be, she over hears her cousins refer to her as bubble butt in the ladies room. Ech! She's a size sixteen. That's not all she over hears. But what's said in the ladies room stays in the ladies room. Oh about the guy, you can't have a romance without a guy can you? He's your average geek, sometimes referred to as the town freak. Lives in bib overalls and never been known to hold a job.

I'm a big fan of Carolyn Brown - and this book is another example of why I love her work. A bit of gossip overheard in the ladies' room during a funeral sparks Trudy into leaving her cheating husband. After twenty years of spoiling and pampering her husband and daughter, Trudy finally gets to think about herself for a change. As she spreads her wings and begins to fly she finds treasures in the house full of "junk" her great aunt left her and in the man next door. Billy Lee Tucker is just

what Trudy needs, even if it takes her a while to realize it. Trudy's revenge on the cheating husband is priceless, and I'll remember it every time I see a can of sardines. Her struggles to maintain a relationship with her mother as Alzheimer's steals more memories are both heartbreaking and heartwarming. Trudy's interactions with her daughter, her gossipy cousins and everyone in town who feels free to offer unwanted advice on how to save her marriage were spot on. If you are not a Carolyn Brown fan when you pick this book up, you will be when you finish it.

Sometimes you want to read a book that's fun, one that even though you've figured out the plot on the first few pages, you still like the ride. *The Ladies Room* is an enjoyable novel with an interesting cast of characters similar to those we've all known: the irascible aunt, the wayward child, the cheating husband, the obnoxious relatives, the true friend—all of them somewhat predictable and yet unique at the same time. There's sadness and joy, pain and pleasure, timidity and courage in Trudy's story, and the reader comes away with the feeling that justice prevails and that love conquers all. If you're looking for something light with a happy ending, this is the book for you.

Not my typical genre but I chose this book during a difficult school semester. I just needed a book to read at night to unwind with yet not find it difficult to close and lay the book down. For the next four or five nights, I was reading it for about ten minutes then I go to sleep. But 1/3 through the book, the story got interesting and I finished the rest in just two days. LOL! A nice and easy read. Reminds me of the story scenarios I create in my mind when I was a young girl.

I loved every single word of this book. It's heart wrenching, humorous, shocking, and inspiring. Trudy visits the ladies' room during her aunt's funeral, and what she hears shatters her whole life. Trudy is an endearing character. She's easy to love and admire. The way she handles the rest of her life with honesty, bravery and self respect is admirable. She inherits her aunt's house and befriends her 'adopted' grandson and quiet neighbour, the shy, introvert and misunderstood, Billy Lee. Her selfish husband, spoilt daughter, shallow friends, and unbearable in-laws all show their true colours when she rocks their boat by deciding to stand up to them and make her own decisions. The plot gradually unfolds as her friends and family react to the life changing decisions Trudy makes. It's distressing at times, especially at the beginning, but takes a positive turn towards the second half, ending on an uplifting note. Life offers second chances, and there are many wonderful people and

experiences waiting those who accept the challenge of moving on and daring to be happy. I loved the way this novel was written, from Trudy's point of view, with plenty of humorous introspection. It was a pleasure to read. I listened mostly to the audio version which was beautifully read.

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