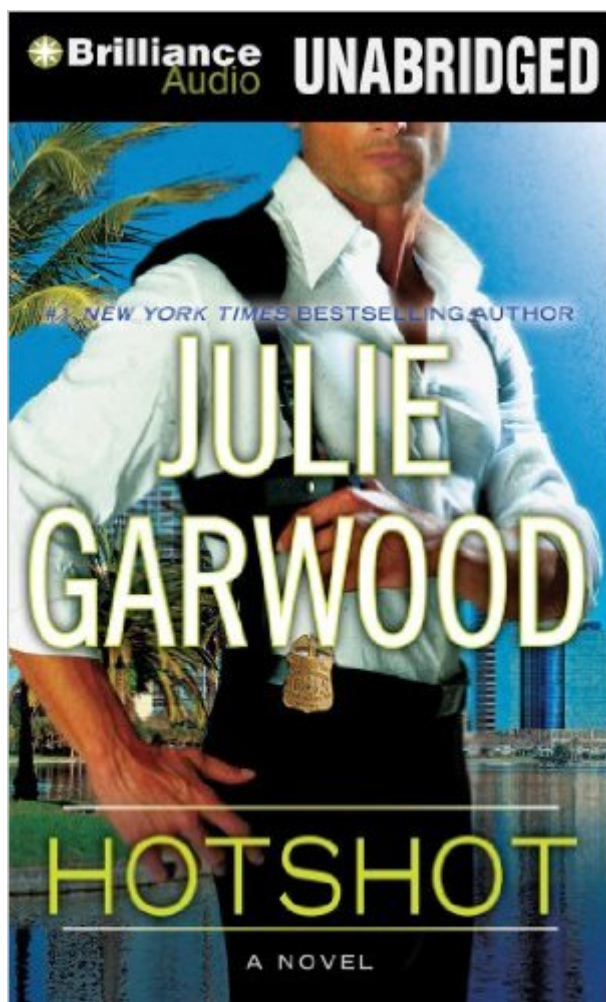


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# Hotshot



## Synopsis

He saved Peyton Lockhart's life when they were kids •but now she's all grown up and he's a seasoned FBI agent who comes to her rescue again in this contemporary romance from #1 New York Times bestselling author Julie Garwood. Peyton and her sisters have inherited Bishop's Cove, a small, luxurious oceanfront resort, but it comes with conditions: The girls must run the resort for one year and show a profit •only then will they own it. A graduate of a prestigious French culinary school, Peyton has just lost her job as a food critic after rightfully accusing her boss of sexual harassment. Out of work and in a bad place personally, to Peyton a year doing something completely different sounds wonderful. Peyton dives into learning the resort business but is quickly derailed by an escalating chain of events that puts her life in danger. She refuses to be intimidated •until she's nearly killed. Then she calls on her childhood friend and protector, Finn MacBain, now with the FBI, and asks for his help. Finn is more than happy to do a favor for Peyton, but he doesn't plan on dealing with the beautiful, passionate woman she has become. There are countless challenges and too many people who want to stop Peyton and her sisters from succeeding. Among them are their contentious cousins and a powerful group of land developers who have been eyeing the coveted beachfront property. And it also becomes apparent that her old boss holds a serious grudge and believes in payback. While the attraction between Peyton and Finn flames bright enough to distract them both from their dangerous situation, a happily ever after ending seems all but impossible. But the well-trained lawman never loses focus: he saved her life once; now he must do it again.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Julie Garwood's stories are usually very good and fun to read. This one is not. It is very contrived (the bad people are ridiculously bad, there are always more than one person committing the same type of crime that could be "the bad guy" - just unlikely, unbelievable plot lines. That takes the enjoyment out of it because you spend time being disappointed at the silliness instead of enjoying the story. While I expect fiction to be fiction, I don't enjoy stories where the author hasn't put any effort into making it somewhat believable. It had potential but doesn't meet it.

