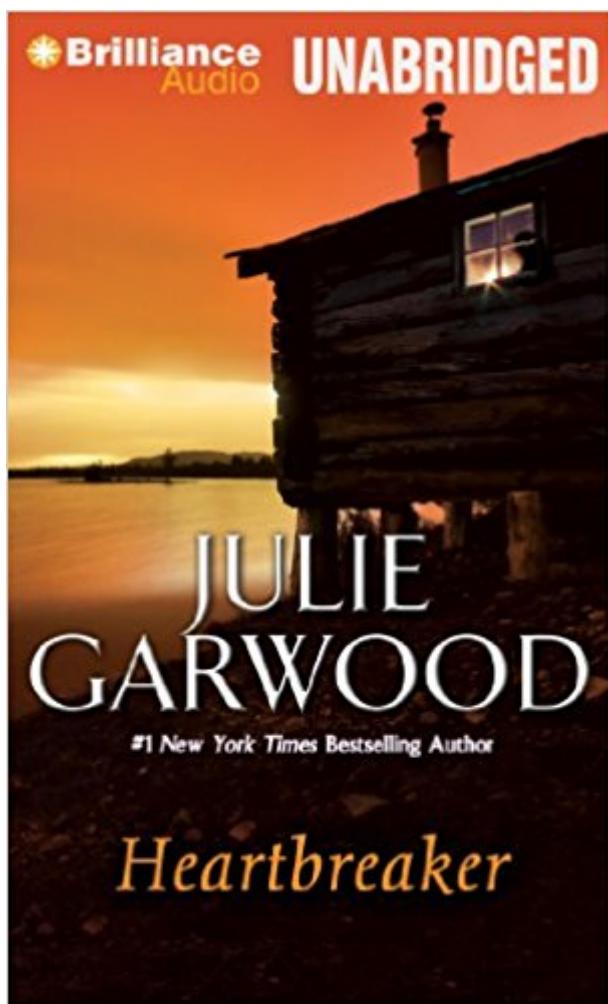


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# Heartbreaker (Buchanan-Renard-MacKenna)



## **Synopsis**

In the still shadows of the confessional, a madman tauntingly reveals his plan for a murder he is going to commit, pulling Father Thomas Madden into a twisted game by disclosing his next intended victim: Tom's sister, Laurant. In a frantic race to protect her, Tom calls upon his best friend, elite FBI agent Nick Buchanan, to track the predator who is closing in on Laurant. Now, as an electrifying attraction grows between Laurant and Nick, so does the danger - and one false move will cost both of them everything that matters. "Heartbreaker moves along at a racehorse pace, its plot swerving and darting with sudden turns and jolts....Garwood's characters are well drawn." - New York Post

## **Book Information**

Series: Buchanan-Renard-MacKenna (Book 1)

Audio CD

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## **Customer Reviews**

Setting: Holy Oaks, Iowa, present day Sensuality rating: 4 New York Times bestselling author Julie Garwood breaks new ground in her first contemporary suspense novel. Long-time fans of Garwood will be amazed at the way the queen of historical romance weaves this tale of love as it blossoms in the face of extreme danger. FBI agent Nick Buchanan is about to take his first vacation in three years when he receives a phone call from his best friend and former college roommate, Father Tom Madden. Tom relates the horrifying tale of a confession that he heard from a killer seeking absolution for a gruesome crime he has yet to commit. Worse yet, the madman, who calls himself the Heartbreaker, confesses that his intended victim is Laurant Madden, Tom's gorgeous younger sister. The Heartbreaker is crazy about Laurant--really, really crazy. When Tom and Nick break the news to Laurant, she is furious at the disruption the psycho is causing in her very busy life. With her

best friend's wedding rapidly approaching and Laurant's own business set to open in two weeks, there couldn't be a worse time to be stalked. But when she learns that the Heartbreaker has already broken into her home and watched her sleep, she reluctantly agrees to Nick's protection, even if it means that she's thrown together with her brother's all-too-sexy friend all day--and all night. Nick, posing as Laurant's fiancÃfÂ©, heads back with her to Holy Oaks. There he encounters a strange cast of characters, the likes of which are grown only in small towns where everybody knows everybody's business--except whether one of them might be a serial killer. Along the way, Nick and Laurant also discover their own hunger for each other. Readers will love the change of pace for perennial favorite Garwood. She creates a sensational story with a truly explosive conclusion.

--Alison Trinkle --This text refers to an alternate Audio CD edition.

