

SUSAN MALLERY

read. laugh. love.

NEW YORK TIMES Bestselling Author

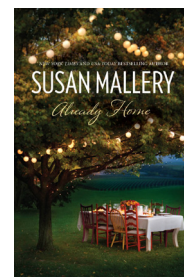
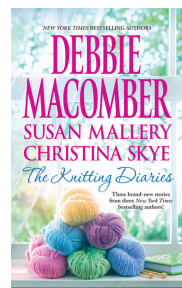
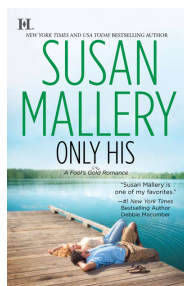
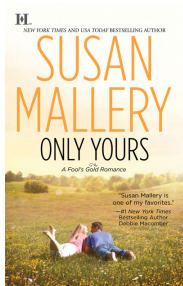
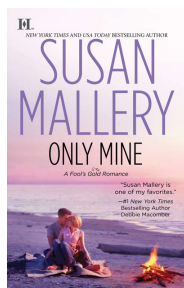
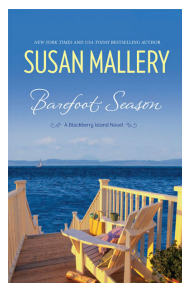
Recipient of the National Reader's Choice Award



BIOGRAPHY

New York Times bestselling author Susan Mallery has entertained millions of readers with her witty and emotional stories about women and the relationships that move them. Publisher's Weekly calls Susan's prose "luscious and provocative," and Booklist says, "Novels don't get much better than Mallery's expert blend of emotional nuance, humor and superb storytelling." While Susan appreciates the critical praise, she is most honored by the enthusiastic readers who write to tell her that

her books made them laugh, made them cry, and made the world a happier place to live. Susan lives in Seattle with her husband and her tiny but intrepid toy poodle. She's there for the coffee, not the weather.



For more information or to schedule an interview, contact assistant Jenel Looney at jenel@susanmallery.com or 512-876-6544.

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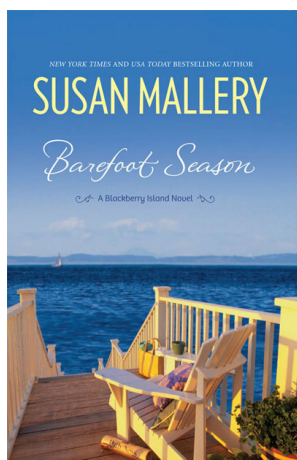
"Mallery's prose is luscious and provocative." —Publishers Weekly

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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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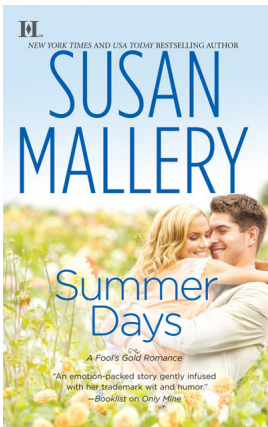
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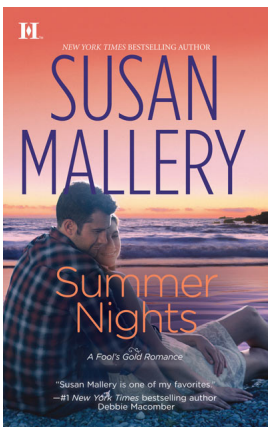


SUMMER DAYS - JUNE 2012

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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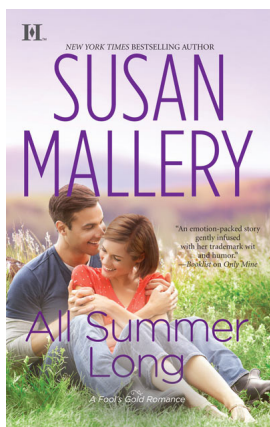
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2012 BOOKS (CONT.)



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?

ALMOST SUMMER – an ebook exclusive novella – May 2012

A FOOL'S GOLD CHRISTMAS – October 2012



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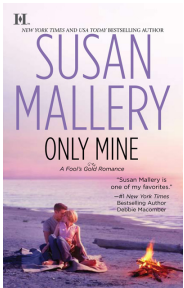
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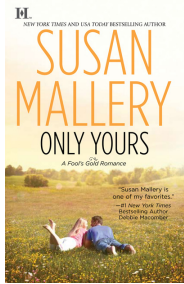
2011 BOOKS



ONLY MINE – August 2011

Her town's lack of men may make headlines, but it isn't news to Dakota Hendrix. The beautiful blonde has bigger problems to deal with, such as overseeing the romance reality competition filming in Fool's Gold. Screening eligible bachelors is a difficult enough task, but Dakota hits an unexpected snag when a sexy stranger comes to town.

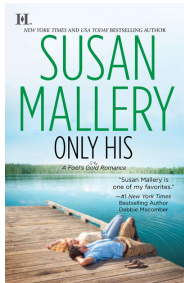
Finn Anderssen will do anything to keep his twin brothers—the perfect contestants—off the show. Despite Dakota's better judgment, she finds herself drawn to the mysterious outsider. Like her, Finn knows about heartbreak and how a family can fall apart, so she doesn't dare to hope for anything more than a fling. After all, even in the Land of Happy Endings, finding true love is never as easy as it looks on TV.



