

SUSAN MALLERY



Recipient of the National Reader's Choice Award

BIOGRAPHY

New York Times and USA Today bestselling author Susan Mallery has entertained millions of readers with her witty and emotional stories about women and the relationships that define their lives. She has published more than 100 romance and women's fiction novels, beginning with two books the same month when she was just out of college. Her books have spent more than 120 weeks on the USA Today bestsellers list and have reached as high as #2 on the New York Times bestsellers list (SUMMER NIGHTS, Fool's Gold book 8). Known for her keen insight into human nature and her humorous take on life, Susan Mallery has been described by RT Book Reviews as "in a class by herself!"

With a Bachelor's degree in Accounting, Susan is one of the few writers who can understand her royalty statement. She went on to get a Masters in Writing Popular Fiction and has extensively studied story structure in screenwriting courses, though she has no plans to write for the screen. Her goal, always, is to give readers a story that will move them, populated with characters who feel like real people.

Booklist says, "Novels don't get much better than Mallery's expert blend of emotional nuance, humor, and superb storytelling," and Publisher's Weekly

calls her prose "luscious and provocative." Susan appreciates critical praise, but she values praise from her readers even more. She credits her successful career to the loyal readers who rush out to buy each new book on the day it's released.

With the advent of ebooks, Susan's career has soared even higher, and her books make regular appearances on both print and ebook bestsellers lists. She has embraced the Digital Age with a robust website (www.susanmallery.com), an active presence on Facebook (www.facebook.com/susanmallery) and a free Susan Mallery app for the iPhone, iPad, and Android devices (www.mobileroadie.com/apps/susanmallery). At www.foolsgoldca.com, she also provides bonus content such as after-the-happily-ever-after updates for the Fool's Gold romances, her most popular ongoing series.

Born and raised in California, Susan lives with her family in Seattle, where she survives the dreary days of winter with the help of a "happy lamp" and plenty of coffee.

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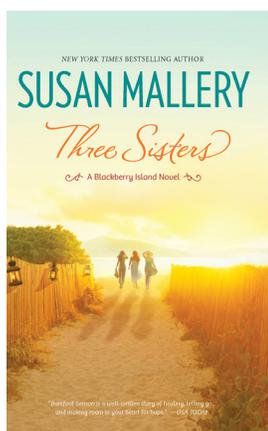


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—Booklist

2013 BOOKS



THREE SISTERS – MARCH 2013

Book 2 in the Blackberry Island trilogy

After Andi Gordon is jilted at the altar, she makes the most impetuous decision of her life – buying one of the famed Three Sisters Queen Anne houses on Blackberry Island. Now the proud-ish owner of the ugly duckling of the trio, she plans to open her own pediatric office on the first floor, just as soon as her hunky contractor completes the work. Andi's new future may be coming together, but the truth is she's just as badly in need of a major renovation as her house.

When Deanna Phillips confronts her husband about a suspected affair, she opens up a Pandora's Box of unhappiness. And he claims that she is the problem. The terrible thing is, he's right. In her quest to be the perfect woman, she's lost herself, and she's in danger of losing her entire family if things don't change.

Next door, artist Boston King thought she and her college sweetheart would be married forever. Their passion for one other has always seemed indestructible. But after tragedy tears them apart, she's not so sure. Now it's time for them to move forward, with or without one another. Thrown together by fate and geography, and bound by the strongest of friendships, these three women will discover what they're really made of: laughter, tears, love and all.



JUST ONE KISS – JUNE 2013

Falling for Justice Garrett was a high point in Patience McGraw's otherwise awkward adolescence. Even after he disappeared, Patience never forgot the boy who captured her heart. Now, he's back in Fool's Gold, California, and her passion for him is as strong as ever. But how can she trust that he won't abandon her again—and her daughter, too?

When bodyguard Justice Garrett was a young man, witness protection brought him to this idyllic town and he never forgot its warmth, or the sweet beauty of his childhood friend. He's returned to open a defense academy, and the Patience he once knew is all grown up. He can't resist her smile, or her curves. But Justice's past doesn't make him husband, or father, material.

