



The Gift

Julie Garwood

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A child bride, Sara Winchester had grown into a winsome beauty, joyfully anticipating the day when her husband Nathan, Marquess of St. James, would return to claim her heart at last. Charmingly innocent, she dismissed the ancient feud that divided Nathan's family from her own...and she was totally unaware of his past exploits as the notorious pirate, Pagan. The man who now stood before her was perplexing, arrogant and powerfully handsome...a warrior-gentleman whose gentle touch aroused her to the wildest, deepest pleasures of love.

Nathan had never bared his soul to any woman, but he was soon utterly beguiled and exasperated by Sara's sweet, defiant ways. Aboard his ship, *The Seahawk*, she was brave, imperious and determined to win his heart completely -- yet upon their return to England, her love would be sorely tested as a vile conspiracy tried to tear them apart. With their future at stake, they would discover the true destiny of their passion...for all time!

The Gift Details

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Author : Julie Garwood

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From Reader Review The Gift for online ebook

Lakshmi C says

This was an incredibly difficult book to rate. The story ended well but something was missing...what was it? Others would obsess or re-read the story, I moved on to the last book in the series hoping the answer would miraculously turn up.

The King has forced two feuding families into an alliance. A substantial gift is the carrot at the end of the stick. The two people stuck in this alliance are Nathan and Sara.

Nathan was surly but protective, Sara was naive but devoted. She never held anything back and wore her heart on her sleeve. Nathan kidnaps Sara so he can get his hands on the Gift and the rest is about both of them surviving each other.

He had believed he would have to protect his wife from the world. Now he knew the truth. It had become his duty to protect the world from his wife.

The Curse of the Infernal Weeping

Nathan's ship and crew are the victims of several accidents, the superstitious ones believe Sara is the harbinger of doom.

Sara's response to most situations is tears. She cries when she's happy, she cries when she's sad, she cries when she's troubled, she cries when she's mad... This made Nathan and his crew wary. Nathan got over his wariness. I didn't.

He sounded as if he was close to weeping when he bellowed, "She set my ship on fire."

"She didn't do it on purpose," Matthew defended.

Nathan wasn't listening. "She set my ship on fire," he repeated in a roar.

There have been many hints about Nathan's backstory in the other books. He was a spy, he was caught in a conspiracy, he was betrayed by a woman he cared for, he was tortured and thanks to Jade, he was also Pagan. I couldn't contain my excitement waiting to learn more but none of this was explored. We don't even see much of his partner Colin which was a shame.

This let me down, I'm a miserable house elf.

Sara is consumed by her love for Nathan. While this works out extremely well for Nathan, it makes you feel like an outsider. You can't connect with her because you don't see her fall for him, it has already happened.

"What will you do if a snake bites you?" she asked as she passed him.

"Bite him back," Nathan drawled.

That ludicrous remark made her laugh. "You would, wouldn't you?"

Sara gets annoyed with Nathan, she wants more but she melts around him, all her sensible plans disappear. If she were a little firm, things could have worked out sooner.

Me : Be firm, be a cheesecake or a brownie.

Sara : Nathan, Nathan, Nathan...

Me : Even mousse is acceptable at this point....

Sara : Nathan! Nathan!! Nathan !!!

Me : Fine. Be Jelly for life.

Still, this was an an enjoyable read. Caine and Jade make an appearance which was too cute. I like how Julie Garwood always has a support system for the young, married couple. In this book, this role is played by Jimbo, Matthew and Nora.

What was missing? I liked this book, but I didn't love it. This book has been friendzoned and the need for half stars is real, people.

Varied Books says

1.5 stars

Audio book- narrator was good

I hated the h. I wanted to strangle her many times. She was a brat & TSTL. I liked the Hero.

Cynthia says

Sara reaches a level of charming stupidity that can only be matched by a slow puppy. The kind that falls over a lot, barks at its reflection, and runs into glass doors. Adorable, but childish and annoying. She also cries at least once a chapter. Seriously.

Nathan's amusing, pirate-y, commanding, and can't understand love (shocking).

It made for an entertaining, exasperating, and cliched story. If you can handle a truly dumb-as-a-box-of-rocks heroine, enjoy a slightly slapstick/absurd humor, and love your heroes gruff/alpha, you might like this book.

