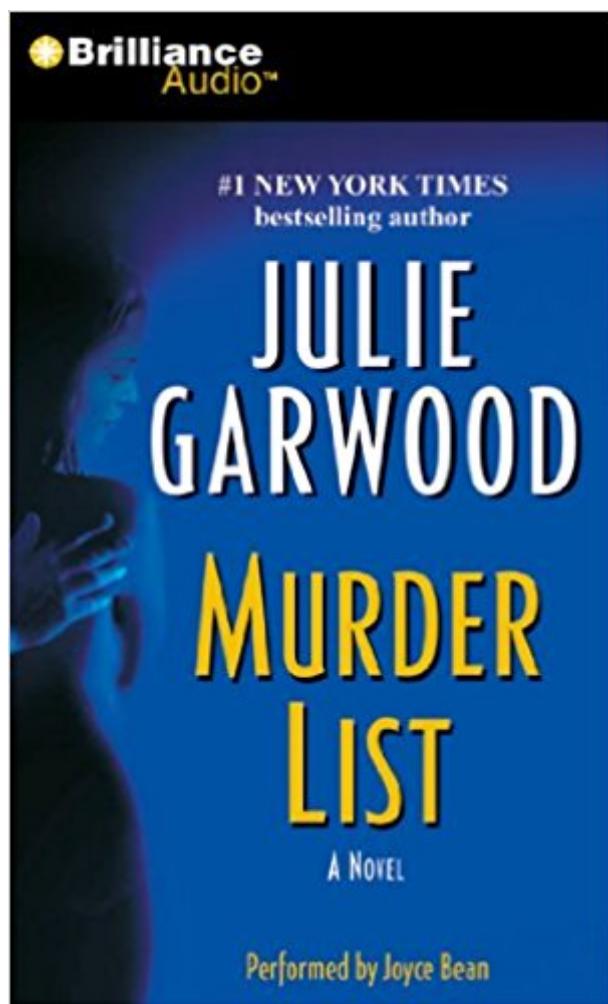


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# Murder List (Buchanan-Renard-MacKenna)



## Synopsis

When Chicago detective Alec Buchanan is offered a prime position with the FBI, he takes it as the perfect opportunity to leave the Windy City and follow in his brothers' footsteps to the top echelons of law enforcement. But first he must complete one last assignment: acting as a glorified bodyguard to hotel heiress Regan Hamilton Madison. The gorgeous exec has become entangled in some potentially deadly business: Someone has e-mailed her a graphic crime-scene photo - and the victim is no stranger. Regan suspects that the trouble started when she agreed to help a journalist friend expose a shady self-help guru who preys on lonely, vulnerable women. In fact, the smooth-as-an-oil-slick Dr. Lawrence Shields may have been responsible for the death of one of his devotees. Hoping to find some damning evidence, Regan attends a Shields seminar. At the gathering, the doctor persuades his guests to partake in an innocent little "cleansing" exercise. He asks them to make a list of the people who have hurt or deceived them over the years, and poses the question: Would your world be a better place if these people ceased to exist? Treating the exercise as a game, Regan plays along. The experience is all but forgotten - until the first person on Regan's list turns up dead. Shock turns to horror when other names from the list start to surface as corpses, and a harrowing tango of desire and death is set into motion. Now brutal murders seem to stalk Regan's every move - and a growing attraction to Alec may compromise her safety, while stirring up tender emotions she thought she could no longer feel. Yet as the danger intensifies and a serial killer circles ever closer, Regan must discover who has turned her private revenge fantasies into grisly reality.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Regan Hamilton Madison is perfect. She's gorgeous ("a knockout with those full, luscious lips, to say nothing about the soft curves and long legs") but doesn't seem to be aware of it. She's rich (her family owns a hotel empire), but as head of her family's foundation, she spends her time giving money away. She even drives an old car. She doesn't have a boyfriend, but she does have a stalker, a psychopath bent on killing her. Enter Alec Buchanan, a smart detective who just happens to be perfect himself. He's gorgeous, "scruffy&#x85;sexy&#x85;he had impeccable manners, was obviously well-educated, and had a sense of humor." And he doesn't have a lover either. Regan draws up the titular murder list at the request of a guru/messiah who preys on "rich but lonely vulnerable women" (it's supposed to be cathartic) and who is the villain of a subplot. Although Regan is much too nice to want to murder anybody, she whimsically makes a list of the people she'd like to remove from her radar screen. When the people on Regan's list begin to die, though, the plot moves into high gear. By that time the reader is pages ahead of the clearly telegraphed plot developments, and even the real mysteries&#x97;why Regan? who is the psycho killer?&#x97;are solved by the reader long before the characters see the light. Bestseller Garwood (Killjoy, etc.) has her shining moments, but she serves up a predictable woman-in-peril suspense novel this time around. Copyright Ã  © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