ONLY YOURS – September 2011

Montana Hendrix has found her calling—working with therapy dogs. With a career she loves in a hometown she adores, she's finally ready to look for her own happily ever after. Could one of her dogs help her find Mr. Right... or maybe Dr. Right?

Surgeon Simon Bradley prefers the sterility of the hospital to the messiness of real life, especially when real life includes an accident-prone mutt and a woman whose kisses make him want what he knows he can't have. Scarred since childhood, he avoids emotional entanglement by moving from place to place to heal children who need his skillful touch. Can his growing feelings for Montana lead him to find a home in Fool's Gold, or will he walk away, taking her broken heart with him?



ONLY HIS – October 2011

Wedding bells are ringing in Fool's Gold, but not for Nevada Hendrix. Her triplet sisters are engaged, and even her mother has a more active love life than she does. Determined to make a fresh start, she applies for her dream job, only to discover that her new boss is her first love. Maybe she could overlook the fact that they've seen each other naked, but she'll never forget the way he broke her heart.

Tucker Janack agrees to Nevada's "business only" ground rules. After all, love is a trap that the construction millionaire has avoided his whole life. But when great business partners turn out to be so much more, every rule gets broken. Will either of them be willing to try again...or will their past get in the way?



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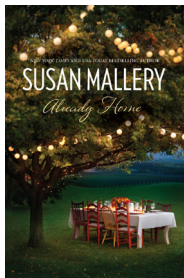
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2011 BOOKS (CONT.)

ALREADY HOME - April 2011

MIRA (women's fiction)



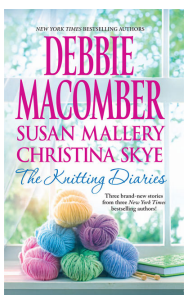
After nearly a decade as a sous-chef in a trendy eatery, Jenna is desperate for a change. She's supported her ex-husband's dreams for so long that she can't even remember her own. Until she sees a for-lease sign near her parents' home and envisions her very own cooking store.

Her crash course in business is aided by a streetwise store manager and Jenna's adoptive mother. But just as she's gaining a foothold in her new life, in walk her birth parents—aging hippies on a quest to reconnect with their firstborn.

Now Jenna must figure out how to reconcile the free-spirited Serenity and Tom with her traditional parents, deal with her feelings for a new love interest and decide what to do about her ex's latest outrageous request. In the end, Jenna will find that there is no perfect family, only the people we love....

THE KNITTING DIARIES - April 2011

an anthology with Debbie Macomber and Christina Skye



Coming Unraveled, Susan's story in THE KNITTING DIARIES anthology, is loosely linked to the story in ALREADY HOME

When Robyn Mulligan's dreams of becoming a Broadway star give way to longing for her childhood home, she returns to Texas, running her grandmother's knitting store. But the handsome, hot-tempered T. J. Passman isn't making it easy on her. If he can learn to trust Robyn, and overcome his tragic past, they just might discover a passion like no other.

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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 and will continue in 2012. 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 those are the women I like in real life. But there has to be a heart there as well.

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MEDIA QUESTIONS (CONT.)

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.

SUSAN MALLERY

read. laugh. love.



NEW YORK TIMES Bestselling Author

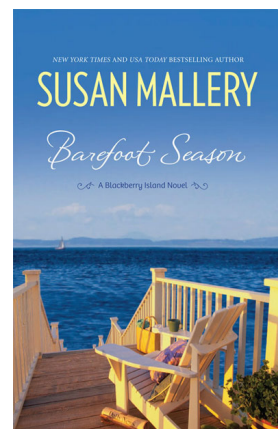
MEDIA QUESTIONS (CONT.)

Q: What's next for Susan Mallery?

A: I'm very excited about the 2012 launch of my new series, Blackberry Island. The tagline for Blackberry Island is "Where Life Is Sweet," but as we all know, in order to reach that sweetness, we sometimes have to fight our way past a few thorns. Blackberry Island is a fictional island off the coast of Seattle. The Blackberry Island novels will have the romance my readers love, plus an extra focus on other relationships that mean so much to women – friendships, mother/daughter relationships, and more.

The first book of the Blackberry Island series is BAREFOOT SEASON. I think book clubs will love this book because the characters are good people in a tough situation, and I think book club members will enjoy a lively conversation about who's right, who's wrong, and why. This is a book that a lot of readers will relate to their own lives and experiences. I've included a readers' discussion guide in BAREFOOT SEASON to help get the conversation started. Publishers Weekly says BAREFOOT SEASON is "guaranteed to keep a reader up way past bedtime."

Visit Blackberry Island online at www.blackberryisland.com.



2012 is the Year of the Cowboy in Fool's Gold, California! I will release four brand new Fool's Gold romance novels, plus one ebook exclusive novella. The novella, ALMOST SUMMER, will be out in early May. Then SUMMER DAYS, SUMMER NIGHTS, and ALL SUMMER LONG will be out in – you guessed it – the summer months. A FOOL'S GOLD CHRISTMAS will follow in October.

I'm hard at work on more Fool's Gold books for 2013. (The Year of the Bodyguard.) Visit Fool's Gold online at www.foolsgoldca.com.