Patience and Justice think they'll succumb to just one kiss... Then one more... Okay, just one night together. But they might learn that falling in love is beyond anyone's control.

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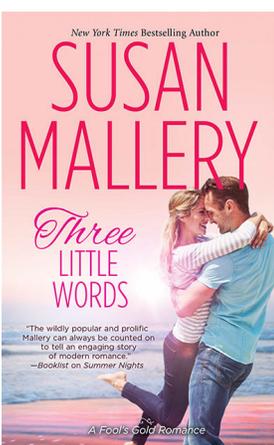


TWO OF A KIND – JULY 2013

Logistics expert Felicia Swift is known for her ability to foresee any eventuality, but she never dreamed she'd hear a deep, sexy voice from her past in tiny Fool's Gold, California, where she's helping to launch an elite bodyguard school. The last time Gideon Boylan whispered in her ear was half a world away... on the morning after the hottest night of her life. She came to Fool's Gold looking for ordinary. Gorgeous, brooding Gideon is anything but that.

In the black ops, Gideon learned that love is deadly. Now he pretends to fit in while holding himself apart. Felicia wants more than he can give – a home, a family, love. Still, although she's scary-smart when it comes to facts, she has a lot to learn about men... and Gideon aches to be the man to teach her. Falling in love isn't an option.

But as these two of a kind discover they share more than passion, they just might figure out that sometimes two misfits fit perfectly together.



THREE LITTLE WORDS – AUGUST 2013

Isabel thinks she's cursed in the romance department. Her teenage crush, Ford Hendrix, ignored all her letters. Her husband left her for another...man. So Isabel has come home to dust off her passion for fashion and run the family bridal shop until her parents are ready to sell it. Then she'll pursue her real dreams. At least, that's the plan, until sexy, charming Ford returns and leaves her feeling fourteen all over again....

Seeing Isabel all grown up hits bodyguard trainer Ford like a sucker punch. Back when heartbreak made him join the military, her sweet letters kept him sane. Now he can't take his eyes—or his lips—off her. The man who gave up on love has a reason to stay in Fool's Gold forever—if three little words can convince Isabel to do the same....

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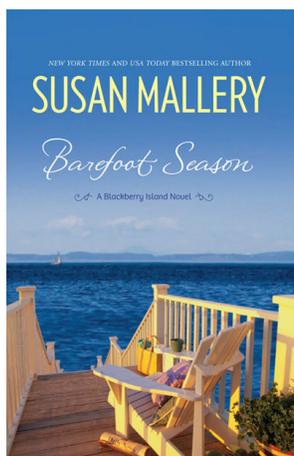
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2012 BOOKS

BAREFOOT SEASON - APRIL 2012



Michelle Sanderson may appear to be a strong, independent woman, but on the inside, she's still the wounded girl who fled home years ago. A young army vet, Michelle returns to the quaint Blackberry Island Inn to claim her inheritance and recover from the perils of war. Instead, she finds the owner's suite occupied by the last person she wants to see.

Carly Williams and Michelle were once inseparable, until a shocking betrayal destroyed their friendship. And now Carly is implicated in the financial disaster lurking behind the inn's cheerful veneer.

Single mother Carly has weathered rumors, lies and secrets for a lifetime, and is finally starting to move forward with love and life. But if the Blackberry Island Inn goes under, Carly and her daughter will go with it.

To save their livelihoods, Carly and Michelle will undertake a turbulent truce. It'll take more than a successful season to move beyond their devastating past, but with a little luck and a beautiful summer, they may just rediscover the friendship of a lifetime.