There are few authors who can weave nail-biting thrills, edge-of-your-seat drama, and romantic suspense as masterfully as Julie Garwood. Now she ratchets up the tension with "Murder List, in which evil is on the hunt- and proves to be methodically organized and chillingly successful. When Chicago detective Alec Buchanan is offered a prime position with the FBI, it is the perfect opportunity to leave the Windy City and follow in his brothers' footsteps to the top echelons of law enforcement. But first he must complete one last assignment (and one that he is not too happy about): acting as a glorified bodyguard to hotel heiress Regan Hamilton Madison. The gorgeous exec has become entangled in some potentially deadly business. Someone has e-mailed her a graphic crime-scene photo-and the victim is no stranger. Regan suspects that the trouble started when she agreed to help a journalist friend expose a shady self-help guru who preys on lonely,

vulnerable women. In fact, the smooth-as-an-oil-slick Dr. Lawrence Shields may be responsible for the death of one of his devotees, which was ruled a suicide. Hoping to find some damning evidence, Regan attends a Shields seminar. At the gathering, the doctor persuades his guests to partake in an innocent little "cleansing" exercise. He asks them to make a list of the people who have hurt or deceived them over the years, posing the question: "Would your world be a better place if these people ceased to exist? Treating the exercise as a game, Regan plays along. After ten minutes, Shields instructs the participants to bring their sheets of paper to the fireplace and throw them into the flames. But Regan misses this part of the program when she exits the room to take a call-and barely escapes a menacing individual in the parking lot. The experience is all but forgotten-until the first person on Regan's list turns up dead. Shock turns to horror when other bodies from the list start to surface, as a harrowing tango of desire and death is set into motion. Now brutal murders seem to stalk her every move-and a growing attraction to Alec may compromise her safety, while stirring up tender emotions she thought she could no longer feel. Yet as the danger intensifies and a serial killer circles ever closer, Regan must discover who has turned her private revenge fantasies into grisly reality. "From the Hardcover edition. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

\*An exciting thriller by Julie Garwood, in book 4 of the Buchanan/Renard/MacKenna series. It is combined with total suspense, intriguing mystery, right down to pure romance. It's another must-read!.....The one thing that hotel heiress Regan Hamilton Madison never regretted was having her two best friends, Sophie Rose and Cordelia "Cordy" Kane by her side even now ever since their early school days together. As Sophie told her along with Cordy that she was investigating a con man and psychologist by the name of Dr. Lawrence Sheilds who was cheating elderly women out of their life savings, they agreed with Sophie to attend one of his seminars. Although Regan knew the circumstances, Sophie first coaxed her to see the detective in charge, Benjamin Sweeney who Regan found repulsive, rude and obnoxious promising never to talk to him again. Leaving the precinct, she accidentally bumped into one of the most handsomest sexiest men she ever laid eyes on. Who is he? As the three girls entered the seminar, Regan sat in the back of the room when the good doctor asked a question and expected an answer from his audience. "Would the world be a better place if these people ceased to exist?" Without thinking Regan wrote down people she didn't like, and entitled it "The Murder List" only to lose her list, phone and purse in the pouring rain to be picked up by a serial killer. Homicide detective Alec Buchanan had big plans with his life. After receiving the news that he had passed all his tests including his interview, he was

Romance, suspense, and mystery.... Three wonderful elements that make a story interesting. A young heiress is targeted by a serial killer and is assigned a detective to guard her. The characters are extremely well written and the dialogue along with the events are quite realistic. The surprising element was actually the real motive behind the killings and who the real mastermind is. Ms Garwood has excelled in creating this story.

One of my favorites. This story is about another Buchanan, Alex. It also is the first of three stories for three extremely close friends. In typical Garwood style, the characterization is spot on and tension is high. With the varioys little comic relief moments through out, it is another winner.

I got this as a Kindle promo, not knowing anything about the author or her home genre. I have to say I enjoyed the first part of the book. I thought the device of going to Regan's first day of Kindergarten then flash forwarding was interesting and well done. On the other hand, minor nits started piling up for me until they started to take over what I was supposed to be reading. The drug bust left me wondering what happened. The way the resignation of one of the main characters didn't seem to be handled realistically to me and catapulted me out of the story. Then having the cop serve as bodyguard was similarly jolting... I don't think a real PD would have countenanced such a thing and

yes, this is fiction...but to suspend disbelief the suspension requires a little plausibility. It's not Agatha Christie, but then it's not a horrible read either. It's good for a monetary pleasant diversion, but I don't think I'll be re-reading it again, unfortunately.

I strongly recommend this book and series. Love the families and friends, this is one of the best in the series. Can't wait for more.

The series continues with another compelling story with this fourth book. There is a perfect pitch between the romantic and suspense elements and it moves quickly. I also liked the added "girlfriends" component of the storyline, providing the main character, Regan Madison, with realistic dimensions. Alec Buchanan is nicely defined as her love interest along with others from the Chicago Police Department to flesh out his role. Regan's brothers could be better developed but overall, this is a good story, one I highly recommend.

I like some of Julie Garwood's writing, but this book was awful. I never once felt any connection to the characters. Not that they weren't likeable, but the way the story was told was cold, there just wasn't any depth. The author tried to communicate the depth of the main characters' feelings for each other by repeating lines multiple times but I wasn't buying it. I have paid \$3 for books I enjoyed much more that were written in a way the reader could connect and get lost in the story.

Ms Garwood is a good story teller, but her writing is somewhat amateurish. The fact that she has been on the NY Times best seller list so many times makes me wonder why. Her writing seems to lack research and real life experience. For example, she apparently was never in a walking or running race. It's very hard to get so far away from the pack that no one can see you. It appears she needs to decide if she wants to write murder mysteries or romance novels. Spending four or five chapters on a sex scene turned into sheer drivel.

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