



## Mercy

*Julie Garwood*

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## **Mercy** Julie Garwood

From the #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *Heartbreaker* comes a thrilling novel of passion and obsession featuring attorney Theo Buchanan.

Like his FBI agent brother Nick, Theo Buchanan is devoted to his crime-fighting career. Unlike his brother, he works the other side of the desk as an esteemed Justice Department attorney and rarely sees on-the-field action—until he comes to the aid of Dr. Michelle Renard, a beautiful and brilliant surgeon in Bowen, Louisiana, who recently saved his own life. Michelle's medical clinic has been vandalized, and the investigation uncovers a deadly 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 certain amount, but their leader, John, is distracted by and nearly bankrupt from his wife's grave illness. Knowing what must be done, John turns to his three friends to mercy-kill his wife, but the line between mercy and murder quickly vanishes....

As the relentless and cold-blooded Sowing Club sets out to silence Michelle, the one person who has information that could destroy them, 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?

## **Mercy Details**

Date : Published September 11th 2001 by Atria Books

ISBN :

Author : Julie Garwood

Format : Kindle Edition 496 pages

Genre : Romance, Romantic Suspense, Contemporary, Mystery, Suspense, Contemporary Romance

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## From Reader Review Mercy for online ebook

### Amanda says

I really enjoyed this book, it's about Theo Buchanan the brother of FBI Agent Nick Buchanan from book one Heartbreaker, and god was it ever funny. The banter between him and Michelle (Dr. Mike) Renard were priceless. Oh and good lord could you get a better character than Big Daddy, well there was Noah and Noah to me is a priceless character, and I greatly enjoyed seeing him again. I found this book and to be intriguing and thrilling, but what really made was the humor and the love story. I liked that Theo wasn't broken, he had scars but he wasn't broken and neither was Michelle, it was a given to both of them that they would end up in bed and they fought as two normal people with scars would but it wasn't over done or silly. It was perfect and a nice break from the norm for me anyway. I highly recommend this book to everyone, and can't wait to read John Paul's book Killjoy.

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### Kathleen says

4.5 stars. What a happy surprise! This one felt almost like the old Julie Garwood, writing her Highland Lairds, even though it's set in the present time in Louisiana's legendary bayou -- gator and gumbo country. Most of the action occurs in Bowen, a tiny swamp town. Descriptive setting.

This book's got Garwood's signature sense of humor and some of her most heartwarming characters. The attraction simmers. There is only one main plot line, so the story felt tight, not meandering (as with some of her books). Good suspense, too.

(I began on audio and switched to print, because I was absorbed in the story but didn't like the narration by Christina Traister. Unbearable Cajun accent for the men. Big Daddy always sounded drunk or stoned, and stupid. Got a refund).

Garwood dreamt up a hero to warm the coldest night. Theo Buchanan is a hot-blooded, soft-hearted, dirty-fighting Federal attorney with connections and class. He's weary of chasing down thugs for the US Justice Department -- like roaches, they just keep coming. Unconsciously seeking something more, Buchanan's a goner when he looks past Michelle's beauty and brilliance to her "best feature" -- her loving heart, of course. Theo Buchanan slightly reminded me of his fabulous Highland ancestor, Brodick Buchanan in Ransom. As an attorney fighting pro bono for the underdog, he reminded me even more of Harrison in Garwood's historical, For the Roses.

I loved Michelle, aka Mike. She's a Garwood girl through and through. A kind heart, a sharp mind, a scrapper. Plus, she's not one bit stupid. This is no Sara the Silly, of parasol infamy in The Gift.

**Decent suspense!** I was surprised by a few of the plot twists. One of the better suspense plots I have encountered in this RS genre. By better, I mean coherent, credible, and unpredictable. Some vivid scenes when the Sowing Club and their accomplice The Monk hunted down Michelle and Theo in the twisty-turny swamp. Vivid scene at the hospital.

Quibbles about the suspense? Nothing major, but I could do without the irrelevant scene where Monk recalls killing an adolescent girl. It pulled me from the story, and I didn't need to know more about him. Also, I think Catherine transformed too quickly and without enough justification, from ambitious society beauty to bed-bound hypochondriac.

**Funny!** I chuckled aloud at the football scenes. "Gimme a B!" The folks are absolutely determined to make Buchanan stay and become their coach. After all, he kept all his old playbooks from college. I chuckled at how the townsfolk tried to entice their "coach" to stick around -- and it got me hankering for Cajun food.

