



Heartbreaker (Buchanan / Renard / MacKenna Book 1)

By Julie Garwood

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#1 *New York Times* bestselling author Julie Garwood proves she is a master storyteller in this classic romantic suspense novel featuring FBI agent Nick Buchanan.

In the still shadows of the confessional, the penitent kneels and makes a bone-chilling disclosure: *Bless me father, for I will sin....* Slowly, tauntingly, the man describes his murderous past—how he stalked his victim, worked his way into her life, and then took that life in a violent rage—and his plan to kill again. Only this time, he has raised the stakes in his twisted game, daring authorities to catch him if they can. And this time, he has revealed the name of his next intended victim.

Agent Nick Buchanan has come face-to-face with society's worst monsters and depraved minds in his work for one of the FBI's most elite units, but *The Heartbreaker* threatens to hit close to home. The intended victim, Laurant Madden, is his best friend's sister.

Soon he is caught up in an intricate chase with one of the most devious psychopaths of his career. But as the danger grows, so does an electrifying attraction between Nick and Laurant.

One false move will cost both of them everything that matters.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

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 fiancé, 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*

From Publishers Weekly

"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)

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From Kirkus Reviews

A psychopath confides his obsessions to a terrified priest, whose beloved sister is the star of the killer's

homicidal fantasies: Garwood's first foray into contemporary romantic suspense. Father Tom Madden and younger sib Laurant are close, even though the untimely death of their parents meant a childhood spent thousands of miles apart. The lovely Laurant grew up in a posh Swiss boarding school run by kindly nuns, while Tom was raised by the equally kindly Buchanan family in heartland America. Nick Buchanan, like a brother to Tom then, is now a special agent for the FBI. Tom turns to Nick to help track down the mysterious killer who calls himself Heartbreaker, but Laurant wishes he hadn't. Her immediate reaction to the "incredibly sexy" FBI agent is anything but sisterly, though his protectiveness and take-charge attitude trouble her. When Laurant realizes, however, that the stalker is getting closer every day, she stops arguing with Nick and falls in love. For the most part, Garwood avoids the grittiness of a procedural thriller and only hints at gory doings, concentrating instead on psychological suspense and Heartbreaker's increasing derangement as her somewhat formulaic story moves rapidly to a shattering climax. Straightforward style and brisk pacing zip readers past minor implausibilities, aided by a host of familiar small-town types, including a batty neighbor and a crooked sheriff. Readers of the author's historical romances (*For the Roses*, 1995, etc.) will be on familiar territory here despite the modern-day setting, and the frank sensuality of the love scenes is sure to please. A quickie denouement resolves the soapy subplots--Laurant's legal wrangle over a family trust, Nick's fear of flying (hey, tough guys can tremble), Father Tom's battle with cancer--and naturally love triumphs. Add a pinch of *Psycho* to a generous helping of *General Hospital*, and you've got the idea. -- Copyright © 2000 Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Berneice Ritzman:

Nowadays reading books are more than want or need but also become a life style. This reading addiction give you lot of advantages. Associate programs you got of course the knowledge your information inside the book this improve your knowledge and information. The info you get based on what kind of guide you read, if you want attract knowledge just go with knowledge books but if you want truly feel happy read one using theme for entertaining including comic or novel. The Heartbreaker (Buchanan / Renard / MacKenna Book 1) is kind of publication which is giving the reader capricious experience.

Irving Brehm:

This Heartbreaker (Buchanan / Renard / MacKenna Book 1) is great book for you because the content and that is full of information for you who have always deal with world and still have to make decision every minute. That book reveal it details accurately using great plan word or we can state no rambling sentences in it. So if you are read this hurriedly you can have whole info in it. Doesn't mean it only gives you straight forward sentences but challenging core information with lovely delivering sentences. Having Heartbreaker (Buchanan / Renard / MacKenna Book 1) in your hand like getting the world in your arm, details in it is not ridiculous a single. We can say that no publication that offer you world with ten or fifteen tiny right but this guide already do that. So , this is good reading book. Hey Mr. and Mrs. stressful do you still doubt which?

Denise Rutledge:

This Heartbreaker (Buchanan / Renard / MacKenna Book 1) is completely new way for you who has fascination to look for some information since it relief your hunger of information. Getting deeper you upon

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John Olive:

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