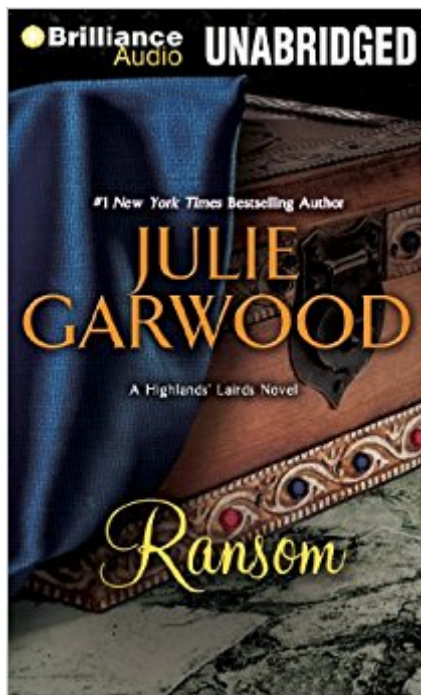


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# Ransom (Highlands' Lairds)



## Synopsis

Overflowing with all of the majesty and intrigue of medieval glory days, this magnificent New York Times bestseller is a captivating story of passion and loyalty, justice and honor. Beloved storyteller Julie Garwood steps back to the silver-shrouded Highlands of her classic tale *The Secret* and hails the return of two unforgettable warriors: Ramsey Sinclair and Brodick Buchanan. In the dark days after the death of Richard the Lionhearted, lives and lands would fall into upheaval at the hands of a power-hungry British ruler and his violent minions. One victim of the scourge is innocent Gillian, who is a mere child when the cruel and ambitious Baron Alford slaughters her father and tears her family apart. Alford, determined to recover a jeweled box for the despotic King John, is furious when the precious treasure slips through his fingers—only to be lost for more than a decade. Now a beautiful young woman, Gillian finds the key to resolving her past in handsome Scottish chieftains Ramsey Sinclair and Brodick Buchanan. With the cunning and courage of the daring Scotsmen, and with the friendship of a new ally, Bridgid KirkConnell, Gillian at last fights the unscrupulous Baron Alford, laying claim to her home, her family, and her father's reputation. But in the presence of the mighty warriors, Gillian and Bridgid discover that desire can be a weapon of conquest—betrayal can slay trust in a heartbeat—and the greatest risk of all is surrender—to the deep emotions of unexpected love.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

In *Ransom*, New York Times bestselling author Julie Garwood returns to her beloved Highlands and

the dark days of the despotic rule of King John to acquaint readers with Scottish chieftain Brodick Buchanan, first introduced in *The Secret*. Brodick finds himself playing protector to Gillian, an exquisite English beauty, who is desperate to find her long-lost sister and a treasure of incalculable worth--one for which many already have died, including Gillian's own father. Coerced by the fiendish Baron Alford, who murdered her father before her eyes and usurped her birthright 14 years earlier, Gillian must return to England with Arianna's Box, a bejeweled golden box commissioned by King John, or her beloved Uncle Morgan will be tortured to death. In spite of Gillian's fragile looks and her loathsome English bloodlines, Brodick encounters a woman of immeasurable courage and determination, one not at all intimidated by his legendary temper or imposing size. And as he realizes that he has met his match in Gillian--whose sense of honor and duty equals his own--their passion for each other grows ever stronger in this thrilling historical. --Alison Trinkle --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

In *The Secret* (Pocket, 1997), Garwood introduced fans to Brodick Buchanan and Ramsey Sinclair, then left us dangling for years with the hint that Brodick and Ramsey were going wife-hunting to find the happiness Laird Ian Maitland found in his Judith. Well, they don't seem to have remembered the purpose of their quest, possibly because each is too busy being laird of his own clan. When Lady Gillian arrives in Scotland to search for her long-lost sister and to return a kidnapped boy to the Maitlands, she pulls Brodick away from his duties by claiming to be his bride. Her guardian, Baron Alford, believes her sister holds the key to a treasure King John is desperate to find. Alford, the man responsible for killing Gillian's father, uses her uncle as a ransom against her return. Gillian needs Brodick's help to locate her sister, who is believed to be hiding within Ramsey's clan. When the two strong-willed people meet, tempers flare and sparks fly. Jan Maxwell provides an excellent interpretation of the nuances of Garwood's writing, but the abridgment itself leaps too quickly across important plot points and lingers on background material, leaving listeners to wonder "What happened?" Wait for the unabridged version. Not recommended. AMelanie C. Duncan, Washington Memorial Lib., Macon, GA Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I love this book. I have read it countless times. There are essentially two love stories in this book, and my one complaint would be that Ramsey's love story took too much of a back seat. I would have liked to see more of his love story, I think there was a great possibility for another whole story that we missed out on. But unless someone can convince the author to do a rewrite or add on for

