



# HotShot

*Julie Garwood*

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**HotShot** Julie Garwood

**#1 *New York Times* bestselling author Julie Garwood returns with a novel of family drama, suspense, and—of course—romance.**

Peyton Lockhart and her sisters have inherited Bishop's Cove, a small, luxurious oceanfront resort, but it comes with a condition: 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. Out of work and in a bad place personally, a year doing something completely different sounds wonderful.

There are countless challenges and too many people who want to stop the sisters from succeeding. Among them are Peyton's contentious cousins, who are outraged that they didn't inherit the resort, as well as a powerful group of land developers who have been eyeing the coveted beachfront property.

It's soon apparent to Peyton that their efforts are being sabotaged, but she refuses to let the threats scare her—until she's nearly killed. She calls on her childhood friend and protector, Finn MacBain, now with the FBI, and asks for his help. He saved her life once; he can do it again.

## HotShot Details

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Author : Julie Garwood

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## **From Reader Review HotShot for online ebook**

### **Sharon Redfern says**

I loved this book! From the beginning when the author is describing the MacBain boys and their propensity for trouble and bottomless stomachs to the very end when Finn proves he is still a Hotshot, I enjoyed every word.

Peyton is a woman at a crossroads and looking for a direction in her life. After a disastrous experience as a food critic for a magazine, she runs into her old neighbor Finn at his brother's wedding. Finn is a real Alpha hero, used to being in charge, perfect at everything he does, total hottie and nice besides. Years ago he saved Peyton from drowning and she crushed on him for years but she is finally over it-yeah right! They get together when the harassing lecher she fled from at the magazine sics a killer on her to keep her quiet about his actions and Finn's protective side is aroused.

The chemistry between Peyton and Finn is off the charts even as he fights it tooth and nail. Finn is not interested in the long term and tells Peyton so, but he finds himself being drawn back to her over and over. Peyton is smart and funny and gives Finn as much aggravation as she can to keep her heart from breaking even as she is falling in love with him. I really enjoyed the dialog between them and the sexy scenes were pretty good too.

There are several secondary characters that are very well fleshed out in this book and integral to the plot line. I particularly liked Peyton's sister Lucy and her fighting/romance with Christopher. The villains are really nasty except for Peyton's cousin Debbie who makes me think of a comedic version of one of the real housewives.

Every time I read one of the books in the Buchanan-Renard series, I want to go back and read them all over again! Each book stands alone but it is a fantastic series and this latest book is a great addition.

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### **Cheri says**

I don't know how I missed this one when I was reading the series last year. It was just as good as the rest. A unique storyline to the others.

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### **Laura the Highland Hussy says**

review posted on Got Fiction? Books

This is another of Garwood's contemporaries and I have to say, I really enjoyed it!

Peyton Lockhart has just taken a job at a culinary magazine as a food critic, only once she moves up there she realizes that her job is more be at her boss' beck and call, and less actual food critiquing. She makes a couple new friends, but on the whole no one is very pleasant, and her new boss soon becomes a problem. Drew Albertson's been sexually harassing the women in the office for years and no one has stopped him. When it becomes clear that Human Resources isn't going to help, Peyton realizes she'll have to take matters into her own hands.

She records her boss making sexual advances and gets the heck out of dodge. Unfortunately, Drew finds out and sends out his goons to make sure Peyton doesn't make it home.

She does make it home, only to meet up with her former childhood neighbor Finn MacBain, who not only falls for her, but sees the bullet holes in her car. Finn is furious that Peyton isn't taking the threat against her life seriously, and I have to say that becomes a recurring theme in this book. In fact that's probably what kept it from being a 5 star book for me. Peyton is shot at several times, almost killed, a bomb is blown up near her and she never once acts like "Oh crap, well, my life's in danger." She seriously acts like it's not a big deal.

Finn is an FBI agent now, a far cry from the boy who taught her to swim as a child. And it seems he still wants to keep her safe. When she is offered a chance to run her uncle's resort for a year (with her 2 sisters), she takes it. If they can show profit, they can keep the resort. Unfortunately Peyton's troubles follow her to Florida, and so do a whole host of new problems. But luckily Finn follows her there too.