"Bless me Father, for I will sin." In her first contemporary suspense thriller, Garwood, better known for best-selling romantic fiction (Ransom; the Clayborne Brides trilogy; etc.), explodes out the narrative gate, but delivers more romance than suspense. While waiting for test results to determine if he needs another round of chemotherapy, Father Thomas Madden is the guest of Monsignor McKindry at Our Lady of Mercy Church in Kansas City. He offers to sit in for McKindry in the confessional. When a mocking voice seeks the good father's prayers to prevent him from murdering the priest's own sister, Laurant Madden, panic quickly sets in. The faceless voice behind the screen admits to a previous murder and also knows about Father Tommy's cancer. Tommy quickly calls FBI agent Nicholas Buchanan (Tommy's best friend since childhood) and asks him to track down the madman and protect his sister. Laurant has never met Nick before, but is instantly attracted to him. The two fake falling in love to flush out the murderer, but the pretense is short-lived. Some members of the chorus provide amusing turns. Most notably outspoken elderly sisters Bessie Jean and Viola Vanderman, who serve up casseroles and counsel safe sex. Garwood's writing is strongest where affairs of the heart are concerned. If the thriller aspect of the novel fails to ignite, the sexual pas de deux between Nick and Laurant delivers sufficient smolder for Garwood's fans. Major ad/promo; 16-city author tour. (July) Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an alternate Audio CD edition.

I really enjoyed this thriller. The main characters are intriguing and I'm ecstatic that it's a series. I literally could not put the book down. And, some romance, too. Great start to what I hope will be a great series.

Such a good book, so loved it ,love the way Julie Garwood writes so funny and heart warming. I always look for her books, she writes with such flaire, and its a little mystery as well as funny with lots of people showing there love for each other.

FBI Agent Nick Buchanan signs on to help out his best friend Tommy Madden, a priest, who has taken the confession of a man who plans to murder Tommy's sister, Laurant. Nick enlists the help of fellow agent Noah Clayborne and the action moves to Holy Oaks, Kansas. Nick is assigned to be with Laurant 24/7 and Noah with Tommy. As you can imagine, there's the inevitable attraction between Nick and Laurant and you'll root for them. This story has humor (especially the scenes involving Noah), romance and suspense all well-paced around interesting and likable characters. It held my interest throughout and delivered a thrilling end to the mystery. Enough information was provided to figure out the identity of the killer but it wasn't obvious and I was able to deduce the person but even then there was an interesting twist I didn't foresee. Garwood has done what most find difficult to do with the first novel of a series and that is to have it be a really good book. I'm excited about finishing the series. I recommend this for all that like suspenseful, contemporary romance stories.

But a great ending. I love Julie Garwood and her historical romance novels so I was sad to see that she went contemporary but really looking forward to what I anticipated to be another great read. I have to admit that some of the lure was lost in translation and it read more like a suspense novel rather than the hot and heavy romance novels I was used to. But I will say the climax made up for the slow start and the bits of humor throughout made it an enjoyable story. Why 3 stars...it was a little predictable. I knew who the unsub was, why he was doing it, how he found them, and who he was pretending to be. Yet, there was still enough to the story to only suspect who he was masquerading as so the story remained interesting. I know this was her first contemporary romance and while I'm looking forward to her next attempt, I sure hope to see more of the supreme alpha male, hot and heavy that I loved so much.

Heartbreaker is a book that gives the confessional a whole new viewpoint on what we were taught as children. It's spooky and in some ways shocking, but an excellent read. It may have been her first attempt at writing modern day mysteries, but she sure packed a wallop in this one.

It's rare to find a book that leaves you smiling. Nick was so afraid he'd fall in love with Laurent that

he almost went nuts. There was plenty of laughs and fun to offset the possibility that a killer was going to murder both Laurent and her brother, Father Tom. Nick would finally admit he couldn't live without Laurent. I could not put the book down. I love books like that, but I really need to get ready for Christmas. Please read this book, but only after the holidays.

This is the first book that I have read by Julie Garwood. I purchased it after seeing how many reviews it had and looking at the overall star rating. I wish I had looked a bit further at the lower star rating reviews. I did not find this to be a "real page turner" or one that I simply "could not put down", but instead I found myself bored with the characters and the slow moving story line. It took about fifty pages for the story to really get going. I just had a difficult time engaging in the story or caring about the characters. I didn't "feel" the chemistry between Laurent and Nick. I did like the author's description of Kansas City (State Line Road and Ward Parkway) it was just as I remembered it from years ago. Will I read another book by this author? Yes. I am going to give "Ransom" a try. Hopefully I will like it better.

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