this book we are stuck. :(I loved the h in this book, she was not rude or naggy in order to appear strong. She was brave and her acts defined that and she didn't think she was strong while very obviously being strong. She didn't feel the need to prove herself she just was what she was. There are no great misunderstandings in this book that create drama for the sake of drama to try and build up to the climax. The h and H communicated well and thought the H was stubborn she didn't just let him have his way. She did what she knew needed to be done despite what he thought. I will say that I thought she fell in love with him a little fast and I didn't like that she asked him to join her to Ramsey's I feel like it was a little conflicting with how her character was written and could have been done a little better, but it didn't really deter from the story and she certainly made up for it. This book is worth the read it is not focused on sex and blah blah though it does have a couple love scenes that aren't too graphic. This book truly focuses on a story. Not just two people lusting for each other but rather it hosts and entire cast of well written characters and a sound plot that are the foundation of a good wholesome story. I reread this book often, my favorite part is where she is getting her wounds tended at the beginning of the book. I love her bravery and selflessness and her determination to control the situation when everyone around her is trying to take her control away. The story is humorous and still romantic without the over lavishing on the character's feelings and emotions. You know what I'm talking about. Like those books where the author spends pages describing one's heart palpitations at the sight of the other. BORRING. This book offers just enough details on their feeling to be appreciative and understanding to their feeling without the urge to skip over paragraph after paragraph to get to the action. I love Julie Garwood she is a talented author and I hope she starts writing more historical fiction soon.

This is one of my favorite books. That means that I read it several times through the years. The main characters in this book are written so well, they come to life. Julie Garwood is brilliant when it comes bringing her characters to life. I love all of her books and I re-read them over time but this is absolute favorite and I read a book every 3 days!. I have read it at least 10 times since I first bought and I give it as gifts to my friends. There are parts that are so funny, I laugh out loud. I highly recommend it to anyone who likes wonderful books.

Once upon a time, Julie Garwood wrote fabulous historical romance. Ransome is a prime example of her outstanding early efforts. Although this is a stand alone book, it does refer to previous characters from her medieval series so I recommend reading *The Secret* first to get the full effect. I read them all many years ago but found rereading delightful. The craftsmanship is superior.

Garwood's more recent contemporary suspense/romance efforts have shown deterioration of quality as time went on until I stopped reading them. They are probably ghost written which I find offensive. But her early historical are first class and great fun. Enjoy!

I always enjoy Julie Garwood's characters' sense of humor, and the dialogues in her books so often tickle my funny bone that I'll laugh out loud, but I must say Ransom tops my list of favorites. I have read it MULTIPLE times, and have the 1) paperback, 2) hardback because the paperback was falling apart, and now purchased the Kindle version! "You know what?" pops in my mind every once in a while, and I smile. "She used to be English!" makes me laugh, and "On HORSEBACK?" --- oh dear, I've just lost it! This time, after buying Ransom, I saw that The Secret and Shadow Music were also available (books 1 and 3), so I bought them and forced myself to not reread Ransom first. Reading The Secret first was not a hardship :) and did add a lovely layer of additional depth to Ransom (yes, I liked it too, of course!). Now on to Shadow Music - which I have not read before! Can't wait! Housework can, though, and maybe the laundry! Thanks, Julie Garwood.

Romantic and funny, typical of Garwood's work. However, Ramsey and Brigid' story was not developed at all. Since the first book in the series, I've wanted to read Ramsey's story and that's why this was such a disappointing book for me. There wasn't much about them at all. They were like... Sidekicks, and that was a great disservice to them. The 3 stars is for Brodick's story. I couldn't give it higher because the climactic event at the end was stupid and there times that it dragged and I was skipping pages as nothing was going on and they keep harping on the same subjects. Warning, spoilers ahead. So, Gillian wanted to go back and save her uncle. Even though Alford will kill her and her uncle once he gets what he wants anyway (and she's supposed to be smart). Brodick, of course, instead of telling Gillian his plan, broke his word and did his thing. Predictably, and stupidly, Gillian got herself caught with her trusty sidekick, Brigid, in tow. I understand plot twists are there to serve the romance... But can't they at least make sense?

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