Gritty and magical, angst-ridden and sweet, this coming-home story by bestseller Mallery (Only His) pulls no punches. Veteran Michelle Sanderson has survived multiple deployments to Afghanistan and Iraq, but she's never forgotten the little island inn on Puget Sound where three generations of her family have welcomed visitors. After Michelle's mother dies, onetime friend Carly Williams—whom Michelle betrayed by sleeping with her fiancé—is left to manage the inn until Michelle returns. Michelle wants nothing more than to fire Carly and reclaim the family legacy, but with a shotup hip, PTSD, and an unforgiving bank loan, she has no choice but to make their uneasy reunion work. This is only the beginning; Mallery adds layer upon layer to the women's history, while revealing the raw core of each with expert pacing guaranteed to keep a reader up way past bedtime to see how it all works out. There's a touch of romance, too, but it's secondary. This first installment in the Blackberry Island series is about the journey from girlhood to womanhood to sisterhood, and the simple power of an honest apology.



Publishers Weekly

Blackberry Island...

Where Life Is

Sweet.

WWW.BLACKBERRYISLAND.COM

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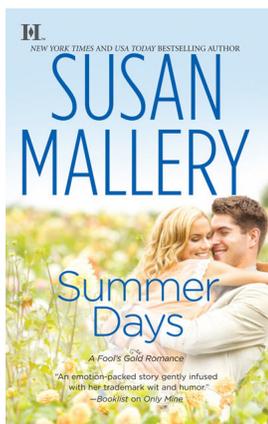
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2012 BOOKS (CONT.)

ALMOST SUMMER – an ebook exclusive novella – May 2012

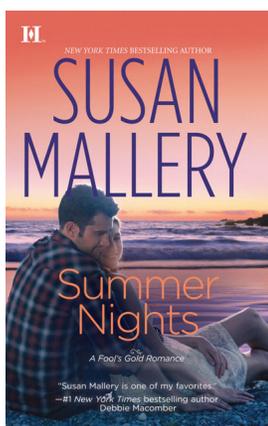


SUMMER DAYS – JUNE 2012

Locked in an unexpected land dispute, Rafe Stryker is trapped in the one place he vowed never to return to—the Castle Ranch in Fool's Gold, California. He made millions facing ruthless adversaries in the boardroom, but nothing could've prepared him to go head-to-head against stubborn, beautiful Heidi Simpson. No one is more surprised than Rafe to discover that he's finding Heidi—and life as a cowboy—much more compelling than he wants to admit.

For Heidi, the Castle Ranch is the home she's always wanted. After a life on the road, the vivacious blonde has finally put down roots. She won't give that up without a fight, not even for a man whose late-night kisses make her yearn to be a little less...wholesome.

As the two turn from passionate adversaries to passionate, period, they'll discover that summer love can last a lifetime.



SUMMER NIGHTS – July 2012

Wild hearts cannot be tamed...

Horse whisperer Shane Stryker is done with passion. This time around, he's determined to meet someone who will be content with the quiet life of a rancher's wife. And the fiery, pint-size redhead who dazzles him at the local bar definitely does not fit the bill.

Small-town librarian Annabelle Weiss has always seen herself as more of a sweetheart than a siren, so she can't understand why Shane keeps pushing her away. Shane has formed the totally wrong impression of her but only he can help her with a special event for the next Fool's Gold festival. And maybe while he's at it, she can convince him to teach her a few things about kissing on hot summer nights, too—some lessons, a girl shouldn't learn from reading a book!



Welcome to Fool's Gold, California, the Land of Happy Endings. Fool's Gold is a charming community in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada. There's lots to do and plenty of people to meet, especially women. Because there's just one tiny problem in Fool's Gold: the men don't seem to stick around. The women of Fool's Gold have to solve the man shortage problem... fast. Learn more about Fool's Gold online at FoolsGoldCA.com.

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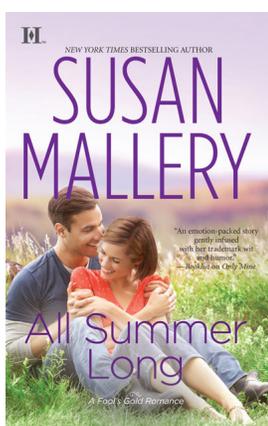


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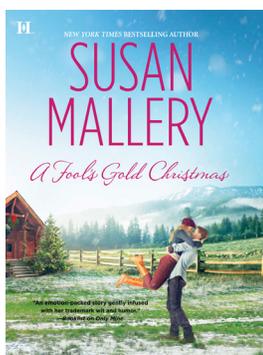
ALL SUMMER LONG – August 2012

Can a summer fling turn into love that lasts a lifetime?