Setting is mostly on a boat. Excuse me, ship. Annoying plot about convoluted marriage and a ridiculously "evil" family abounds. All the needless plot at the end was terrible.

Garwood's signatures are in full force here. Plenty of weeping, mouth slanting, finger crooking, refusing to obey, scowling, growling, hauling the wife to your side, forced marriage, and winning the loyalty of men.

I did like this line:

S: I can't imagine why you would need my parasols.

N: I'm throwing them in the ocean. With any luck they'll cripple a couple sharks.

Saly says

This one was pretty good!The heroine was a good departure from the previous two. I took down one star because I didn't enjoy the drama at the last 20 per cent.

Stacey is Sassy says

The parasols nearly sunk the boat...I mean ship

The Gift by Julie Garwood has always been one of my favourite historical romance novels. I haven't re-read it in years and when friends decided a Julie Garwood buddy read was in order, *The Gift* was chosen.

We are introduced to Nathan at the age of fourteen and Sara at the age of four. The daft King decided to stop the feuding between each of their families by joining the young couple in marriage. Sara's family are despicable and throughout the story we see them at their worst. Nathan's is not much better, but they are loyal. When the couple finally come together to live as man and wife, it's not all plain sailing.

I loved this couple. Sara is an absolute crack up. Her naive outlook on life and her unquestionable faith in her husband is sweet. Nathan is a gruff and impatient man who wants the contract fulfilled without his emotions getting involved. Their journey is filled with rough seas and dastardly parasols, but Sara's positive outlook and Nathan's determination help them survive the storms.

Julie Garwood is one of the most brilliant historical romance authors and her stories always leave me with a smile on my face. She brings her characters to life and makes you fall in love with them. This was a great reminder to step back in time more regularly and enjoy the fun, excitement, sexy times and adventure that a good historical romance provides.

This review and more can be found at <http://edgyreviews.com/>

Andrea says

Julia Garwood has the distinct talent of creating the most unlikeable and annoying female characters on the planet. This girl got on my nerves so much I wanted to scream.

Charmingly innocent? Seriously? *That's* what you're going to call Sara?

Amazingly stupid, astoundingly aggravating, or unbelievably naïve are more apt terms.

The naiveté was supposed to be charming and funny, I'm sure, but it's not. It's absolutely the farthest thing from charming and funny as you can possibly get. After they have sex he rolls over and starts to go to sleep, saying nothing to her and frankly ignoring her, so what does she do? She feels the need for reassurance and to be told she pleased him, so she's yelling in his ear to try to wake him up. Need I say more?

But the aggravation didn't stop there. She goes on to perform every brainless, stupid and outlandish deed that can ever happen on a ship. She sets his cabin on fire and burns down the framing or something. There's some nonsense about her parasols, and more crazy, ridiculous things occur. I'm not sure if it was this book, or The

Charm School, that the woman got her hair caught in some roping on deck and he had to cut her hair short, but the scene was just over the top.

I love pirates, I love pirate ships, being on the ocean—everything about pirates, but this author managed to completely ruin that. I saw the ship on the front of the book and grabbed it up thinking I was in store for an exciting adventure, but my god, was I wrong.

I was like oh my god, shoot me now and put me out of my misery!

Nathan treated her like a dog, which was awful for a husband to treat his wife like that, but she deserved it—and a lot more. I wanted him to throw her overboard. She deserved to be fed to the sharks so I would never have to hear another word of hers ever again.

I think the only funny thing in this book was when she starts using cuss words in front of the priest to teach Nathan a lesson that cussing is bad, but it was only slightly funny, because nothing she did could ever be funny, and he overreacted and got more mad than the occasion warranted.

I am thoroughly convinced that Julie Garwood is one of the worst romance authors and her characters will drive you up the dang wall. I won't be reading any more of her books.

Tuba Özkat says

Kitab? sevdim, evet. Belki ba?ka bir yazar?n olsa üç buçuk falan da verebilirdim ama. Çünkü kad?n karakter biraz al?kt?. Saft?. Pasifti, güçsüzdü. Hiç sevmedi?im ?eyler ve genelde Garwood'un kad?nlar? güçlüdür, onun için Garwood'u bu kadar severim. Ama bu k?za az?c?k uyuz oldum.

