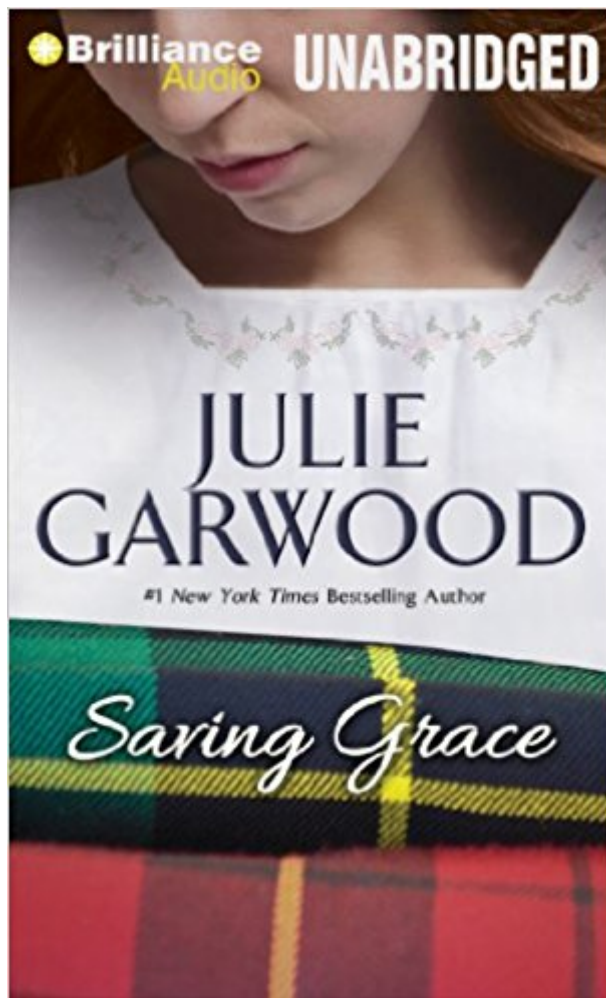




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# Saving Grace



## Synopsis

In this splendid New York Times bestseller, Julie Garwood brilliantly crafts the majestic story of a young Englishwoman determined to fight for her freedom—a woman whose life would be transformed by the rare, unexpected gift of love. When Lady Johanna learned that she was a widow, she vowed she would never marry again. Only sixteen, already she possessed a strength of will that impressed all who looked past her golden-haired beauty. Yet when King John demanded that she remarry—and selected a bridegroom for her—it seemed she must acquiesce, until her beloved foster brother suggested she wed his friend, the handsome Scottish warrior Gabriel MacBain. At first Johanna was shy, but as Gabriel tenderly revealed the splendid pleasures they would share, she came to suspect that she was falling in love with her gruff new husband. And it was soon apparent to the entire Highlands clan that their brusque, gallant laird had surrendered his heart completely. But now a desperate royal intrigue threatened to tear her from his side—and to destroy the man whose love meant more to her than she had ever dreamed!

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Set in 13th-century England and Scotland, this rollicking adventure is among Garwood's ( *The Bride* ) most enjoyable. The news that her despicable husband is dead has left beautiful 16-year-old Lady Johanna both wealthy and available. Wicked King John wants to marry her to one of his henchmen, but her beloved foster brother convinces the powerful highland laird Gabriel MacBain to put aside his natural repugnance for all things English and wed the girl. Emotionally scarred by her first marriage, Johanna is intimidated both by her strange surroundings and by the outsized, gruff laird;

but with the help of an eccentric old soldier and MacBain's illegitimate son, Johanna learns to hold her own with the soldiers, their wives and her new husband. Then an unwelcome surprise tests her newfound courage. Garwood endows the novel with a first-rate setting, a splendid supporting cast and witty dialogue that more than offsets the rote predictability of Johanna's great beauty and MacBain's forceful charisma. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Preloaded Digital Audio Player edition.

YA-An entertaining story with many amusing elements. In 1206, a hastily arranged marriage unites Johanna, recent widow, with MacBain, a Scottish laird. The woman learns new customs, creates some problems but solves others, and falls in love with her husband in this turbulent time of mixed loyalties. The characters are believable-they are real people with a variety of emotions, strong allegiances at home and on the battlefield, but are tender and caring individuals too. Sufficient details of the period provide adequate background to make the people and times come alive, but the story doesn't become bogged down with these technicalities. The abundant dialogue, humorous incidents, and quick pace make this a good choice for anyone looking for light historical romance. Claudia Moore, W.T. Woodson High School, Fairfax, VA Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Preloaded Digital Audio Player edition.

Summary Lady Johanna has recently become a widow, and against her wishes King John has commanded that she marry a Scottish Laird Gabriel MacBain. A warrior and leader, a man who has combined the strength of two clans, separate but together in harmony. Johanna knows that she has little choice, but she refuses to be treated the way her previous husband treated her. So in the moment where she meets her future husband, she feels fear, but she also feels an attraction she can't explain. She senses he is a man of honor and integrity and has a son that is in need of a mother. Johanna married The MacBain. But as a English woman she never realized the difference in living with Scots their culture, way of manner and speaking, very different but full of zest and passion. There are changes to be done, and Johanna is willing to do whatever it takes to win the hearts of the two clans and bring them together as one clan, to charm the little boy who needs affection and love, and above all to win the heart of her gruff warrior MacBane, who needs her compassion and love in a life where he has only known duty and loyalty. The Hero Gabriel MacBain, is the laird over two clans, both the MacBains and the MacLaurins. He is illegitimate, but has proved himself to be a talented warrior and leader. The responsibility of bringing them together is not an easy task, but marrying a woman he doesn't know, brings him land and a place of

