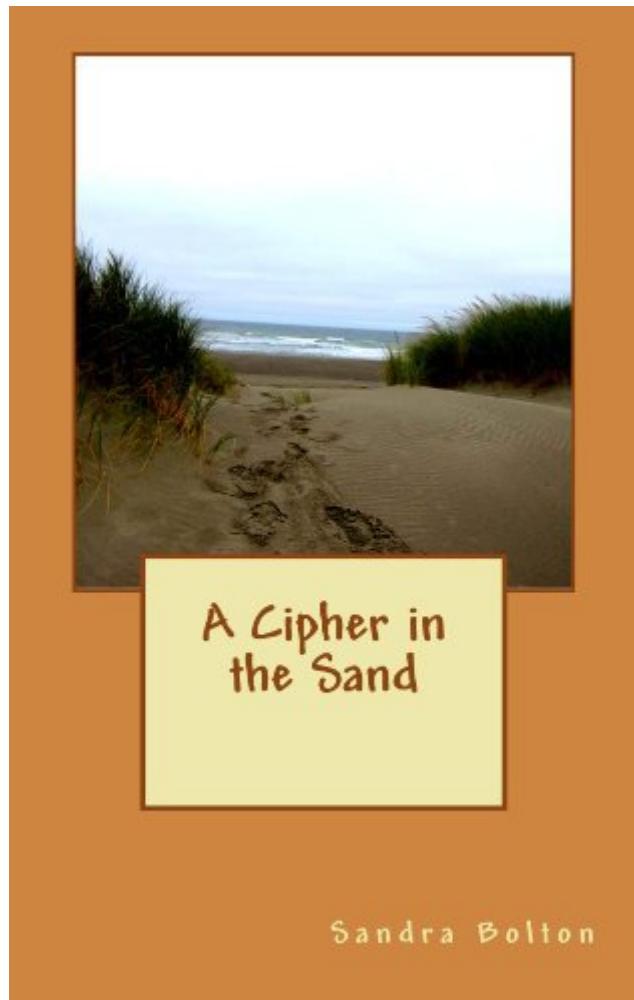


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# A Cipher In The Sand



## **Synopsis**

Even before the plane touches down in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, Sarah Nelson questions her motives for being there. Murder and romance were not on her list. The year is 1985 and Ronald Reagan is president. Following a recent divorce, Sarah joins the Peace Corps. She is assigned to the northern coast of Honduras, a poverty-stricken tropical paradise. The Garifunas, a unique Afro-Amerindian culture, are her nearest neighbors. Her closest ally in times of trouble is the ancient female tribal leader and spiritualist, Xiomara, who draws her into the mysterious world of the supernatural. Sarah's life is forever altered as the naive and idealistic woman encounters more danger and intrigue than she ever bargained for.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

I bought this book (Cipher) on a whim and thoroughly enjoyed it. The story is fast-paced and the main characters are engaging and easy to relate to. Few words are wasted as images, scenes, and conversations come alive. The story itself is clever, filled with unexpected turns which weave a detailed story of naive peace corps volunteers who are thrown into a world of corruption and deceit. Innocence evolves to maturity as the protagonists make tough choices to put their own lives at risk

to make the world a better place. Not in the straightforward ways they envisioned when they joined the peace corps, but in ways which tested their commitments and forced them to challenge their own government's complicity in schemes which harm the very people that the volunteers are supposed to be helping. As someone who travelled through Central America shortly before the time frame of this story, I found Bolton's portrayal of the antagonists' behaviors and values to be disturbingly realistic as she exposes the political and military double-dealing which went on in that part of the world during the era of the Iran-Contra scandal. Somebody really did their homework before they wrote this novel! But the story is then told in a very personal, touching, and intimate way. I literally could not put the book down. I was captivated from the first page, and I will keep an eye peeled for future works from the same writer.

I had never read any of her books but upon reading other reviews it piqued my interest and I am so glad I did. She has such a way to describe things that you feel you are right there in the story. The fact it's about an older woman really intrigued me especially joining the peace corps. Sarah goes to a third world country expecting to teach the under privileged and in turn becomes the student. She finds the country's military full of corrupt officers and the local people hardworking and friendly. She really feels she can make a difference and she does. Along the way she finds someone she can fall in love with. But of course real life tragedies always happen and we have some sad parts. Sarah is tough though and I really liked her. and she is someone I would like to be friends with. This was a really enjoyable book and showed me that sometimes taking a chance can be a good thing.

This journey is unique because it follows a woman who has already lived her life. Husband, children, all the traditional trappings that can eventually drag a woman down to the point she has little idea who she is. When Sarah opts to leave the old life behind to take the road less traveled, she opens herself up to experiences that introduce her to parts of herself she's never known. Surprise! She's feisty and filled with true grit. Once she lands in Honduras, she momentarily understands why so few take this road. It's tough, dangerous, and filled with potholes that make survival a challenge. But Sarah stays the course. I encourage you to climb aboard and take this adventure. If you don't want to be reading in the wee hours, start this book early because you won't be able to put it down.

I just finished your book. I loved it, you did a wonderful job of telling the story. It makes one think of all the adventures there are for us, no matter our age. All the different phases that your life's gone through to make us who we are and who we will become.

I really, really loved 'A Cipher in the Sand'. The author definitely knows the places she has written about and I felt myself visiting those places as I went on reading the story. The plot is good, and the author's effective writing style makes it even better. Well-developed characters, ups and downs in the story, innocence and maturity, a touch of humanity and a pinch of practicality, moments of joy and moments of gloom. It raises the issues that people of some countries have truly been facing. All in all, it's a wonderful book. I've come to know that this author has written more books and I'm definitely going to buy them. Being an avid reader, a book-worm to be more specific, I have read a number of books and this book is one of those that have really impressed me.

A Cipher in the Sand by Sandra Bolton tells the tale of an American woman in the Peace Corp sent to Honduras as a teacher. She quickly becomes embroiled in the lives of the village people and faces the corrupt local police, men with violent and often deadly methods. The characters are so believably drawn that one forgets this is not a true life story. The beauty of the country and its people play an important part in the story, as we watch our teacher's growth through pain and heartache. A quick, interesting read with great characters and a beautiful setting, but not just another day in paradise. I highly recommend it.

This story grabbed me on page one; I knew that something was amiss and was on edge until the end. I can't help but wonder where fiction ends and the truth begins. Some parts of the story were so full of life and small detail (the single black feather) that I thought the author must have experienced it firsthand (some I hope not). The end left me wanting to know more and what happened next! I really hope there is more of Sarah Jones to come, and of the fascinating people, old and young, she has met along the way.

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