



## **Hail Mary**

*Julianna Marley*

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He's football's poster boy with one thing on his mind. Well, perhaps two things, but Shay Cunningham's outstanding football career and contract negotiations take precedent over everything else. Even women. Living life to the extreme, Shay's past indiscretions continue to fuel his lifestyle. And that's just how he likes it.

Whitney Scott is broke, anxious and afraid. After an unexpected break up with her newborn baby's father, her life is a mess. Down on her luck, she's working hard to solidify her—and her baby's—future. One uncertain step at a time.

When an emergency thrusts Shay and Whitney together will one heavy dose of uncertainty push them apart? Or will they be willing to make a Hail Mary pass with their hearts—trusting that the other one will catch it?

## **Hail Mary Details**

Date :

ISBN :

Author : Julianna Marley

Format :

Genre : Sports and Games, Sports, Romance, Contemporary Romance, Football

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# From Reader Review Hail Mary for online ebook

## Books Laid Bare says

These are characters that you will want to get to know and once you have you won't want to let go of. We first caught sight of Shay and Whitney in the first book of the series and until now they haven't really had the opportunity to fill us in on their own story, now, this is that chance, that opportunity to let us see what make them tick or not, as the case maybe.

There getting together was probably as far from "on the cards" as you could have ever imagined, destitute almost, pregnant and abandoned by the man she thought she was going to spend the rest of her life with, when the moment arrived where she needed someone the most, it was the most reluctant candidate that she found herself thrown together with because being in labour with no-one but Shay to help her bring her baby into the world was never part of the script.

Everything about this situation would or should have had Shay heading for the hills, he was not looking for a happy ever after, heck he was doing just fine with his happy right now's and boy did he had plenty of them to warm his bed, he didn't see any version of "happy families" playing much of a role in his future but when he is the only person around when Whitney goes into labour, his time of reckoning just might have arrived. The birth of her daughter was a fresh start for Whitney but would it be a fresh start with her reluctant hero by her side?

There was something there between the two of them, something more than the event they had shared together although I think especially for Shay that was almost a game changer, it brought emotions from him that I don't think he had ever considered. Could these not broken but maybe ever so slightly cracked individuals find their way to a happy ever after that they didn't see coming, could their destiny be found in the tiny hands that brought them together as they brought her into the world ...I certainly hoped so.

Could Whitney see her way to the real Shay, could she get by the bluff and bravado and see straight into the heart of a man that wanted her to trust him, to let him be her everything. Their connection might have been instant but their relationship was going to take work, more than they probably thought but not enough to make it impossible, they had the bare bones, they just had to flesh it out.

I thought the author presented the pair of them with an air of honesty around them, their situation was exceptional but that wasn't the only thing, they were fabulous characters who through a series of circumstances found themselves together and the crux of the tale was the opportunity to watch them try to work out what they wanted to do with that connection, although not theirs together by conception ,they brought a child into the world together and I think through that they were almost fused emotionally. The author gave us an entire stadium of secondary characters, creating a larger than life "family" around them both, everyone had their place and much like Shay and Whitney had found their happy place...I think I did too.

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## Annie says

I love a series that each book is truly a standalone. I am a totally sucker for a sports romance...I think it's the alpha-maleness that gets me every time. Believe it or not, I am actually *NOT* a sports fan, but I married one. So, I will tell you a little secret...I had to ask my hubby to tell me what exactly a "Hail Mary" is in football. It made the entire book make total sense.

Whitney finds herself in labor, alone and of course with no cell service...that is how she meets Shay

Cunningham. I am pretty sure that I fell in love with Shay before the first chapter was over and Whitney captured my heart with her "no cussing" rule. This story takes you through Whitney & Shay's rocky journey to finding a happily ever after. You get to learn that there is so much more to Shay Cunningham and it will make you love him even more as read this book. And you will learn why Whitney is exactly what he needs and he had no idea he what that was until he meets her.

This definitely a must read book and absolutely a potential candidate for a new book boyfriend!

