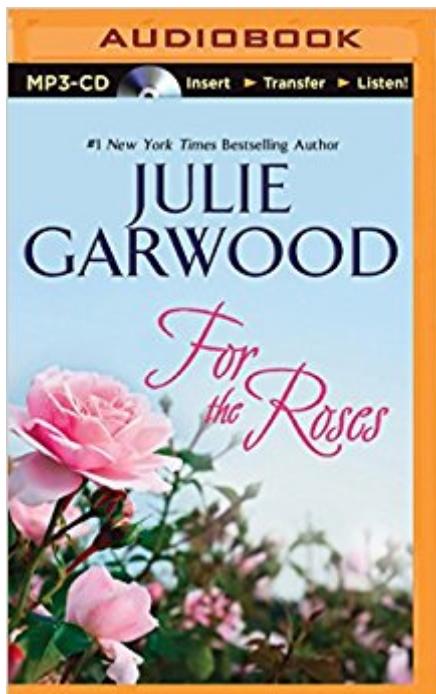


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# For The Roses (Claybornes' Brides)



## Synopsis

Julie Garwood's best-selling novels of the beloved Clayborne family began with this critically acclaimed masterpiece. The Clayborne brothers were a rough gang of street urchins until they found an abandoned baby girl in a New York City alley, named her Mary Rose, and headed to Blue Belle, Montana, to raise her to be a lady. They became a family held together by loyalty and love if not blood when suddenly a stranger threatened to tear them apart. Lord Harrison Stanford MacDonald brandished a six-shooter and a swagger, but he soon proved to be a gentleman to the core. The brothers taught him frontier survival, while Mary Rose touched his heart with a deep and desperate passion. But soon, a shattering secret would challenge everything Mary Rose believed about herself, her life, and her newfound love.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Mary Rose Clayborne is as well-protected by her four adoptive brothers as any woman in Blue Belle, Montana could be--until Lord Harrison Stanford MacDonald comes to town and she finds herself falling in love. How can Mary Rose keep her family together and learn to accept Harrison's questionable past? This story of love and adventure in the Old West will keep you turning the pages.

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This romance set in mid-19th-century Montana spent two weeks on PW's bestseller list. Copyright

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Other reviewers have mentioned the Hallmark made for TV movie, *Rose Hill*, which was inspired by this novel. It's been criticized by hardcore Julie Garwood fans for not being at all like the novel and, while I agree that the movie is highly flawed in several areas, I find myself wishing that the novel had been more of a drama. The uniqueness of the Clayborne family, particularly in such a time as the mid to late 19th century, is what drew me in as a kid and which still appeals to me as an adult: four street rats (one of whom is a runaway slave) band together for survival and find an abandoned baby girl whom they decide to raise and, in doing so, are transformed into intelligent, respectable, honorable individuals, men they would never have become had they not united around this baby. Each of the family members are characterized somewhat well, with special attention being given to the elected patriarch, Adam, the family's heart, Mary Rose, and Cole, who for some reason takes precedence over the other two brothers, Douglas and Travis, who are not as well-drawn as their siblings. There is an added poignancy to this family in the fact that they come to regard Adam's mother, Mama Rose (the only living biological mother of any of the siblings), as their matriarch despite none but Adam, of course, ever having met her. Through letters sent over the span of 20 years, each child establishes a meaningful relationship with Mama Rose, who wields incredible influence and stability over her adopted children. This is too unique a storyline to play second fiddle to a stereotypical romance, especially when padded out by the letters. Because I'm an adopted child in an interracial family, I would very much like to see this unconventional story of the ties that bind explored in a different genre, a genre in which priority doesn't have to be given to things so frivolous as fluffy dialogue, vain and horny protagonists, and other trivial, worn out romantic tropes when a much more interesting plot line could be developed. The Hallmark movie's de-emphasis on the romance aspect in deference to the elevation of the family dynamic is why I favor it, though I think the movie's depiction of the family dynamic is not nearly as intricate or revealing as it could have been, given the well-described relationships in the novel. The romance is unconvincing, in my opinion, but I didn't particularly care for the male protagonist or Mary Rose, when she was with him. I also disliked his odd, wildly inappropriate announcement to the brothers that he intended to sleep with Mary Rose, before they were married. That was incredibly jarring to read, particularly after having spent hundreds of pages (by then) understanding that the Clayborne brothers are predictably overprotective when it comes to Mary Rose. Their blasé reactions to this primal sex announcement were thoroughly unconvincing, especially Adam's. As a romance novel, this book is