Former underwear model turned entrepreneur Clay Stryker has loved, tragically lost and vowed that he'll never risk his heart again. After making his fortune, the youngest of the rugged Stryker brothers returns to Fool's Gold, California, to put down roots on a ranch of his own. But he's frustrated to discover that even in his hometown, people see him only for his world-famous...assets.

Firefighter Chantal (Charlie) Dixon grew up an ugly duckling beside her delicately beautiful mother, a feeling reinforced long ago by a man who left soul-deep scars. Now she has good friends, a solid job and the itch to start a family—yet she can't move toward the future while she's haunted by painful memories.

Clay finds an unexpected ally, and unexpected temptation, in tomboyish Charlie, the only person who sees beyond his dazzling good looks to the real man beneath. But when Charlie comes to him with an indecent proposal, will they be able to overcome their pasts and find a love that lasts beyond one incredible summer?



A FOOL'S GOLD CHRISTMAS – October 2012

The unrelenting cheer in Fool's Gold, California, is bringing out the humbug in dancer Evie Stryker. She learned early on that Christmas miracles don't happen, at least not for her. And this year seems like no exception. An injury has forced her to return to the family fold, no matter that they're estranged. She won't add to the awkward scenario by being seduced by the bad-boy charms of her brother's best friend, the last man she should ever want to date. Even when she's recruited to stage Fool's Gold's winter festival, she vows to do as promised, then move forward with her life anywhere but here.

Jaded lawyer Dante Jefferson is getting used to the backwater town he now reluctantly calls home, but the pounding of little dancers' feet above his temporary office is more than any man should have to take! When he confronts their gorgeous teacher, he's unprepared for the attraction that sears him down to the soul. Evie is his best friend's sister-off-limits unless he's willing to risk his heart. Dante has always believed that love is the most dangerous force in the universe, but that was before he had to reckon with the magic of a certain small town, where miracles do seem to happen....



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MEDIA QUESTIONS

Q: Describe how you became a writer.

A: I was actually in college, studying to be an accountant, when I saw a local adult education center offering classes on “how to write a romance novel.” I’d been reading romances since I was about 13 and decided to take the class. I’d never written a book before, but thought I should start one before the class.

It was an 8 week class and by week 6 I knew this was what I wanted to do with my life. Unfortunately, I had that pesky accounting thing to get through. But I wrote while I was in college and when I graduated, I had to make a decision. I had a job offer with an accounting firm. But I really wanted to be a writer. My husband and I agreed I would give myself 2 years to sell, so I turned down the accounting job and started writing fulltime. That was May and I sold in August of the same year. I’ve been a fulltime writer ever since.

Q: What inspires your writing? Where do you get your ideas?

A: Ideas come from everywhere. Situations I find myself in, songs, movies, conversations

I’ve overheard. (Okay, I admit it—I overhear those conversations because I’m intentionally eavesdropping. When you talk in public, you must realize a writer may be hanging on every deeply personal word.) NPR is a great source of ideas for me. The idea starts with a spark. The tough part is building that spark into a novel-length story. Sometimes an idea doesn’t go anywhere, and I have to save it for another day, when it might merge with another spark and become something wonderful.

The spark that led to *BAREFOOT SEASON*, the first book of the Blackberry Island series, was a thought that flitted into my head from I don’t know where – a gift from the universe. What if you and your best friend fell in love with the same man, and then he proposed to her? You’re her best friend, so of course she wants you to be her maid of honor. And then... what if he tells you that he made a mistake, chose the wrong girl? *BAREFOOT SEASON* deals with the fallout of this scenario, ten years later.