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### **\*kawehi.reviews says**

I thought this was a cute read. I've always loved the cliché womanizing, play boy jock being tamed theme and this one had it in spades. That is, with a twist of course, being that his other potential half happens to be pregnant with another man's baby. Sounds like the start to another beautiful yet complicated start. And it was.

So, without giving out any more than that, I came into this story completely unfamiliar with any of the author's previous works and did not know that we had met these characters in her previous novel(s). While you do not need to worry since I did not feel like I was lost or missing anything, because I wasn't, you can still jump into the other Mavericks novels and get the full experience if that's truly what you want. For me, I think I may dabble into that direction, as I really enjoyed the secondary characters of this novel, but overall Hail Mary is completely capable as being read as a standalone and was a lovely read.

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### **Lauren Lascola-Lesczynski says**

Well Shay Cunningham can carry me to the hospital any day :)

Sooooo let me just first say that I FLOVE a sports romance like know ones business. I love when the jock has a super sensitive side. Shay lives up to that and so much more. He is kind of rough around the edges, but a true gentleman he is. He is loyal to his friends, his family, and his team. Ohhh and most importantly he is like a super buff and hot as F football player.

Whitney Scott is a southern bell, with a drive and determination like one one else. She may be cute as a button, but she can hang with the big boys if need be. Whit might just be down on her luck right now, but that is all about to change. She might have been born in to a world with society parties and rules, but she also knows how to be feisty and dirty when need be.

Find out what happens when a tough, strong, single hottie meets a strong willed, independent ray of sunshine.

Also I can not wait till the next book!!!!

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### **ItaPixie says**

I enjoyed this story very much.

It was a perfect Sunday read on the couch with some real football on TV in the background.

Whitney is a kind and insecure woman who tries to be strong and independent at all cost, Shay is a sweet and caring man even if he always appears detached, their story is lovely.

These characters will grow on you page after page like a newborn will grip your heart day after day with her gummy smile.

Julianna Marley wrote a nice and well paced story.

I'm looking forward to the next book in the series...I'm so curious after I've read that little snippet at the end.

Copy kindly provided by the Publisher/Author.

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### **Ann Goubert (Driven by Books) says**

My first read from this author and really loved this story. I really enjoyed reading it from beginning until end. It won't be the last book I read from her.

Shay is a wellknown player and a women magnet. But underneath all of the layers, he's more than that. One night he meets Whitney that is on the verge of delivering her baby and he needs to take her to the hospital. A connection is made but they lose track of each other but under circumstances meet again. Whitney, now a single mother, is broke after her boyfriend left her and took out all of the money in her account. Both Shay and Whitney feel something strong for each other....

I loved the story and how the author put everything together. A sweet romance but everything you want in a book is there :-) For me, this one is definitely a 5-star read!

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### **Caro says**

This story was not bad. But I couldn't really get into it either. The beginning of the book was great, but then the author created a male main character, that was a big asshole. I don't think she even is aware of how her main lead maybe comes across to for some readers. But seriously, he did something really adorable in the first 2 chapters. Then he went and ruined it all. I won't go into specifics - as not to spoiler too much here - but I felt personally offended by some things said and done in this book. Not cool - and yeah, in the end this all cost the book huge in the rating scale.

Maybe others won't take such a huge offense in all that happens/is being said or thought. But I did and since this is my personal, honest rating, I have to give "Hail Mary" meager 2 stars and don't really know if I could recommend a book that rubbed me the wrong way so much with a good conscience. Sorry, this was not for me.

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## NMmomof4 says

### 3.25 Stars

**Overall Opinion:** This was better than I thought it'd be! As hot as the cover model's body is, I think the cover just turned me off TBH. I'm not a huge fan of the almost-crack sticking out! But I'm sure that it is just me ;). Starting on a good note -- I loved the family aspect to the story! The H takes the h home for the Thanksgiving holiday, and we get to experience his crazy, loud, and large Irish family! Loved it!

There were some things that bothered me though. Like the whole scene with the h's ex. I just don't even understand why it was put in! He made some big statements and said some hurtful things, but then it was like the whole thing was overshadowed with the drama between the h and H and we don't get any closure with it! I want to know what the purpose of it all was. Maybe it was just to make drama for the couple?!? Along with this issue, there were a few others that I had that seemed to be just pushed aside at the end (and rather quickly) to give them a tidy ending. I *hate* unanswered questions at the end of the book, so that definitely brought my rating down.