Julie Garwood is a ridiculously talented writer. Her novels are always tightly written with snappy dialogue and are carefully plotted. This novel had none of those elements. I really wanted to like this novel because I am a fan of Julie's work. But, I'm just shaking my head and wondering whether she had a ghostwriter for this novel, she got a new editor or if she's just having an off year. Having read everything she's written- this just didn't "feel" like a Julie Garwood novel. It had none of the complexity she usually crafts into her characters or settings, and at times seemed even a little ham-handed and rushed with the descriptions (which is so not her style). Since when is a Julie Garwood heroine this silly or her hero this over-the-top brooding? Since NEVER. It had an overall "cluttered" feeling and there were also some pretty big plot holes. I kept thinking all the way through that I just didn't hear her signature writing style in the novel at all. While it wasn't a bad story by regular romance novel standards...it wasn't a Julie Garwood romantic suspense. I'm still going to buy her novels the first day they come out, as she has mighty laurels to rest on prior to this clunker, but I was really disappointed by this one.

I think Julie Garwood is one of the finest romance writers in print. She's one of my all time favorites. However, this book is a mess. It is so disjointed, it reads like her editor was on vacation. I honestly had to force myself to finish it. Definitely not a keeper. My advice--check it out of the library if you want to read it. Julie Garwood is still at the top of my list; even the best writers are entitled to a clunker now and then.

It appears that if Julie Garwood even wrote this book, she never got passed her outline. With more time spent on writing, editing and character development, this could have been a good summer read. The story does not flow, it is just chunks of info strung together, as if it were a romance text book. The author ushers the reader through every description, interlude and exchange. The characters have sex so fast it had to have been as painful for Peyton to have as it was for me to

read. I have never been so rushed through a book in my life! Just when you start to enjoy an exchange the author quickly pushes you to the next part of the story. Where were the editors? Where was the author? For Shame!!! Can I get my money back?

"Hotshot" is classic of Garwoods' contemporary romantic/suspense stories. Her hero is an overachiever, alpha male, type A personality. Her heroine is sweet, honest, smart and in trouble. The offer of a dream job which seems too good to be true, fast becomes a nightmare for Peyton as her new boss turns out to be a sexual predator with her as his next target. She calls her childhood hero turned FBI agent, for advice on how to get evidence against him so he can't do this to any other women, and just as he was there for her when she was a little girl; Finn comes to her aid again. The storyline is "busy"; lot's going on at the same time. Garwood juggles the different lines and multiple secondary characters like the pro she is. As always, I thoroughly enjoyed the story and will 're-read it, more slowly this time through. I tend to drop everything and devour her latest book as soon as I get my hot little hands on it. I'm a sucker for her sense of humor, but even more for a happy ending! As always, Julie Garwood delivers!!

It was ok but I still enjoy her historical writing a lot more. The humor and strong character of the women is better not to mention the plots are better. I miss her historical books and wish she would write more of them.

I just finished reading Julie Garwood's Hotshot. Did I enjoy it? Well, yes - sort of. The author created a charming and funny heroine and an opening scene that got me into the story immediately, along with excellent scenes when the h & H meet as adults. The harassment plot was well thought out, and I remained interested in seeing how it was resolved. The hero was beyond perfect, if that's possible....perfect athlete, protector, lover... I had a hard time buying him as human. The author fleshed out a number of characters successfully. Some, however, were just plain annoying - the cousin Dori, and, to a lesser degree, sister Lucy. Others seemed to slow the pace of the story while adding little. For some reason, the bad guys never were threatening enough to create much suspense. Was it because they were one dimensional, or because the hero was so perfect? I A little of both, I think. Still, I was sufficiently engaged to keep reading to see how they received their just desserts. Would I recommend the novel? Well, even a flawed Julie Garwood stands above much of what's out there. If you've enjoyed her work in the past, you'll probably enjoy this one, too - although to a lesser degree. 3 1/2 stars.

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