The Fool’s Gold series of romance novels was initially inspired by a news story about the census. I thought of how interesting it would be if the census discovered that a town faced a serious man shortage. How would the women in town react? Would men begin to arrive in town by the busload, thinking there are women ripe for the picking?

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MEDIA QUESTIONS (CONT.)

Q: Describe your writing process. Do you outline? (Describe a typical day-in-your-life)

A: My writing process is fairly organized. It's probably my accounting background rearing its ugly head. I write every day and my goal is a set number of pages. Before I start a book, I do a detailed outline. I like to know I've worked out all the problems before I dive into the book. A typical day with me starts with e-mail, then pages.

My goal is to get my writing done in the morning so I can spend afternoons doing other things like answering fan mail, posting to Facebook or Twitter, or dealing with my website. I am always thinking four or five books ahead, so I might be reading a weird non-fiction book to give me background or doing research on the Internet. However, the pages come first. If it takes me until midnight, that's how long it takes. Of course if I'm done at 10 in the morning, then you can find me at the mall!

Q: What do you enjoy most about writing?

A: There's an element of magic that thrills me. When I hear something on the news and I know it's exactly the piece I was missing to make a book work. Or when I get an idea out of the blue. I've written enough that I can feel when

I have a great book idea as opposed to a single thread or character. Sometimes I listen to a song and know the feeling that song inspires will one day be a book, but I don't know what it is yet. There is something weird going on in my subconscious. I don't understand it but I've learned to trust it.

I'm also fortunate in that I actually like the process of writing. I would much rather write than edit or revise or even do research. Most writers "want to have written." They love everything but the writing. But for me, putting the words on the page is really fun.

Q: Who or what have been major influences on your development as a writer?

A: I've studied a lot of screenwriting and that's been a big influence for me. I have no interest in writing a screenplay, but I like the clean structure and the rules of it. I was living in Los Angeles when I first learned to write and there are all kinds of seminars and classes available there.

I try to study with experts. I've taken characterization classes taught by psychologists and setting classes taught by poets. I still study. 18 years and over 100 books later, I read about writing craft, buy DVDs on screenwriting and listen to workshops in CD in my car.

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MEDIA QUESTIONS (CONT.)

But one of the biggest influences was taking the Myers Briggs personality test. I was stunned to discover I'm a very stronger "feeler" which means emotion is everything to me. Most people talk in terms of seeing or hearing. I speak about feeling. It helped me recognize my strengths and weakness as a writer. Character is my thing. The messier the better. So I go with that. It also pointed out the areas I had to work on, which I do.

Q: What do you read in your spare time?
Which writers inspire you?

A: I'm a romance reader. I have been forever. I love the affirmation, the humor of a man and woman trying to get along. But I also happen to adore WWII thrillers. I can't explain it but give me a spy and some Nazi gold and I am so there!

Q: What is your advice for aspiring writers?

A: Don't give up. Talent helps, but there are thousands of amazingly talented writers who will never sell because they won't start the book or finish the book or submit the book. The ones who sell, the ones who have a career, are the ones who don't give up. Ever! You never know when the book you're writing is going to be "the one." How horrible would it be to give up on the very project that was finally going to allow you to

achieve your dream?

Q: What did you learn while earning your Masters in Writing Popular Fiction that surprised you?

A: A lot of things came together for me during the master's program. Most of them occurred while listening to a Donald Maass lecture. The program has a special guest speaker during every residency. Donald talked about structure and characters and while it was all information I'd heard before, it was still excellent to hear again. Then on the flight home, I read a Joan Johnston novel. Joan jams the equivalent of an entire episode of 24 into each chapter. Well, without the death and threats to the country. But it's fast-paced and full of oh-my-god moments.

Sitting on that flight, I read Joan and thought about the lecture and had a fabulous revelation about what I'd been doing wrong in my own books. I had just turned in a trilogy and had to call my editor and tell her I needed to make revisions based on what I'd figured out about my writing. She said I could have five weeks to make any changes. Books 1 and 3 weren't too bad, but book 2 was totally wrong. If you compared the original manuscript with the book in print you would see that exactly two scenes remain. I rewrote the entire book to make it right.

