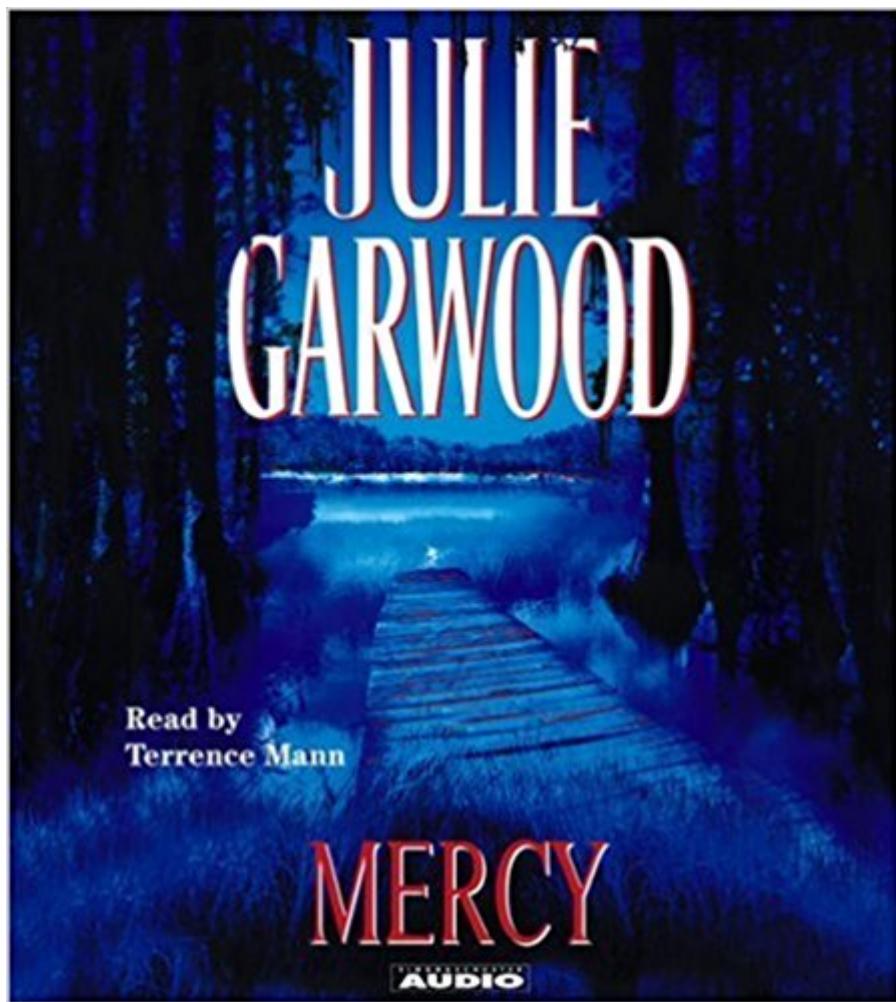


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## Mercy



## **Synopsis**

Like his FBI-agent brother Nick, Theo Buchanan is devoted to his crime-fighting career. Only Theo works the other side of the desk as an esteemed Justice Department attorney. At a gala ceremony in New Orleans, he is suddenly struck ill and is rushed to a hospital, where a brilliant and beautiful surgeon, Dr. Michelle Renard, saves his life. It is not the only life-and-death crisis that will ensnare Theo -- for he is about to uncover a ring of criminals bent on preserving their secrecy at any cost. They call themselves the Sowing Club: four white-collar professionals whose sophisticated crimes have amassed millions of dollars in a Cayman Islands bank account. The group is bound by a pact to leave the cash untouched until they accumulate a cool \$40 million. But their leader, John, has begun to lose his focus in their "all-for-one" commitment. Nearly bankrupt from his wife's grave illness, John turns to his three friends. For the sake of the pact, their brand of crime must turn to the mercy killing of John's wife. But the line between mercy and murder quickly vanishes... When Michelle Renard's medical clinic is vandalized, Theo Buchanan discovers something chilling and deadly. As the cold-blooded Sowing Club sets out to silence Michelle, Theo confronts the lies, greed, and evil that bind the lethal foursome -- and risks more than he ever has before. Michelle saved his life...now can he save hers?

