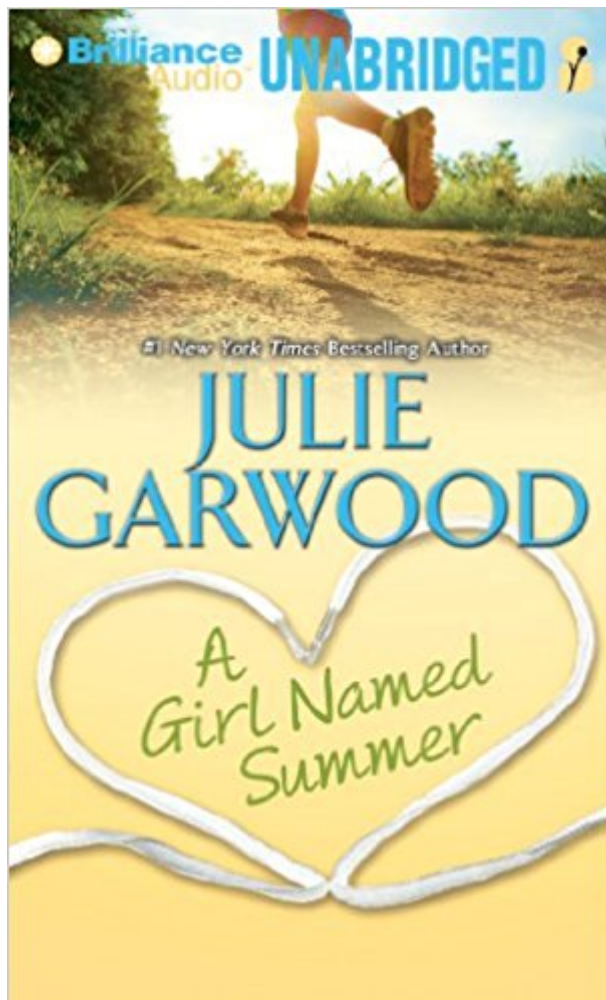


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# A Girl Named Summer



## Synopsis

Julie Garwood's tales always sparkle with the magic that comes from falling in love. Now her talent shines brighter than ever in an unforgettable tale about young love meant especially for younger listeners. Summer never meant to lie. She just wanted to keep the most perfect guy she ever met interested in her. She had been surprised when David began hanging out with her every day...and dizzy with happiness when he kissed her. David seemed to like her unconventional Irish family, even her eccentric Grandpa. Everything was going great until Ann entered the picture. She collected boys like trophies. How could Summer compete with someone like that? Before she knew it, Summer was boasting to David about her passion for long-distance running. She never dreamed she'd enter them in a six-mile race. Summer dreaded the moment when he would discover the truth: she couldn't run six blocks. And the flirtatious Ann was already working on David. Then Summer's Grandpa came up with a plan that was just crazy enough to save the day.

## Book Information

Audio CD

Publisher: Brilliance Audio; Unabridged edition (July 30, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1469261618

ISBN-13: 978-1469261614

Product Dimensions: 5 x 0.4 x 5.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.4 ounces

Average Customer Review: 3.7 out of 5 stars 120 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #5,988,770 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #92 in Books > Books on CD > Authors, A-Z > ( G ) > Garwood, Julie #7498 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Girls & Women #11935 in Books > Teens > Romance > Contemporary

## Customer Reviews

Grade 6-9-In this light romance, 15-year-old Summer falls hard for athletic, preppy David; loses him to an unworthy, manipulative female foe; and then wins him back. The twist here is the dilemma that arises when Summer tries to impress David by overstating her running experience and is found out. With the encouragement of her grandfather, she trains for and competes in a major race even after her romance has soured. The plotting is predictable and the dialogue clichéd: Summer's rival bats "her eyelashes furiously." Other characters seem made-to-order, such as Summer's cute three-year-old brother and her eccentric but lovable grandfather. The teen males are easily

manipulated and never seem to struggle with the issues of self-image faced by the other sex. But why quibble? Meaningful values are imparted: Summer learns the importance of honesty and effort while building self-esteem and confidence in her running ability. By the end of the novel, her ties with her family are reinforced and her relationship with David is secure. Though flawed, this is a respectable entry in a genre that is popular among female teen readers. Mary Ann Carcich, Brooklyn Public Library, NY Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an alternate Audio CD edition.

Gr. 7<sup>^</sup>-9. A popular adult romance novelist tries her hand at writing for young adults. In this undemanding but engaging result, Summer falls in love with a boy she meets at a church hall where her grandfather plays bingo. Garwood uses lots of dialogue to keep things moving as the conflict develops. When David meets an attractive new girl, Summer becomes insecure and invents a lie about being a long-distance runner. Predictably, the lie leads to trouble: David registers himself and Summer for a six-mile charity race. The plot, which is filled with typical teenage circumstances, verges on the preposterous, but it is saved by Garwood's portrayal of the characters' caring relationships and the fact that she doesn't let Summer take the easy way out. Shelley Townsend-Hudson --This text refers to an alternate Audio CD edition.

My favorite author in the world!!! This is her first book she's written and it was AMAZING!!! As a woman I can tell you I had some difficult times growing up and reaching puberty. It wasn't easy but what an amazing journey I had. Thank you Julie Garwood for blessing this world with your talent. You truly are One of a Kind!!!

The story was quite interesting, and the wisdom the grandfather imparted to the heroine was not only inspiring, but extremely well done. No preaching here; and the way the heroine learned from her grandfather could easily speak to teens trying to learn self confidence. Very well done!U

I've read everything Julie Garwood has written and have never been disappointed...intrigued to the point of distraction is usually the case. This short story about a young girls first encounter with love was delightful. Garwood's strength is in her ability to paint portraits of wonderful, caring, eclectic families whose members can make you laugh and cry and care enough about them to keep you reading until the last page has been turned. Although this book is geared for a younger audience I thoroughly enjoyed it. The lessons about being yourself for yourself instead of others are delightfully

delivered and I would highly recommend this tome for young girls everywhere. Now I just have to find a few hard copies for my numerous nieces this Christmas. Thanks again Ms. Garwood for a few more hours of reading pleasure.

It was the most positive, genuine book I have read. It's about being true to yourself and loving yourself first! I recommend it for the younger crowd before they enter into relationships.

This short novel is an early effort by Julie Garwood of the 1980's so the action and speech is very dated. In the last thirty years teens have become much more sophisticated and view the world from years of electronic media exposure. Garwood's later novels are much better written and more enjoyable and full of action. Jayne Anne Krentz has some novels of the same period that stand the test of time a lot better than this one, but Garwood's recent efforts are very enjoyable.

Not her best writing. There was no plot to the story

This endearing story is geared to a younger crowd than Julie's other books. I read it as I enjoy her work immensely. I was not disappointed, but this story is for the High School aged reader, not the 50 something that I am. The plot was well developed and the characters believable. It would make a nice stocking stuffer for an adolescent.

This is definitely a book I will recommend my daughter read when she's older. It was very sweet and very inspiring. I love the message. No matter what age you are having confidence and doing things for yourself are paramount.

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