too long. There is way too much inane chatter between characters; it's a bit of a headache to read chapter after chapter that's 90% dialogue. There are also annoying moments in the narrative when characters are musing inwardly and swear phrases such as "Lord/God/Heavens, but so and so was this", "Lord/God/Heaven help him/her", "For Heaven's/God's sake" crop up repeatedly, sometimes within the same page. For Kindle readers, be aware that there are typos; however, they are not distracting, mostly having to do with punctuation rather than misspelling.

So many lessons taught here. Such an incredibly heartwarming and heart provoking story of four young orphaned boys finding and raising a foundling infant girl in late 19th Century NYC...and becoming a family. A fabulous story of dropping all prejudices, respecting one another and living in peace. Even though this story takes it's necessary time laying out a foundation of deception, mystery, intrigue and of course romance, it's sprinkled with JG's infamous humorous situations and certainly captivates. As soon as you think you've gotten it figured out, the situation(s) takes a sharp right turn and leaves your butt in the dust. Totally unpredictable. Exceptionally well told in my humble opinion (IMHO)...and, at times, reminded me of Diana Gabaldon's "Outlander" Saga (4th book "Drums of Autumn"). **SPOILER ALERT:** Would it be asking too much to read Harrison's reaction when he finds out he's gonna be a father?????!!!????? Talk about disappointment!!! Cripes JG...are ya tryin' to kill me?

First of all let me say, the movie did not do this book justice. I thought the movie was pretty good until I picked up this book. I found that the movie's plot was entirely different and completely changed from the book. I loved all of Garwood's characters with Adam being my absolute favorite. He really did hold the family together and was wise, subtle, and a kind man. Mary Rose continuously made me laugh with her stubbornness but kind and naive heart. I loved her wistfulness, and unfailing love for Harrison. Harrison though, like Mary Rose had me fooled with his changing moods or "spells" especially how he became so arrogant in his love for her and forceful. I really wasn't expecting their intimate scenes with one another but, to each their own. I really did love the letters sent between the siblings to Mama Rose, and how it kept the bond between them all so strong. I can't wait to read more in this series.

New book! Arrived quickly. I purchased this for a nursing home resident who had talked about how much she had loved this book several years ago. She was thrilled to receive it and told me the entire story. Although I didn't read it, it seems like a very interesting book.

I love this entire series. For the Roses lived up to my expectations and then some. Highly recommend.

This was an excellent book. I love historical romances and was pleased that this one was about America in the 1800's. The writing was exceptional and I became in love with the Clayborne family. I have just completed my order for the remaining 4 books that I did not have of Julie Garwood. This will complete my collection. This book told a wonderful story of love, family, commitment, and honor. I am really impressed with this authors writing. I can't wait until I get the last four. I read her books in one day. I can't put them down. Julie Garwood, "you go girl". You are an excellent writer and I read about 20 books a month and this one was exceptional. Thank you.

I have always loved Julie Garwood's books even though the heroine falls I love so quickly she is always feisty,independent and knows what she wants.I am currently rereading a lot of her books now that they are available on my kindle. I never like to giveaway the story line in my reviews,so i will say that this one in particular shows that a family can be formed though love, devotion and loyalty and need not be with people of the same bloodline, good character is inherent at birth and not by wealth and talent sometimes just needs a helping hand.There is still hope that there are people who can look past the frills and appreciate the things that really important in life which exists beneath the skin and that is a good heart; intergrity and character

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