The only things that annoyed me were Peyton constantly ignoring the actual danger and Finn would quite often use his status as FBI Agent to break up bar brawls, stop snipers from rooftops, and all around play super hero. It was sexy and he has a badge, but it was overkill.

On the whole, I enjoyed this story, and I think any Garwood fan will too.

\*\*\*ARC courtesy of Dutton/Penguin Group via Netgalley

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### **Gizella Tóth says**

Oh my, a new love has been born! It's called Finn McBain.

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### **Mskychick says**

DNF. My god, I had to stop halfway through- I couldn't tolerate any more of this tripe

Ways this story is just too stupid to be believable

1. HR tells Peyton that she can't file a sexual harassment case until she's been there 3 months. She keeps googling sexual harassment but doesn't figure out that this is bunkum
2. Randolph Swift is the CEO of the company Peyton is working for. Drew, Randolph's son-in-law, is sexually harassing her, but HR stonewalls her, she doesn't take things to Randolph because he's not in the office
3. When Peyton leaves Minnesota, she is followed by a truck that tries to force her off the road, but she doesn't call the police
4. When she find out that pick up truck shot at her and left bullet holes in the car, she doesn't call the police
5. Finn comes over one night and she has cooked for him. She has made three recipes that she is trying out. She gets rid of one of the recipes just based on what Finn says. That's not how chefs work.

I could list many more, but this book isn't worth any more of my time to complain about. Many things don't make sense, and Peyton is TSTL. I hate her.

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## **Crystal Gale says**

I am quite disappointed in this book and that's hard for me to say because I'm a long time fan (I ahve been reading her works since high school) and I have read ALL of her books. I'm so used to reading book after book of great stories from her that whenever she releases something new I will immediately grab it to read asap.

I just don't know what happened to her writing in her maybe last 2-3 books (Hotshot included) that her stories were becoming more and more mediocre. It's not as exciting and entertaining as before and I'm not even sure if she's still the one writing her new novels or someone else is writing for her. That special flavor that I only get from Julie Garwood's books that left me mesmerized for years were starting to fade in her latest releases. I'm worried that her future works will all be like this: nothing special to make you say "wow! that's a great book and so worth the money and time."

For a complete review, please visit my blog:  
<http://galelovescolors.blogspot.com/2...>

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## **Kirsten says**

I really enjoy Ms Garwood's contemporaries. This one, however, was not one of her best. Though the couple had some good chemistry, I felt that the plot was a little forced and that the hero was a little too alpha. But, I guess that went with him being a "hotshot". Still, it was a nice fun read.

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## **Anne OK says**

Another contemporary from Julie Garwood where we have a superstar FBI agent mixing it up with the grownup version of the little girl he saved from drowning years ago. There's not an unforgettable knockout storyline but the balance between romance and suspense was refreshing and quite entertaining. The story flows well and kept my attention. I liked both lead characters who were a bit broken but still willing to go another round. Garwood has kicked up the sizzle in this one and presented it very believably and emotionally. The back up cast was endearing and charming -- well most were anyway. I liked it a lot but didn't fall head over heels in love.

As you might expect from this author, the writing was impeccable and it was nice to read through a book without stumbling upon a variety of silly inexcusable errors. All in all, it is very recommendable.

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## **Cardyn Brooks says**

As a person who has read nearly every J.G. book, my opinion is that her writing in her contemporary fiction feels like she's a different person. It's normal for writing--like painting--styles to evolve over the course of a long, productive career, but this is more (or much less) than that.

Peyton's choices make her seem like a moron. Her cavalier attitude toward workplace harassment and leaving others in jeopardy as she saves herself does not make Peyton cheer-worthy. She's vapid. And the cluelessness of multiple characters, including Finn, regarding the shenanigans at the resort contradicts constant reminders that they're all so smart and competent. Not.

What is going on with the dumbing (way) down of contemporary romance/romantic thriller fiction from powerhouse authors? The established greats; Catherine Coulter, Jude Deveraux, Iris Johansen, and others have changed their writing styles in ways that just can't compete with the quality of their earlier works.

Sadly, Hotshot was probably my last J.G. read.

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## **Jenni says**

I am extremely unimpressed with Julie Garwood's newest addition. I used to be a HUGE fan of hers, and her historical novels always work as the perfect pick me up.