Önceki kitaptaki Jade'in abisi Nathan'a gelince... Bu önceki kitapta okudu?umuz adama hiç benzemiyordu. Yazar sanki ba?l? ba??na yeni bir karakter yaratm??t?.

Bunlar?n d???nda historical? güzel bir dille aktaran, efso bir yazar var. Okuyun tabiisi.

Kristen says

4 "fun-filled" stars!

I've LOVED listening to this series. *The Gift* is another charming and delightful book by the very talented Julie Garwood. I can't seem to get enough of this author and that says it all.

Sarah says

I read this book 20 years ago and remember loving it. My perceptions have chanced a bit over the years and while I found this a bit corny and full of clichés, I still had a smile on my face the whole time I read and was a little misty eyed at the end. My findings? A Garwood will never go out of style. It's still a 5 star read :)

Steven Walle says

The Gift was a great novel. It is a story of two fuding families and how won four year old girl is betrothed to won eighteen year old boy from the rival family are to put an end to this fight.

The young family grow to trust and love each other. The book was very well written a definite page turner. I would recommend this to people over eighteen because of the violents and explisit descriptions of sex.

Enjoy and Be Blessed.

Diamond

Dina says

What can I say about Julie Garwood that I haven't said yet? I just love her writing. I know she's "formulaic" in her characterization of her H/h, but I happen to like her "formula". If it isn't broken, why fix it? :)

The St. Jameses and the Winchesters have been enemies since the middle age, but King George decides to put a stop to their warring by ordering a marriage between Nathan, the young Marquess of St. James, and Sara, the even younger daughter of the Earl of Winchester. Obviously, the groom and the bride are given some time to consummate the marriage, given the fact that he's 14 years old and, gasp, she's only 4.

Now, 14 years later, it's time Nathan collected his bride - and the King's gift (coins and lands) that comes with it, as he needs the money to jump start the shipping company he's opened with his friend Colin. Plus, he's a man of his word and it's his signature on the marriage contract, so he will consummate the marriage, no matter what. Unfortunately, Sara's father isn't a man of his word and he wants nothing to do with the St. James, so Nathan is "forced" to kidnap his own bride.

Sara has fantasized about her husband since childhood, picturing him as a knight in shining armor who would eventually come and rescue her from her unloving family. She's dismayed when she meets Nathan, as he's nothing like she's dreamed about, but she recovers - after a fit of temper - and decides to be the best wife he could ever want. Poor Nathan! His life is about to be turned upside down by her efforts to please him and he doesn't have the slightest clue, LOL.

The majority of this book - and Nathan and Sara's "honeymoon" - takes place on Nathan's ship, as they travel to Sara's aunt Nora's island to take her (Nora) back home. As they get to spend time together, Sara falls in love with Nathan - naturally! - and he starts to *care* for her. As most heroes in Romancelandia, Nathan is slow at realizing he loves Sara, but she's relentless and she'll have him admit it sooner or later. Stubborn that he is, that happens later than sooner, but it's worth the wait. :)

Nathan was a typical Garwood hero and we all know how they are: arrogant to the bone, dominant, possessive, strongly protective and more comfortable with grunting than speaking coherently. Awww, isn't that sweet? LOL! Sara was also a typical Garwood heroine: quirky, airheaded, naïve, funny and loving. That was all good to me, but she was also prone to opening the waterworks every other page and that became annoying after a while. She cried when she was sad, when she was mad, when she was happy, when she had an orgasm... I guess that was supposed to be funny/charming(?), but it got on my nerves. It wasn't bad enough to make me dislike Sara, but it was jarring enough to make me take notice.

All in all, this was a very pleasant read. There were a lot of LOL moments - provided not only by Nathan and

Sara, but by several secondary characters too - and some sweet scenes between Nathan and Sara. I especially liked the scene where Nathan asks his brother-in-law Caine to make him a list of endearments he could use to call Sara, as he couldn't go on calling her "Damn It Sara" forever. Oh boy, he was a goner... and so was I. Great hero, great book!

Nitpicking: Nathan's brother-in-law Caine, who's the hero in Guardian Angel, was a marquess in his book. Now, he's an earl. What happened? Why was he "demoted"? Bad writing/editing?

