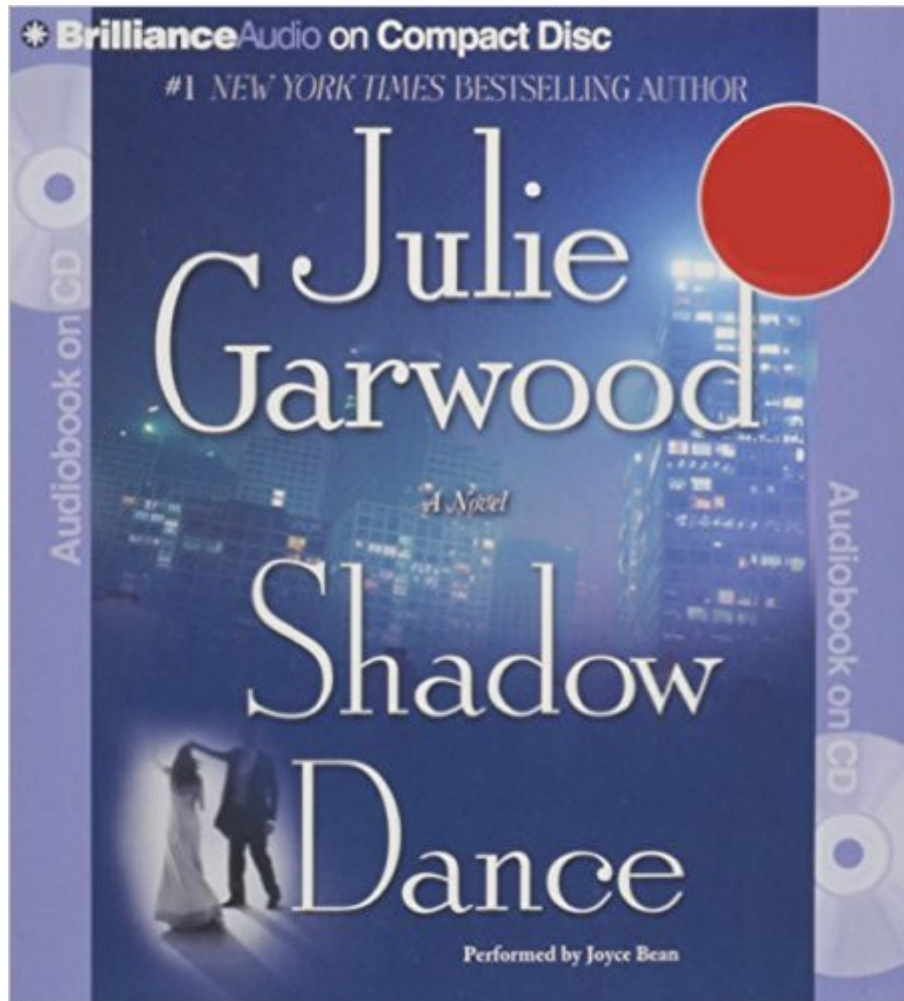


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Shadow Dance (Buchanan-Renard-MacKenna)



Synopsis

Jordan Buchanan is thrilled that her brother and best friend are tying the knot. The wedding is a lavish affairâ•for the marriage of Dylan Buchanan and Kate MacKenna is no ordinary occasion. It represents the joining of two family dynasties. The ceremony and reception proceed without a hitchâ•until a crasher appears claiming to be a MacKenna guest. The disheveled and eccentric professor of medieval history warns that thereâ™s âœbad bloodâ• between the coupleâ™s clans, stemming from an ancient feud that originated in Scotland and involving the Buchanan theft of a coveted MacKenna treasure. Jordan has always led a cautious life and has used her intelligence and reason to become a successful businesswoman. So she is intrigued but skeptical of the professorâ™s claims that the feud has been kept alive by the grave injustices the Buchanans have perpetrated over the centuries. But when Noah Clayborne, a close family friend and a man who has never let a good time or a pretty girl pass him by, accuses Jordan of being trapped in her comfort zone, she determines to prove him wrong and sets out on a spontaneous adventure to the small, dusty town of Serenity, Texas, to judge the professorâ™s research for herself. Maneuvering through a close-knit community in which everyone knows everyone elseâ™s business, Jordan never anticipates the danger and intrigue that lie in her path, nor the threat that will shadow her back to Boston, where even in familiar surroundings, her life is at risk. A powerful thug who rules by fear, a man who harbors a simmering secret, and an unexpected romance that pierces all defensesâ•beloved author Julie Garwood weaves these dazzling elements into a brilliant novel of romantic suspense.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Shadowdance is probably the best of the Buchanan series. It's not perfect, but it's light years better than her previous book *Slow Burn* (which was full of lackluster characters, and predictable plot development). This book focuses on Jordan Buchanan, the organized, predictable Buchanan child. While, at her brother and best friend's wedding she's accused by Noah of being too predictable and not willing to step out of her comfort zone. In an attempt to prove to him that she can be spontaneous she takes a trip to Texas to meet with a Professor who crashed the wedding talking about a centuries old feud between the Buchanan's and the MacKenna's. Jordan goes to Serenity, Texas, and after several mishaps (broken down car, lack of usable photocopier in town), she discovers a body in the trunk of her car. In a panic she calls her older brother Nick and Nick and his partner Noah come down to Serenity to clear things up for her. One of the reasons I liked this book so much more than many of Garwood's other books is that both Jordan and Noah were introduced in previous books, but Jordan, in particular, is pretty well-fleshed out in this book. In addition, Nick (who appeared in *Heartbreaker*) plays a supporting role, and Nick and Noah's boss Pete Morgansten makes several appearances. I think this is a good read for those for anyone, but for people who have read the other Buchanan books and have been patiently waiting for book focusing on Noah, it's a great read. And for anyone who has read *For the Roses*, there is a nice little mention of Cole Clayborne.

I was a huge Julie Garwood fan. I fell in love with her after reading *MERCY*. It was my first Garwood book and first romance novel ever! I loved it so much that I immediately read *HEARTBREAKER* and enjoyed it, too! Not at all satisfied I purchased all the historical titles she wrote. (I loved most of them--with exception to the Clayborne series). However, I have not continued the Buchanan series, as they have received really bad, negative reviews. Yet I decided to give *SHADOW DANCE* a try, just for the sake of Noah. I absolutely adored him in both *MERCY* and *HEARTBREAKER*. Unfortunately, I didn't feel the same way about him in this story! Although he is a strong and compelling character in *MERCY* and *HEARTBREAKER*, he falls so flat here. Unlike before, I didn't feel an emotional connection with him. He just isn't the same guy! He used to be the vibrant and carefree jokester--a natural charmer and ultimate ladies' man. Yet all these qualities, though written on paper, didn't ring true. Instead, he's a much more serious and impersonal guy. Jordan, on the other hand is an ok character, but not truly memorable! As a romantic thriller, this one

didn't live up to my expectations. Noah and Jordan's story tells more like a suspense/mystery novel, with the romance kind of as an afterthought. I didn't find the murder mystery very intriguing, however. Situations are quite predictable and I'm never on the edge of my seat. The romance definitely lacks intensity. When Noah and Jordan finally make love, it culminates without any real urgency or passion. Another peeve is Noah's transformation from a playboy to a one woman man. Like reviewer, E. Webb, I also didn't get how that happened.

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