I also was a little frustrated with the multitude of side characters that I felt left out in not knowing who they were. I know this was the second book in the series, but I thought it was supposed to be a standalone. I wouldn't say that I was lost, per se, but there was just a lot of stuff going on with the side characters that I didn't follow. I also had issues with their names being too similar to where I would *really* get confused (especially in the beginning) like Chelsey and Charlotte. We also don't get them meeting for the first time in this book, because they already know each other. That was a little disappointing. In looking back, I don't see anything that specifically says "standalone", so this was my own mistake in assuming that it was one.

**Brief Summary of the Storyline:** This is Whitney and Shay's story. They've kind-of known each other through mutual friends, but Shay is shocked to find Whitney in a dangerous situation one day and ends up helping her out. They are forever connected because of that day, and they end up spending more time together -- especially when Shay extends an invitation back home with his family for Thanksgiving. The more and more time they spend together, the more the line from friends to something more becomes harder not to cross. There is some family and ex drama, some sexy times, and some sweet moments...and they get a HFN ending.

**POV:** This alternated between focusing on Whitney and Shay in 3rd person narrative.

**Overall Pace of Story:** Good until the end. I never skimmed and I thought it flowed well for the most part. I did feel like the ending was abrupt, and some things were glossed over in order to give them a clean ending.

**Instalove:** Kind of. They develop feelings over a short period of time, but it didn't really feel like instalove to me (maybe because that short period of time was drawn out for the reader)

**H rating:** 4 stars. Shay. He had gone through something traumatic as a teen that really shaped how he was as an adult. Yes, he was a little douchey at times -- but I felt like he made up for it in other ways.

**h rating:** 4 stars. Whitney. I felt bad for her situation with both her family and her ex, and I was happy when she stuck up for herself!

**Sadness level:** Low. I never needed any tissues.

**Push/Pull:** Yes (view spoiler)

**Heat level:** Moderate/low. Not that many scenes. Definitely a slow-burn type romance, as they take a while to be intimate.

**Descriptive sex:** Yes

**Safe sex:** Yes. Mentions of condoms, but I don't remember any mention of STD statuses or past practices.

**OW/OM drama:** Yes, but pretty mild (view spoiler)

**Sex scene with OW or OM:** No

**Cheating:** No

**Separation:** Yes (view spoiler)

**Possible Triggers:** Yes (view spoiler)

**Closure:** This had decent closure, but I wanted more! Yet again, we have their conflict being resolved right before the epilogue. Not enough time to experience them making up IMO! I would call this a HFN ending, but others might be just fine in calling it a HEA. (view spoiler)

**How I got it:** It was part of my kindle unlimited subscription.

**Safety:** I'd say this one should be pretty Safe for most readers, but for some it might be Safe with Exception because of the manwhore status of the H (before anything romantic with the h).  
(view spoiler)

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## **Ptiteaurel says**

Hail Mary is the second volume of The Mavericks series which is actually the name of the football team in which the main character Shay Cunningham plays . I hadn't read the first book and this hasn't been an obstacle to my reading. When I went on Goodreads to seek information about the first volume, I discovered it was on Jax and Livia so I want to read it later. Hail Mary is the type of sport romance I like . Reading the summary, I thought it would be a macho male character, who enjoys the one night stands but I was wrong because the whole team is somehow a good reflection of the novel since they are all couples, married with children.

I'll start my review by talking about Shay who is a really amazing character because the image that we have of him is not a reflection of his real personality. In some ways he reminded me of Brody Easton in *The Player* by Vi Keeland. The least we can say is that Shay has only one thing in mind: his career. He is not the captain but they form with his friends a united and strong team that no longer need to demonstrate its strength. Attack Plans are scheduled and the Mavericks are on track to achieve the final victory. Yet a grain of salt will come and slow the machine and troubles are never far away. A kind of sword of Damocles is going to take place over Shay's head waiting to put the final blow. The latter will therefore not allow mistakes and will make every effort to demonstrate the extent of his talent.