**Heartwarming.** Buchanan helps a poor frightened little boy (the fence) and -- with Noah Clayborne's help -- takes on the nasty Carson brothers, sugar mill owners. Memorable, poignant, and vivid scene when Michelle performs immediate surgery on a critically wounded little patient.

**Textured secondary characters:** I got a kick out of Big Daddy Jake Renard, Michelle's managing, shrewd, and softhearted father. Also loved John Paul Renard, her antisocial big brother, so reminiscent of grumpy old Brodick, in Ransom. What a character -- he needs his own book! (Turns out he got one, Killjoy). A former elite Marine, John Paul rules the bayou based on reputation alone (nobody messes with his sister or breaks into his Daddy's bar). He's a hunter assassin and a "damned fine" furniture maker. Chuckle. A man after my own heart. Can he cook, too?

Noah Clayborne, FBI, will get his own book some day, too, I expect. He plays a major secondary role in this book. (update: his book is Shadow Dance.)

**Contents:** One explicit love scene, and several more are alluded to. Some swearing -- but not much, and no profanity. Some murder and violence -- but thankfully, there's nothing gruesome or grisly, no bloodcurdling psychotic scenes like in the prequel, Heartbreaker. The Sowing Club murderers just kill for money, not for pleasure. No typos noted.

Since John Paul and Monk battle it out in the sequel, I will read it. Killjoy, coming up next!

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## Lisa Jo says

Mercy by Julie Garwood is an amazing and thrilling read with a heartfelt romance at it's core. Exciting and passionate, this a romantic suspense novel you'll kill to get your hands on!

Justice Department attorney and Boston native Theo Buchanan is at the highlight of his career. While waiting to give a speech celebrating his recent success, he passes out only to be saved by the gorgeous doctor Michelle Renard who ends up performing his emergency appendectomy. When Michelle's father invites Theo down to Bowen, Louisiana for fishing, he finds he can't refuse. Especially if it means spending more time with the good doctor. When Theo arrives, he discovers the new clinic Michelle was planning to open has been burglarized.

Little do Theo or Michelle know, but they have been dragged into the workings of an illegal group known as The Sowing Club. Documentation describing their illegal activities has been sent to Michelle who is unaware of it's importance. Which means the Sowing Club will stop at nothing to reclaim those documents, even if they have to eliminate Theo and Michelle....permanently. As they work to discover who is after them Theo and Michelle begin to develop a very close relationship. Both worry if they can actually stand a future together when they live worlds apart.

Truly an awesome and stunning read, Mercy by Julie Garwood is not a book to be look at lightly. This book has strong, intense characters who are honest and incredibly down to earth. Theo, the ever brilliant and stubborn attorney is as saucy as he is sexy. He had this bold attitude that just had me smiling throughout. Michelle was confident within the hospital walls but was somewhat uncertain of herself with Theo. Which of course made them an awesome pair. Their banter back and forth had me laughing like crazy. They were

absolutely adorable together and it was no surprise they fell hard for each other.

Suspense novels are sometimes a tough fit for me. In some cases there is too much romance and not enough drama, whereas in other cases I feel there is far too much drama and very little romance. Garwood's novel was a perfect fit. She had the parallel story of the villainous group told with the fantastic romance of Theo and Michelle. Not only that, but she had plenty of twists and turns at the very end that completely shocked me. Which of course made it all the more entertaining. Being book two in the Buchanan series, I read this without having read book one and did not find that the experience suffered at all. The hero from book one was brought in briefly, but hardly made an impact in the book.

So an excellent choice for my first Garwood. I loved it! I am terribly excited to read the rest of this series. Fun action, dazzling drama and terrific characters make this book a definite keeper. Mercy is exactly what I look for in my romantic suspense novels and reminds me what I adore the genre so much!

Series Order:

- 1) Heartbreaker
- 2) Mercy
- 3) Killyjoy
- 4) Murder List
- 5) Slow Burn
- 6) Shadow Dance
- 7) Fire and Ice
- 8) Sizzle

Overall Rating: 5/5

Heat Level: 4/5

Lisa @ Once Upon A Chapter

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## **MBR says**

### **4.5 Star Romantic Suspense**

My first taste of Julie Garwood came in the form of her historical romance *The Gift*, which I received as a birthday present from my sister. Instantly hooked onto her style of writing, I remember trying to frantically get my hands on each and every published book by Ms. Garwood. My first encounter with her contemporary romances came from this very book which in the end turned out to be my favorite contemporary romance from her till now. For me, Mercy has got it all, an unforgettably sexy as sin hero in Theo Buchanan, an endearingly lovable heroine in Michelle Renard and edge-of-the-seat adventure in the form of a crime ring who are ruthless and greedy enough to kill anyone who stands in their way.