## **Book Information**

Audio CD

Publisher: Simon & Schuster Audio; Abridged edition (September 1, 2001)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0743508904

ISBN-13: 978-0743508902

Product Dimensions: 5.8 x 1 x 5 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.2 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 1,581 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #3,842,311 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #57 in Books > Books on CD > Authors, A-Z > ( G ) > Garwood, Julie #3783 in Books > Books on CD > Romance #7027 in Books > Books on CD > General

## **Customer Reviews**

Bestselling author Julie Garwood has a new calling--contemporary romantic suspense fiction. While longtime fans of Garwood hope she won't forsake the historical romance genre that has been so successful for her, this versatile author is coming into her own as a creator of amazingly complex

and detailed suspense novels. In *Mercy*, Theo Buchanan, the brother of FBI agent Nick Buchanan from *Heartbreaker*, Garwood's first foray into suspense fiction, meets surgeon Dr. Michelle "Mike" Renard when he throws up on her designer dress at a New Orleans gala. Dr. Mike saves Theo's life with an emergency appendectomy, enabling him to return to Boston and his job as a federal prosecutor. But Theo can't stop thinking about Mike and her little hometown on the bayou. After concluding an investigation and trial that brings down a powerful organized crime syndicate, Theo receives several death threats and his boss recommends he keep a low profile. What better place to go incognito than Bowen, Louisiana, where the catfish practically throw themselves at your fishing pole and where a certain pretty young doctor is opening her new practice? But when Theo arrives, he finds life in Bowen isn't quite as idyllic as he thought. Someone has ransacked Mike's new office and seems dead set on harming her. As Theo struggles to protect Mike, he uncovers a ring of upper-crust criminals willing to do anything, even murder, to keep their dirty little secret--all \$40 million of it--from being discovered. What connection could they possibly have to Mike? And why does everyone under the age of 18 keep calling Theo "Coach"? Join perennial favorite Garwood on a journey into the quirky, close-knit communities of the Louisiana bayou and the journey a man and woman devoted to their careers undertake as they fall passionately in love. --Alison Trinkle --This text refers to an alternate Audio CD edition.

After last year's bestselling *Heartbreaker*, her first venture into contemporary romantic suspense, Garwood turns out another of the same genre with equally crowd-pleasing results. Set alternately in posh New Orleans and in a swampy Louisiana bayou, the novel begins with the mercy killing of sickly, bedridden Catherine Bodine, wife of affluent attorney John Russell. John is the 30-something leader of what he and his three friends call the Sowing Club, their own high stakes embezzlement group, a secret society bound by a pact that will guarantee them millions in cash by the time they are 40. A shift to the romantic plot line introduces Department of Justice lawyer Theo Buchanan, doubled over in pain at an awards ceremony in New Orleans. Brilliant and striking surgeon Michelle Renard comes to Theo's rescue, performing an appendectomy, capturing his heart and leaving before Theo can thank her. Determined to show his gratitude, Theo follows the beautiful doctor to the backwater town of Bowen, La. Upon arrival, he finds Michelle distraught because she's being followed, her house has been broken into and her clinic ransacked. Theo hangs around to investigate and gets to know a slew of colorful country folk determined to feed him gumbo, cull free legal advice and make him the new high school football coach. Sparks fly furiously between Theo and Michelle, but bullets fly, too, when it becomes clear that Michelle is the one person who can

hinder the Sowing Club's greedy ambitions. Garwood serves up a well-paced and absorbing read sure to satisfy readers who seek a bit of danger in love. Doubleday Book Club and Rhapsody Book Club main selection. (Sept.)Forecast: This strong offering will hit bestseller lists hard and early and deservedly so. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an alternate Audio CD edition.