This will also have an impact on his private life . Her meeting with Whitney is very original and he is not ready to forget it . This young woman looks like no other and she will shake up his life and routine and it will take a period of adjustment to get on with his life. What I appreciated about Shay is that he hides his heart and feelings behind this big tough facade. Digging a little deeper, we discover his history and the reasons for this absolute passion for football. Hail Mary also makes us enter a family full of crazy people in the positive meaning of the word. Shay has 4 brothers and as you can imagine family gatherings give rise to unexpected meals. We will see this during the Thanksgiving meal which will be amazing, confusing and full of revelations and surprises. The more we learn about Shay the more we learn to appreciate him . So I loved his temper, his absolute trust in his sex appeal and charm but also his generosity. Do not be fooled by appearances, Shay is not who he claims to be and he hides secret wounds. Will he succeed to save his career? Will there be a place for him in the heart and life of Whitney? What about his family?

Whitney Scott is a young woman we immediately appreciate. This is a woman who doesn't care about her own needs and life and who prefers to take care of her daughter Quinn. When we learn the circumstances of her break up with Adam, we can only feel compassion. Whitney is one of these moms who are ready to sacrifice everything for the happiness of their child. She never complains and yet her financial situation is far from being nice. She takes responsibilities over and over She never gives up or admits defeat. The strength of her love for the little Quinn could move mountains. But Whitney is mostly a torn woman who does not know where to turn, trying to meet excessive parental demands while fighting against her feelings.

Shay will enter her life in an unexpected and unlikely way and yet we could not imagine a better introduction to forge strong bonds. In the presence of Shay, she'll learn to forget the role she has always had to play to be herself and to discover a familial universe diametrically opposed to hers. Whitney is not just a golden mom she is also a faithful friend who can put aside her own problems to help her cousin Charlotte. Will she be able to think about her? Will the choices of the past prevent her from going forward? Will she succeed in getting her happily ever after?

To recap, I discovered Julianna Marley's style and I loved it. Whether the main characters or the secondary characters all managed to surprise us in the most beautiful way. The Mavericks Series takes us to the heart of the football universe while offering us a pretty sporty romance. If you read in the english I recommend you this novel that will make you live great emotions.

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Je m'étais imaginé un scénario en lisant le résumé et en voyant la couverture. En ce moment je suis en plein dans mon trip lecture de romance sexy avec des sportifs hot hot .

Shay Cunningham m'a très agréablement surprise et j'ai adoré le personnage de Whitney et sa fille Quinn.

J'ai passé un excellent moment



## **Georgie says**

**This Series is one of my all time favorites!**

### **SO MUCH MORE THAN JUST A SPORTS ROMANCE**

Hail Mary is book two after False Start and these books are flawless!

The characters are funny and complex and there is such depth to each person we are introduced to!

Whitney and Shay, the main characters were both so likeable and lovable!

Shay is a family man through and through who has this playboy perception about him that is nowhere near the real man he is underneath and Whitney is pregnant to a man who left her in the lurch and was nothing like what he claimed to be.

*Both these two are broken in some way but not enough that they can't come together and find some even ground.*

Awesome storyline that will keep the pages turning from start to finish.

Cannot wait for the third book to come out as this is definitely a series I would recommend to lovers of Sports Romance and well...pretty much romance in general.

5+++ stars for me

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## **Brianna at Renee Entress's Blog says**

5 Stars!

Before I delve into who I felt about this brilliant book, can we talk about that delicious cover? Those muscles and curves and dips... oh my!

Julianna Marley is back with her sexy Mavericks series... giving us the second installment, Hail Mary. True to this author's style, this book was an amazing read full of romance that will melt your heart and mark your soul. While this author is new-ish to me, that will be changing in the future.

Hail Mary was a sexy, sweet, fun, intense, passionate, and slightly angsty book that picked at my heart and made me fall in love. Yeah these two had me on the edge of my seat the ENTIRE time. This book was so good and had all the tropes I love so together... so as you can imagine it was an absolutely captivating book.