32 year old Theo Buchanan comes from a family of 5 brothers and 2 sisters from Boston. A federal attorney who has just wrapped up a case involving organized crime for the Justice Department, Theo is on the verge of collapsing from an appendicitis that would rupture any minute when he comes into contact with Dr. Michelle Renard who herself is attending the gala in New Orleans.

Born in Bowen, Louisiana, Michelle is the only girl in her family of 2 elder brothers and is the apple of her father's eye. Michelle had grown up, never having an active mother figure in her life and had been discovered for her high IQ when she had entered 3rd grade in school. Her father Big Daddy Jake Renard had

done everything he could to make Michelle's dreams of being a doctor come true and it is Michelle's work at the Brethen Hospital in New Orleans that brings her to the very irresistible Theo Buchanan whom she operates on.

From the first moment Theo lays eyes on the beautiful Michelle, whose passion for her work and to make a difference with her talent as a surgeon shines through, Theo aches to go back to the period of time in his life when he had been an idealistic graduate in law who had wanted to make all the difference in the world in his profession. Guilt from the death of his wife 4 years back which haunts him has Theo turning to work for solace until he just cannot take it any longer.

Convincing himself that he is making a trip to Bowen, Louisiana to take up on Big Daddy's offer to fish and do some relaxing, Theo makes his way to Michelle just 3 weeks after surgery to come into the midst of a random act of vandalism of Michelle's clinic which sets all of Theo's senses on red alert. Unbeknown to the Renard family, it is the inheritance left by a distant family relative together with a material which contains evidence that could put her husband and his friends who call themselves members of the Sowing Club behind bars for life that puts Michelle and whoever tries to help her in danger.

Theo's journey into small town life turns out to be exactly what the doctor ordered for someone on the verge of burning out as he discovers that in Michelle and the combination of the charming Southern life he finds in Louisiana, he has at last found where he belongs.

There are so many things I love about this story even reading it the second time round. Theo Buchanan \*insert major sighing session here\* is such a dreamy and larger-than-life hero who is so comfortable in his own skin, confident to the point of being sexily arrogant (if there ever is such a thing) which just makes him such an easy hero to fall in love with. The way he seduced Michelle who is a little bit naive when it comes to men and the games men and women play in a relationship was just so sweet and endearing and hot at the same time. The man oozes sensuality into the story just by stepping into the pages and he just dazzled me right from the very beginning.

Michelle is a lovable heroine who is an amazing surgeon who at heart is a small town girl who refuses to leave her hometown to embrace the big city life. The prologue which shows so much of her childhood is a sweet and poignant one that nearly brought tears to my eyes and makes it one of the most beautifully done prologues in any of the stories I have come across.

Michelle's father, Big Daddy and the people of Bowen, Louisiana charmed me through every aspect of the story as they worked as a team to bring Theo and Michelle together, to show Theo that he belongs right at home with the rest of them. The strong and silent John Paul, older brother of Michelle makes for an intriguing character, whose story I would love to read someday.

Though I have stopped following the Buchanan's series after the very disappointing edition which features the very sexy and tough FBI agent Noah Clayborne, after revisiting Mercy, I would dearly love to know if Ms. Garwood has any intention of following through on a story for John Paul. He would certainly make for a very yummy, broody hero which we girls in the world of romance tend to swoon over.

Mercy is a novel that is very highly recommended for fans of Julie Garwood and fans of romantic suspense.

I will finish off my review with one of the sweetest moments in the story which takes place right after Theo and Michelle first make love, moments that just took my breathe away.

(view spoiler)

## E Wilson says

I didn't much care for this. I was not familiar with the author and thought it was a mystery. Instead, it was a romance and a disappointing one at that. The heroine, Mike, was very smart (she's a doctor) very beautiful (of course) very kind and altruistic (she's going back to practice in her little dinky old town). The hero, Theo, is handsome, smart (he can take down the unscrupulous owners of the local mill between breakfast and lunch) , kind and altruistic (he will use his own money to buy a fence so a little boy can play in his back yard and the alligator won't eat him). Not only does the author stretch the limits of reality, but her characters are perfect to the point of nausea.