However this novel lacks everything that makes a Julie Garwood novel great.

Cliche upon cliche, perfect characters meet perfect characters. We have the swimmer who catches up with his innocent (ahem. VERY innocent) childhood neighbor. Or, should I say Olympic gold medalist, record-breaking swimmer turned PERFECT FBI agent who just happens to save the day from crazy men with guns like it is nothing who just happens to fall in love being the super protector to the one whom he had already saved before.

How "perfect" can one character be? This book read like an amateur novel, and not a Julie Garwood.

Usually I would go more in depth as to why this book fell short, but doing so would just make me even more suspicious of the true author.

Dear Julie: Please re-read your novels from the 80's and help us to fall in love with you again.

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## **Geri Reads says**

DNF at 45%. :(

As a reader, you know, even before reaching 15% or 30% or whatever that what you're reading is great, good, mediocre or bad. You would know. And as a reader, there comes a time where you have to make a decision right there and then.

I'm not going to rate this but I just can't do it. I'm throwing in the towel. If a book cannot hold my interest long enough that I keep on putting it off, putting it off and putting it off says it all. The fact that I am giving up on Julie Garwood book, probably one of my fave authors of all time, is really painful. This isn't really a bad book. It's not bad, it's mediocre. I can't think of anything much worse than that. At least with bad, you'll get a good laugh out of it but mediocre?

For one, I didn't like Peyton. I don't care much for her. And Finn? Who the hell is Finn? Aside from his accomplishments that I keep reading on and on about the first half of the book, he does nothing for me. And I don't feel the chemistry between them. That's it.

I wish, I could articulate it more but when it comes down to it, Hotshot isn't so hot at all. At least for me. This could work for other people. Hey, I've seen people giving this 4 to 5 stars, so maybe it's just me. But for such an expensive book, \$15.85 for the hardcover and \$9.99 for the Kindle Edition, I'm expecting to be blown away.

I wasn't.

So, DNF.

Enough said.

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## **Jonetta says**

*Originally posted on The Book Nympho*

### **Quick summary**

Peyton Lockhart can't believe her good fortune when she lands a dream job as a food critic for a prestigious magazine. When that dream turns into a nightmare, her childhood idol, FBI Agent Finn MacBain, steps in to give assistance. Little did he know that "little Peyton" was going to finally get her Hotshot hero.

### **What worked**

The beginning of the story was really great, especially the prologue. Finn and his two brothers stole that portion of the story and I got a great sense of their family dynamics. Peyton's journey to Minnesota was a mixture of hilarity and horror, especially the stories about her date disasters. When things turned sour, the tension level ratcheted up pretty fast and I was on edge. I also liked Finn and Peyton's initial developing romance, he being quite slayed by the grownup woman and she still enamored of her childhood hero. Great dialogue and chemistry.

### **Where it started to fizzle**

Peyton was too smart for some of the decisions she made and her lackadaisical attitude towards the threats leveled at her, not once but twice. She should have been completely unnerved. And, the whole nonsense with cousin Debi was just that...inane. Sister Lucy came off as a shrew. Lastly, the adult Finn wasn't as well crafted or developed as teenager Finn. His behavior towards Peyton was erratic, his nightmare never explained and his romantic turnaround seemed to come out of the blue.

### **The bottom line**

This was headed towards a 5-star rating until the last third of the story. I almost dropped another half star but the beginning was much too strong and enjoyable for me to do that. The ending was wrapped a little too nicely but it was tremendously "feel good." Despite my issues, I had a good time reading this book and that counts for something.