A sports romance like you have yet to read... meet Shay and Whitney. Thrust together in the most unlikely circumstances, follow these two as they navigate life, love, second chances, pressures, family life, and happy

endings. Ahhhh I loved these two! I fell hard and fast... devouring their story. From the beginning they entranced me, leaving my heart so full by the time their story was over.

I highly recommend this book.

Review Post >> <http://reneeentress.blogspot.com/2016...>

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### **Melissa Mendoza says**

“She could still feel his fiercely strong arms wrapped around her tightly. Her favorite hug. The one with both arms and a lot of strength behind it. The one that did all the speaking.”

5 football stars!!! Hail Mary is the perfect football story, tons of heat and packed full of heart!

Shay is your typical football player. His life revolves around football and he refuses to let anyone get in the way of it. Easy right?? Ha, not so much. When he and Whitney sort of stumble upon each other, she brings the cocky football player to his knees! I started reading this book on a Saturday and I couldn't put it down... Forget all other things when you start this book, because you won't want to walk away! Shay is sexy and yes his bad boy ways can be too much, it's so worth it! Whitney's story will make you pull for her and want things to go her way after everything else she's been through. If you like a good, sexy sports book then this is the one for you!

\*ARC provided by Author in exchange for an honest bitchin' review.

Reviewed by The Sarcastic Bitch from Bitches N' Books

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### **Heather Andrews says**

“Sure you don't want to come home with me?” he asked, leaning his arms against the window. “Some Netflix, the couch,” he grinned. “Maybe I can rub your back,” he winked and she wanted to melt. “Or just your butt?”

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### **Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews says**

Slick's review posted at Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews

4.5 stars

I always love when I take a chance on a new to me author and feel right at home in their book and that is

exactly what happened when I picked up Hail Mary by Julianna Marley. There was an open and easy feeling to this book and I found myself completely caught up in this couple and their burgeoning relationship. This book had all the feels and I enjoyed every minute of it.

The last thing Whitney Scott imagined when her fiancé cleaned out her bank accounts and left her locked out and knocked up was going into labor in the basement of the Carolina Mavericks stadium but that was before the Mavericks Shay Cunningham finds her, takes her to the hospital and stays with her as she delivers her daughter. So begins this incredible story of two people who were so different yet worked so well together.

I admired Whitney so much for her independence, her work ethic, and her devotion to her daughter. Being a single mother isn't easy and while she had help from her cousin Charlie and her awesome bosses, Whitney didn't have the support of her family. When she gets roped in to planning a party for Shay's birthday she begins to see him in a new light.

Shay enjoys everything about his life; he plays for a team he loves, his teammates are his best friends, and he's living his life free, single and with women available any time he wants them. So for the life of him he can't understand why after helping Whitney deliver her baby girl, Quinn he can't get them out of his head.

There was something very sweet and endearing about the way these two circled one another and the fact that it took awhile before they moved from their tenuous friendship to more. I loved watching them both open up to each other about their pasts and offering up support and comfort and I could feel the closeness building between them before they got physical and while they both fought their feelings it was very obvious they both were falling for one another.

Shay's family was a total trip and I loved every single minute they spent with them and Whitney's family...my very Southern Mamaw use to say, "If you don't have anything nice to say, then bite your tongue." (Hint, my tongue was almost bloody by the time this book was over.)

Emotional and sweet with a side of sexiness Hail Mary was a joy to read and this is an author I plan to keep my eye on!

Review copy provided for an honest review.

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### **Madeline A. says**

I loved False Start, so I was already interested in The Maverick Series. Shay is a notorious playboy, dubbed as Nova by his teammates and close friends. Whitney is a type A organized girl who works as an event planner with Liv, Ross, and her cousin Charlotte. (Personally would love to read a book about Charlotte, hopefully that's in the works!) Shay is there for Whitney when she has a baby in a way that no one else is. Whitney and baby Quinn are NOT Shay's typical company. I don't want to give away too much, but this book was such a fast read for me. I loved the drama and love story between the main characters. I also loved the family dynamics that were told. Shay comes from a close knit family, and the reader really gets to feel what it's like to be a Cunningham. If you like sport romances, I would definitely recommend :) !!!

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