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MEDIA QUESTIONS (CONT.)

While it was a lot of work, revising all that material in such a short period of time, it was the right thing to do. The trilogy was out in 2003 and is still in print today!

Q: How do you research your novels?

A: It depends on the topic. I love the internet for basic research, although I'm very careful about my sources. For some books, I'll do hands-on research. In one reader favorite, *Falling for Gracie*, my heroine makes wedding cakes. To help me figure out what's really involved with the process, I took a class on cake decorating at a local crafts store. It was a complete revelation. Talk about a lot of work—and something I have absolutely no talent for! But it was fun and allowed me to get the details right. Readers sometimes ask me what the Gracie's secret ingredient was for her delicious cakes. You know what? I have no idea... Gracie never told me!

For the second book of the Fool's Gold series, *Almost Perfect*, the heroine's brother is in Folsom Prison. As a general rule, I try to avoid going to prison—just part of my overall life philosophy—so I turned to the internet so I could get the details right when my heroine visited her brother. I'd been having trouble nailing down information from a reliable source, but some of my Facebook fans and Twitter followers came through with leads for me.

Q: Do you base your characters on real people or are they strictly fictional?

A: My characters are strictly fictional. Real people don't fit well into stories. However, I will include situations I've heard about or experienced, which can be fun. When I lived in Seattle, there was a day spa I visited a lot and I loved it there. So when one of my heroines turned out to own a day spa, I based it on the one I went to. In *Sunset Bay*, several of the settings are places I've actually been to, such as the café where Megan has brunch with her father, or the family home in Culver City.

Q: What are the major themes you explore in your novels?

A: I tend to write books about finding family in one way or another. The families are sometimes traditional, sometimes not. I think everyone wants to belong and for an assortment of reasons, some technological, some social, our way of life is leading us away from connecting with each other. But the need to bond is rooted in our DNA.

I've always believed the true measure of a person is who we love and who loves us. My characters are looking to belong. Along the way, they fall in love, which is pretty fun.

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MEDIA QUESTIONS (CONT.)

Q: How important are your fans to your success?

A: Fan support is everything to an author. I have published more than 100 books – you can't do that without a lot of very loyal, eager fans who rush out to buy your latest book the day it's released.

I have a very special group of fans called the Fool's Gold Varsity Cheerleaders. The cheerleading squad started in 2011, grew in 2012 and will grow even bigger in 2013 and onward. These women are Susan Mallery super-fans. They drive around their towns with Fool's Gold car magnets on their cars, wearing a Fool's Gold T-shirt, handing out Fool's Gold bookmarks, and basically telling other readers about the books they love. They earn prizes along the way, but I have discovered that their love of books is a stronger motivation for them than prizes. They are enthusiastic and gregarious, and eager to talk to other readers about me and about the Fool's Gold books, whether one-on-one or even before large groups.

I am humbled and honored by these very special women.

Q: What is the common perception of romance novels (and romance writers)?

A: One of the most interesting thoughts about romance novels is that they weaken women, or that the women in them are spineless and simply waiting for a good man to save them.

Most people who complain about romance haven't read one, or only read one twenty years ago. They don't know what they're talking about but that doesn't stop them from having a very strong, if uninformed, opinion. Most romances in general, and mine in particular, are about smart, articulate women with lives and strong personalities. While a man would be nice, they're more concerned about getting on with life, solving problems and being happy.

The other misconception is that romance novels are all the same. That all we do is write one book and then change the names over and over again. Which implies our readers are idiots.

What I love about romance is the variety. There are as many possibilities as there are people in the world. There is something for everyone. If you love rich historicals with the feel and texture of the past, there's that. If you want cutting-edge urban fantasy and female warriors who kill first and ask questions later, then we have that as well. Dark, brooding guys with scars? No problem. I tend to write about real people living in this world—women who could be your best friend or your sister. I like smart heroines with a bit of snark to them, because

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MEDIA QUESTIONS (CONT.)

those are the women I like in real life. But there has to be a heart there as well.