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## Lisa says

Finn MacBain meets Peyton Lockhart when she's a little girl in the beginning of this book. He's 14 and she's 6. Peyton's family is the MacBain's new neighbors and because of a incident with the Lockhart's pool Finn and his 2 brothers aren't allowed over there. Just so happens the evening the Lockharts are having a party Finns observes a little girl wander out to their pool and sit down and in a matter of minutes she falls in. Finn runs to the rescue when he bursts into the party knocking Mr Lockhart down in the process and dives into the pool and saves her. From then on Finn has a fan for life in Peyton. Years later Finn is with the FBI now and home for one of his twin brothers wedding. Peyton walks right up to him and says hi and he has no idea who she is until she calls him the knickname she gave him years before, "Hotshot". Peyton has just gotten a job at a foodie magazine and uproots herself from her home to move to another state only to find out her new boss is a major sexual predator. After getting some evidence against him she takes off only to be chased in a snow storm and almost run off the road and shot at. When Finn notices the bullet holes in Peyton's car he starts looking into what's going on. In the mean time Peyton and her two sisters are offered a deal by their wealthy uncle who owns a bunch of resorts. They can run Bishop's Cove in Florida for one year and make a profit they can keep it forever. While Peyton and her sister Lucy move down there to start working on the resort and getting it ready they have to deal with a cousin who is hell bent on ruining their chances. All the while this is going on someone is still trying to kill Peyton or at the very least scare her to death. Finn is on the job and although they become close he's in denial that he he loves her can't leave her alone. He can't although he does try it just doesn't work. This book has a lot going on. Peyton and her sisters trying to fix up the resort while someone is trying to sabatoge the whole thing and then Peyton nasty ex-boss trying to silence her from exposing what he's been doing to his father in law. Peyton comes across as a strong female character trying to do the right thing by exposing her boss and protecting other women from him and trying to run a resort while dealing with her crazy family. Finn is this larger than life good guy, former Olympic champion and now super FBI agent. The man is saving the world one day at a time. I love how Julie Garwood brings back past characters in small ways. You'll find a few previous characters mentioned in this book and hearing tidbits about past characters always gives me a thrill. This is a fast read and i enjoyed the main characters as well as all the secondary characters. Another win for me from Julie Garwood.

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## Kathleen says

Enjoyable enough. If you like sweet romantic suspense with Barbie and Ken playing the lead couple, this is for you. There is nothing offensive in it. Not a lot of vulgar language. Not a lot of bloody gore. Not even death. The love scenes are steamy, and there are several of them. The suspense is weak, mostly due to raunchy cardboard villains.

Bottom line, for me, *Hotshot* was nothing special, but still entertaining. IMO, the best book in this series is *Mercy*. I really enjoyed that one -- set in the bayou -- and laughed a lot. I also liked *Killjoy*. To less extent, *Fire and Ice*.

PLOT: Finn McBain is dubbed a "hotshot" hero at age 14 when he rescues little Peyton, only 5 years old, from drowning in her backyard swimming pool. He goes on to become a "hotshot" Olympic gold medalist swimmer and a "hotshot" FBI interrogator. When Peyton needs a hero again, 25 years later, he's her ~~man~~ hotshot.

For Finn, the lust is instant, but it takes him much longer to realize he's in love. He's protective and



passionate and tender, but running scared. So, he blows hot and cold: "This is just temporary. We're just friends. Bed friends. I am not a marrying man. I don't want children -- there's too much evil in the world." (Blah blah blah).

The villains and the entire atmosphere at the publishing house in small-town Minnesota? Absurd. That place was way over the top. The suspense was fairly predictable, but not always. For example, I guessed exactly how Peyton planned to expose Drew, for sexual harassment. And those women! How could Garwood even dream up a Bridget and an Elaine?

Then there was the secondary plot at Bishop's Cove, a resort on an island off Florida. Sabotage. More sabotage. Stupidity. More stupidity. Are we all wearing blinders? Maybe we're all just blinded by lust. Something's in the air at Bishop's Cove, aka The Love Boat. Debi was the smartest of the bunch -- and she's the antagonist.

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## **Dorsey aka ♥? Wrath Lover Reviews ♥? says**

October 2017 Reread and Review

### ***Solid 4.5 Stars!!!***

Okay I reallllly enjoyed this installment to the series. I loved the H&h, the storyline, and the secondary characters. We're introduced to another swoon worthy FBI Agent and strong willed, independent, and feisty heroine with trouble hot on her heels.

I know many fans have been a bit disappointed with the last few books....but I have to say I've thoroughly enjoyed each storyline and every Hero and Heroine. I may have had a different opinion if all the characters were alike, but, they're all different and each of the heroines were strong independent women from different backgrounds with careers and minds of their own.

\* Narrated by Amy McFadden who does a great job.

\* Originally read October 2013

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