Jessica says

I think my decision to re-read Garwood's historicals starting with the ones I've only read once was not my best idea ever.

I first read this when I was about 18 (the heroine's age) and many years later all I really remembered was not liking Sara as much as I'd liked Jade and Christina. Unfortunately, I now have a clear idea of why that was my only memory: Sara is a sugary mess. She's talked about like she's the cutest, most artlessly charming thing ever, but the way she acts ... I mean the level of selfish, brainless, delusional behavior is amazing. But I guess it's ok because she's smiling prettily the whole way through... except when she starts shrieking for no reason.

And Garwood's description of Sara's "repulsive" female relatives made me think of a Laurenston heroine: big, strong, and capable of laying a beat-down on anyone who crosses them. I'd rather read about one of them than Sara, who seems like a marshmallow peep in comparison. (In case that was too subtle: yes, there is some pretty blatant fat shaming.)

The hero... eh, he's from the alphahole mold, but an unfinished version of it. Really not well developed enough for me to have much of a reaction either way

As for the plot... childhood marriage contract with monetary consequences, pirate ships and tropical islands. So much potential, so little payoff. Mostly due to a surfeit of sugar in place of actual structure.

I now have one more only-read-once book to get through. I'll give it a chance, but so far this attempt at going on a Garwood glom has been so unpleasant that I'm kind of afraid to try the ones I did have fond memories of.

Lili Marcus says

Maybe I just read this one in a wrong time...Because seriously what a meh!!!...The girl was a uuughhh!!!..What an idiot..(Im sorry I dont really use that word in real people but ugh!!!) It wasn't her first time boarding in a ship, for God's sake. She's not an effing child not to know the basic or even GET the do's and don'ts..But almost fifty percent of the book was about this girl's stupidity.

And she's so pushy, always trying her best to win other's confidence and trust.. WTF. And the guy, Gooooood!!!!..When I read about him at the previous book in this series, I was excited because his story seemed more interesting but what a disappointment. He was even more likable in the previous book...

And the sex scenes...especially the first ones...gawd!!!...I hate them..

I just realize that I couldn't even use their names. because what's the point? And the only reason I gave this one 2 stars because I really like the beginning...

kari says

This book is awful. I have read Garwood before and thoroughly enjoyed the tale, but this one has such cardboard characters in search of a plot that I'm surprised I managed to finish plowing through it. Truly terrible and from an author I've enjoyed prior to this.

Sara, the female lead(can't even call this one a heroine) was married at the age of four to the then fourteen year old Nathan in order to settle a centuries old feud between their families. When this story begins it's years later and Nathan has come to collect his bride.

Sara is the most ridiculous insipid air-head that I've ever had the displeasure to come across. She sounds and behaves more like a ten year old crybaby than the grown woman she is supposed to be. I bet there isn't two pages in the entire book in which she isn't sobbing, weeping, crying, sniffing, about to burst into tears or her eyes watering in an emoting way of some kind. She even cries after the sexin, but those are tears of rapturous uncontrollable joy. Whatev. I really wanted to tell her to grow the heck up. She actually stomps on her husband's foot when they are having a disagreement. That bears repeating: She stomps her dainty childlike foot on his to make a point. She is in love with him after about two days and all she can think about, when she's thinking at all, which is seldom, is how to make Nathan say he loves her since she's already sure that he does and even tells him what a perfect wife she is for him. Oh, if only that were true.

Nathan, for his part, glares, grunts, grumbles, groans and gets right down to the sexin, because they have to have a baby to get the land from the oh never mind, this really isn't important to the story, oh wait, except that it's supposedly what this whole messy mishmash is about. He might be an interesting character, but we barely get to know him. What's his history? Who is he? Why is he how he is? Nathan has terrible scars on his back which are mentioned, but never really explained, much like everything in this book.

Of course, everyone simply falls in love with Sara because, who knows?

Silly, lacking of any story until about the last thirty pages. Basically it's have sex, she provokes him/does something stupid, have sex, provokes/does stupid, repeat.....

I'd give this one star, but I give those only to books I truly can't stand so it gets an extremely reluctant two.

Poorly done from an author who can certainly do better. My recommendation: Choose another of her novels.

Lelyana's Reviews says

[image error]