safety and security for his people and will protect them at all costs. Gabriel has a son Alec, but isn't sure if he is his by blood, but he claims him wholeheartedly with no regrets. Gabriel is such a great hero, and plays the perfect role for Saving Grace. I just couldn't get enough of his hard and gruff exterior, but on the inside he is as soft as a teddy bear at times. You see his loyalty and strength, and I admired his manner toward those he protected and care for. He respects the opinion of those in his clan. The Heroine Johanna, has a sweet and loving nature. And this nature comes natural to her. She hasn't had a easy life since she got married. She believes that she is barren and unable to have children. Her first husband was not kind to her. But she grew up with a loving family. Johanna has quite the cunning mind, and I loved this heroine she never ceased to surprise me. She is intelligent, and strong-willed, she stands on her own, and demands respect and affection. She doesn't back down from standing firm in what she believes in. I loved her passion for life, and how she wants to help the clan as much as her husband does. Plot and Story Line I am in the process of re listening to all of Julie Garwood's books, and I had such a fun time with Saving Grace. It has been way too long since I have had a chance to reconnect with this story, and I am still amazed in how much I truly loved this one. Saving Grace is an enriching romance that just had me listening as much as possible. The narrator is quite talented, and I loved her inflections. She handles the accents and various voices quite well. If you have yet to read Saving Grace or even listened to an audiobook from Julie Garwood you are definitely missing out on something wonderful. Nothing brings me more joy than listening to one of her historicals and we see such a charming and sweet romance. There are so many moments to love. I love how our heroine of the story fights for the clan in ways you don't see coming. I love the scene where she teaches the men manners and the throwing of dishes. Spectacular. She is willful at times and a fighter, I love how this small timid woman stands up to these Scottish warriors. You gain respect for her pretty quickly. I also adored the little boy Alec who is so in need of some good mothering. I love how he reacts to Johanna and they bond to each other pretty quickly. The story has a deep plot at times, with some intensity especially toward the end, that really grabs at you, and a twist I wasn't expecting, but knowing Garwood I should have expected it. Saving Grace is a story of redeeming love, and carving a new life out of unexpected circumstances. The Cover I really like all the covers for this story. But I really adored the audio version, I love how you see the difference in the colors of the plaid, adds dimension and you see how that connects to the story. Overall View Saving Grace is a truly magnificent story that pulls at you, a tale of sacrifice, riveting emotion and a deep and abiding love.

I won't tire anybody who takes the time to read these few lines with a summary of the book since others have done so before me much better than I ever could. This is a typical Garwood-book: the main characters are complex, interesting and likeable. The secondary characters support the plot perfectly. The plot is straight forward and entertaining, the description of the scenery full of atmosphere. Just the right stuff to curl up on the couch and to be transported right into the book. There were just two points that I would have elaborated differently: at a point towards the end of the book Gabriel told Johanna that Nicolas sent her to him because he was developing more than brotherly feeling for her. I would have enjoyed more insights and details on this than just this very short explanation. Another point was the meeting between Raulph and Johanna, where I surely liked how she defended Gabriel but completely missed the fact that she didn't mention anything about his obvious barrenness. Yes, Johanna explained why she handled the situation in the way she did, which was absolutely reasonable, however, this fact was presented as a serious issue against Johanna and I just think that it deserved some kind of "revenge". But as always this is just my very humble personal opinion. In any case, this is a very recommendable book.

I bought this book so that I could get the audible version at a discount, having read how wonderful the audible version is. I loved this book and LOVED the audible version too. The heroine, having been married at a young age to a despicable man, finds freedom after his death. Her freedom is short-lived, however, because King John wishes for her to marry another despicable man. Her brother convinces her it is in her best interest to marry the Scottish highlander who is laird of the land she now owns after her husband's death. This, however, is not just another marriage of convenience story. The young heroine starts out very timid and naive but blossoms under the kindness and love the highlander shows her and becomes a strong woman who speaks her mind and shows courage in the face of some frightening circumstances she finds herself in. As she grows and matures, she has a positive effect on her husband and her new clan as well. The characters are well-developed, the dialogue is witty, and the love story has both sweetness and heat. I am really glad I listened to the story and read along with the narrator Rosalyn Landor, who by the way, is a wonderful narrator. I forget I'm listening to a woman, her male voice is so good. I've enjoyed listening to her narrate several books, including one by Susanna Kearsley and one by Lisa Kleypas. This is another winner. As a side note, I would have enjoyed this book even without the outstanding narration. Normally if I have a whisper sync for voice pair, I will not read ahead. However, there were times I couldn't listen to the narration, but found myself reading several chapters without it because I couldn't put it down. So even if you don't enjoy listening to audiobooks, the print version is

very engrossing by itself. I will be reading more of Julie Garwood's books.

Arrogant Highland Laird (is there a better kind????), Gabriel MacBain, meets timid, defiant, headstrong English born Lady Johanna. Bing Bang Boom they marry and eventually fall in love...But oh!!! Whudda ride!! Does this age old premise for a story ever grow old?? Apparently not for this Scottish gal because I soooooOOOooooOOOOoooo loved this story. And no matter how many angles it's told from, it's still delightful and humorous. The dialogue and banter, especially between the Warriors at Supper time is HI-larious and will have the reader bustin' up over and over.But.....Where the heck is the Epilogue??? Does Johanna have a boy or a girl??? WHERE'S THE SEQUEL??? WHY ISN'T THIS STORY FINISHED???Julie...I gotta say I'm thoroughly bummed!!

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