Julie Garwood has a way of putting together sweet, funny and poignant historical romances. THE BRIDE is often chosen as one of her best. It has made top 100 lists of all time romances as well. **THE STORY:** Jamie Jamison is the youngest daughter of an English Baron who has been ordered to give two of his daughters in marriage to two Scottish highlanders. Jamie and her sisters don't want to marry but when Laird Alec Kincaid comes and claims Jamie as his bride, Jamie is determined to make her marriage work. While Alec intends to take his ordered bride and place her in the insignificant category, Jamie soon bewitches and bedevils Alec who can soon think of nothing else but claiming her. **OPINION:** I liked this book quite a bit although I generally prefer books with more angst and conflict. (In fact, I prefer Garwood's own SAVING GRACE). I definitely appreciate this book, however. Jamie is spunky and quirky and incredibly stubborn and determined and yet likeable. She is incredibly easy to love and so there is no doubt that Alec is a goner once he meets her. Alec is a strong, sometimes pigheaded hero and yet he always treats Jamie in a honorable fashion even when he is determined not to love her. I consider this more of the softer, gentler humorous historical romances in line with Julia Quinn. I have no complaints about the book and it made me laugh at how helpless Alec is in the face of the sweet determined Jamie. **WORTH MENTIONING:** This book is a historical but is more of the flavor and variety historical rather than a in depth historically accurate type. I don't mind that because I read more for the characters than the history lesson, but some might be unhappy. **FINAL DECISION:** Anyone who likes men in kilts should give this book a try! **CONNECTED BOOKS:** THE BRIDE has a connected sequel THE WEDDING where Jamie and Alec make a significant appearance. **STAR RATING:** I give this book a 4.5 stars because it made me laugh and smile.

This is an excellent medieval Scotland novel. It is one of my three favorite Julie Garwood novels; all three are set in the Scottish Highlands during the Middle Ages. Julie Garwood really brings those times to life. The two main characters are two of my favorites from any book. They are both interesting, strong-willed, strong-minded, courageous, and proud. I love their interactions, and I immensely enjoyed getting to know them as they got to know and love each other. Also, I couldn't

help but admire a heroine who could start three feuds in a matter of days without even trying. There are so many hilarious parts in this book that I sometimes reread it when I need to uplift my spirits. There is only one thing I don't love about this book: It ends.

Julie Garwood really writes smart, witty no nonsense heroines. In a time where the English and Scottish absolutely despise each other. Alec Kincaid Laird of the Kincaids takes on an English bride. He is a strong man who demands respect and is used to getting his way. He is not prepared for Jamie, his strong headed yet gentle hearted English wife. She defies him at every turn, yet brings a warmth into his life and a feeling of completeness he had never felt before. In his world, wives are for warming your bed and giving you children and he is vowed to protect her at all costs. But never love, it weakens a man. But as he grows to know her he can't help but find a tenderness in his heart for her.

I almost didn't purchase this book due to a negative comment about repetition, and I am so glad I let my own pleasure and enjoyment I've received from Julie Garwood's other awesome books to take precedence. This is a rollicking, laugh out loud, highlander tale of an outspoken English country girl wed to an arrogant Scottish laird. If you don't appreciate sassy sarcasm, look elsewhere. There's sexual content, but I'd say nothing a young adult to a granny's not going to be shocked over... maybe a little titillated. This is a fun, up all night kind of read. Thanks for the laughter and hours of reading entertainment!

It has been a long time since I had so much fun reading a book. There were so many times I was literally in tears from laughing so hard. Loved Jamie's character. She is a beautiful, stubborn, determined, and caring young lady. Loved the battle of will between Jamie and Alex, you could see the sparks flying. It was heartwarming to see how the Kincaid clan learn how to love, respect, protect, and cherish Jamie. The best part of all is the unconditional love that flourishes between Jamie and Alex. I know I will read this book again in a few weeks because I couldn't get just couldn't get enough. Now I will read the second book in the series, "The Wedding".

JAMIE and ALEC were a delightful couple. I ENJOYED reading their story very much. It didn't read much like the 12th century though. Fit more like Regency or Victorian which was o.k. with me. I hate those dreary knights in shining chain mail dramas. Was hoping for a wee babe at the end though. Did not suspect who the culprit (killer) turned out to be. Kudos to Julie .

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