The mystery part of the book started out to be quite interesting. Then it got sidetracked and became just a sidelight to the romance.

My stepdaughter saw me reading this book and said she loved the historical books the author had written. Maybe I'll give one of those a try.

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## Lisa Kay says

★★★★★ (This is a review of the audiobook.) I've never heard a performance by Christina Traister – and it is truly a performance she gives – but this won't be my last time. She was fantastic! Ms. Traister does a wonderful job on the southern Louisiana Cajun accents. I am sure they would be *much* thicker in Real Life, but they *do* need to be understandable on audio.

I really felt Michelle's father came alive in the audio, much more than on the printed page. Before, when I just read them, I didn't appreciate all the subtle humor inherent in his voice for some of his scenes. I think Michelle's voice as a little girl didn't sound childish enough, but why quibble? Still, I liked her softening accent as she moved away from home, becoming Dr. Michelle Renard; nevertheless, it reappears when she's interacting with her family. Especially when they push her buttons! LOL! I think most people do this in Real Life.

I also didn't even think to put Theo Buchanan, attorney for the Justice Department, with a Boston accent, but **\*\*smacks forehead\*\*** surely he'd have one. She manages to make him sound cynical, worldly, and sexy.

Overall, Ms. Traister's pacing, inflections, as well as her differentiation were spot-on, kicking it up a notch, from four stars to five.

I love that Julie Garwood is releasing some of her books out on audio and they are finding such wonderful narrators. Her books deserve them!

Really, these characters came so alive, I just didn't want this book to end.

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## Dorsey aka ♥? Wrath Lover Reviews ♥? says

I'm revisiting one of my favorite Julie Garwood series, I've forgotten how much I love Michelle "Mike" Renard and Theo Buchanan. Such a great read! The narrator Christina Traister for this book does a **fantastic** job!

I'm not going to write a detailed review since there are *many* great reviews posted here on Goodreads already. But, I will say I loved this book!!!

\*Originally read: June 2011

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## Pamela(AllHoney) says

The second book in Julie Garwood's *Buchanan/Renard* series. Theo Buchanan, an attorney for the Justice Department, is in New Orleans, attending a charity black-tie affair, when Dr Michelle "Mike" Renard sees him and notices he is not feeling good. So she goes up to him to see if she can help him and he promptly throws up on her and tears her \$400 dress. What a way to make a good impression! LOL. Well, while in the hospital, Theo meets Michelle's dad and gets invited to the small town of Bowen, LA to go fishing. Theo takes him up on it. Meanwhile, a group called the Sowing Club has discovered that a package with incriminating evidence against them was sent to Michelle and they will do anything it takes to get it back!

Theo and Michelle were perfect for each other. I loved the characters, especially the residents of Bowen, Louisiana. They really had me in stitches. The story itself was engrossing and intense at times. Great balance of suspense and romance.

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## Wendy says

This is my favorite of the Garwood Suspense books. Theo is definately *my hero*. *I love the way he reacts to the situation in the Louisiana backwoods. Michelle and her family are great. Their crazy personality's and the local element have you laughing, but the hot tension between Michelle and Theo is terrific. A Great book!*

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## Jonetta says

Dr. Michelle Renard returns home to her hometown of Bowen, Louisiana to open a clinic for the small town. Weeks earlier, she had met Theo Buchanan, a US Attorney, in New Orleans when she performed an

emergency appendectomy on him that saved his life. He decided to take some time off after his recuperation and took her father, Big Daddy Jake, up on his offer for some great fishing. Though not willing to admit it, he had more than fishing on his mind. His timing couldn't have been better since some pretty nasty people had an aim on the doctor.

Garwood has crafted an excellent story of romance, suspense and out and out hilarity in this second installment of the Buchanan-Renard series. I was unprepared to laugh so much and that was a welcome surprise. Michelle and Theo make a great couple and the people of Bowen work hard to make their relationship a reality. While the antagonists of the story are revealed early on, this part of the storyline was still suspenseful and interesting, with some unexpected twists.

I really liked this book and hated to reach the end. It's well written with great dialogue and perfect timing.

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### **Jane Stewart says**

Well done romantic suspense. Engaging characters. Neat things happened.