Q: How do you feel about the surge in popularity of ebooks?

A: I love it! First of all, I love everything new and shiny. I'm really not very techie (or at all), but when they make gadgets that even us non-techies can use, I get all quivery. And clearly I'm not alone because people who hadn't read a book in years are all over ebooks, reading ten books a month. Anything that gets people reading is a good thing!

I also love knowing that some of my backlist books are seeing new life as ebooks. For years, I had to tell readers that if they had missed out on one of my category romances, they were out of luck. Now those stories are being republished in ebook form.

Q: Why do you think your novels have struck such a chord with women of all ages? Do you write with a certain reader in mind?

A: I believe there are universal themes we all connect with, especially as women. The need to bond, to create a family unit is biological. Romance novels affirm our desire to love, to have a mate, to have children. There is

power in the ability to love fearlessly. Power in overcoming adversity, whether it lives inside ourselves or comes from an external force.

Most women adore a good love story. Terminator is one of my favorite movies ever and from my perspective, it's not an action adventure thriller—it's a love story. Kyle Reese came across time for the woman he loves. That's pretty powerful stuff. Most of us know that any movie or book or TV show is improved with a spark of romance. It speaks to who we are, regardless of age.

Having said that, I do write with a specific reader in mind. She's a mother with three kids and her husband is out of town. All three kids have the stomach flu, her washing machine is broken, and her husband won't be home until the next day. She finally gets the kids in bed and has an hour or so for herself. She fills the bathtub to relax, grabs my book and sinks into the warm water, prepared to get swept away. My job is to make her forget her aching back, the pile of laundry and the exhaustion dragging her down. My job is to make her laugh, cry and keep turning the pages, even after the bath water gets cold. My job is to make her believe that happy endings really do happen to everyone, especially women like her.

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MEDIA QUESTIONS (CONT.)

Q: What's next for Susan Mallery?

A: I love it when readers ask this question because I get a charge out of talking about my current book. I'll let you in on a little secret: My favorite is always the book I'm working on at the moment. When I'm deep in the throes of a romance or women's fiction story, I live in the characters' world, breathe their air and feel their emotions. (That's the best part, feeling their emotions.) The story world is immediate and real to me, sometimes more so than reality. Which makes for confusing dinner conversation. When my husband and I are talking about someone, he'll sometimes ask, "Is she real?"

I love the story world I'm living in right now! I'm working on three more romance novels for the Fool's Gold series. In 2013, a bodyguard academy will open in Fool's Gold. Ford Hendrix, the youngest of the Hendrix clans, is one of the ex-military heroes who will run CDS (Cerberus Defense Sector). You've met Ford's siblings – brother Ethan was the hero of *ALMOST PERFECT*, Fool's Gold book 2, and triplet sisters Dakota, Montana, and Nevada were the heroines of *ONLY MINE*, *ONLY YOURS*, and *ONLY HIS*. Ford's brother Kent will also find

love in 2013. The 2013 Fool's Gold romances are *JUST ONE KISS*, *TWO OF A KIND* and *THREE LITTLE WORDS*. Keep an eye on www.foolsgoldca.com for fun between-the-books updates.

In 2014, former football players will move their marketing firm to Fool's Gold. They discovered the town when they came to play in a pro-am golf tournament run by former professional quarterback Raoul Moreno of *FINDING PERFECT*, Fool's Gold book 3.

In addition to the romance novels I love, I now write one women's fiction novel every year, exploring some of the other relationships that are so important to women. In 2012, I launched the Blackberry Island trilogy with *BAREFOOT SEASON*, the story of two former best friends who have to overcome their differences in order to save the island inn they love. And yes... there is a romance (or two) in the story.

THREE SISTERS, book 2 in the Blackberry Island series, is a March 2013 release. The Three Sisters of the title are three nearly identical Victorian homes built on the highest spot on the island. The homes are owned by three very different women who are destined to become the closest of friends.