I read the physical book a few years ago and just now listened to the audiobook. It was great. I didn't want to stop listening. I had forgotten some of the events, and I'm glad because it made the current read better - not knowing.

I loved what Catherine did for revenge. I loved the first scene that John Paul was in -- what an intriguing character. Suspense was good. And no stupidity.

#### **AUDIOBOOK NARRATOR:**

Christina Traister did a great job. She used a weird accent for the cajun characters. I don't know if it was accurate but it was fine for me. And I'm happy that her breath noises were removed.

#### **DATA:**

Narrative mode: 3rd person. Story length: 343 pages hardback. Swearing language: strong including religious swear words, but rarely used. Sexual language: mild with the f-word once. Number of sex scenes: 2. Setting: current day Bowen and New Orleans, Louisiana. Copyright: 2001. Genre: romantic suspense.

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### **Vicki says**

Mercy by Julie Garwood is such an elaborate story of lies and deceit, murder and trickery. I loved every minute of it. The story starts with meeting the sewing club. A group that is working to skim funds any way they can to reach their financial goal. Once they reach the goal, then they will divide the money and disappear. They had no doubt they could pull it off.

When John's wife becomes too annoying for him, he arranges with the others to hit someone for a mercy killing. They find out it is a con and then everything starts to fall apart.

The revenge of the dead wife is delicious. He certainly deserved that fate.

When Theo Buchanan comes to Bowen Louisiana he is met with a hilarious welcome. The townspeople have

plans for him and they make not bones about it. He is there to fish and visit with Mike Renard. He liked her ever since she saved his life at that party they both attended.

The romance of Theo and Mike, now known as Michelle, is adorable. They are both drawn to each other, but they know it can't work. They live in two different states. But boy do they want it to. It is fun to read their interaction and conversations.

The dead wife has sent a package to her relatives and expects them to be able to stop her husband from getting off scott free. She wants him to suffer.

The writing is divine. I laughed at the way the family acted about Theo being in town. I laughed at the misunderstanding of the young people of the town. It has some great comical moments. However, when the story got intense the writing was just as good in the serious and dangerous telling. I was glad to give this book a full 5 stars.

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### **Chitra \*CJ\* says**

"Mercy" is the second book in the Buchanan-Renard Saga and the story of Theo and Michelle/Mike. When Justice Department attorney Theo suffers an appendicitis attack during a party, his life is saved by the redhead surgeon Michelle. However, dazed in excruciating pain, he "thanks" her by clocking her face and vomiting all over her new Armani dress.

She operates on him, & during his recovery, he realizes is attracted to Mike. Soon he meets her father and is invite to visit their small town of Bowen for a fishing trip, where Mike is permanently moving to. Three weeks later, when Theo cant get her out of his head- he decides to take up Jake's offer in form of a mini vacation.

However on reaching Bowen, he realizes this isnt going to be an ordinary trip! Someone has vandalized Michelle's clinic and she thinks she might have had a break in. Moreover, as he decides to investigate and help her, the town people start thinking of him as a coach and everyone wants his legal advice (all thanks to big daddy Jake's boasting), ferocious alligators swamp the fertile land (and snakes too!), and he soon realizes Jake might be matchmaking him with his daughter..

The secondary plot is of a well executed murder by four individuals known as "The Sowing Club" with the help of "The Ghost", aka the silent killer Monk- and a letter mailed by the victim to Mike connects the two stories.

Entertaining read filled with suspense, humor and love, this completely captivated me since early on and the mystery was worth the wait, even though the bad guy technically got away (but we have so many more books to go!). The next one involves both John Paul and Monk- so cant wait to read that.

Liked this one so much more than the first book. Both H and h were likable and extremely suited for one another.

Safe

4/5

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### **Cyndi says**

I love Julie Garwood! In this book we have a little girl in the Bayou who grows up to be a brilliant surgeon. And we have a lawyer who has lost his passion. In the middle of their love story is murder and mayhem. A really good book, but skip the audio. The narrator tries to do a Cajun accent and fails. Bless her heart.?

## Splage says

I listened to this as an audiobook and it was a great listen. It had very endearing characters with sweet chemistry. Also the plot was strong and it kept my interest as well as gave me a few laughs. I am not a huge romantic suspense fan, but this Garwood story I would definitely recommend.

The narrator did wonderful job with both Boston and Cajun accents. She was very easy to listen too.

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