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Susan Mallery

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***New York Times* bestselling author Susan Mallery's classic blend of lighthearted humor and intense emotional conflict works its magic on two newcomers to the California town of Fool's Gold, which *Library Journal* calls "a setting so real and appealing readers will want to start scoping out real estate."**

Destiny Mills believes passion has its place—like in the lyrics of the country songs that made her parents famous. After a childhood full of drama and heartache, she wants a life that's calm. Safe. Everything that Kipling Gilmore isn't. Her temporary assignment with the Fool's Gold search and rescue team puts her in delicious proximity to the former world-class skier every day. Part of her aches to let go for once...the rest is terrified what'll happen if she does.

Though an accident ended his career, Kipling still lives for thrills—and a hot fling with a gorgeous redhead like Destiny would be a welcome diversion. Yet beneath his new coworker's cool facade is a woman who needs more than he's ever given. With her, he's ready to take the risk. But love, like skiing, is all about trust—and before you soar, you have to be willing to fall.

Hold Me Details

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From Reader Review Hold Me for online ebook

Molly says

Perhaps Fools Gold has finally jumped the shark!

I was incredibly disappointed in this book, especially after Girls of Mischief Bay (Mallery's latest non-Fools Gold book) was so very good.

There was very little to like about either of the main characters. Destiny was kind of a judgmental bitch. I never believed the whole, "music is in me and I have no control" story. She simply lacked any real passion. Sure her parents kind of sucked, but her grandma was great. Life is hard, grow up! Kipling was just not very interesting.

Starr was supposed to be 15 but seemed more often like she was ten.

Why does the whole world come unglued because two 15 year old kids kiss?

Nothing much happens until over 200 pages in, and then it's all wrapped up and sunny in one chapter. What I consider the ultimate insult to romance readers. Thanks for plodding through my book, here is your completely out of the blue happy ever after because you expect it and I don't know what else to write. I expect so much more from a Mallery book and I refuse to give it five stars simply because I have a soft spot for the author.

Jessica's Totally Over The Top Book Obsession says

1 I can't.. I just can't stars

DNF! I quit! Page 189 and I can't read another damn word! OMG I can't fuckin' do this anymore. I am so fuckin' done! This series has been pure hell.

I have read over 1000 books in my lifetime and never once have I DNFed a book. I didn't think I had it in me. I have said this before in reviews, but I have OCD. Like diagnosed by a doctor, take Zoloft for it, ocd. When it comes to tv or books. I have to watch or read them all. I have never been able to quit no matter how much I hate something. But this series has truly broke me. I can't read anymore of this shit or I will lose it.

This series has driven me crazy since book 2 and I just don't have it in me to see it through. I tried because I know I will feel the nagging compulsion to pick this book back up and finish it and the other 3 books left in the series for weeks to come, until it drives me crazy, but there is just no way it could drive me more crazy then having to read another line in this damn book! I truly hate this series.

It's more torture reading it then to quit it. Every single fucking book in this series is the same. They are the same shit, just different names and it's driving me bat shit crazy.

Cowards are a huge pet peeve of mine next to cheating. The cowardly heroes in this series are just too damn much . I have read a ton of books where one of the main characters is scared and or damaged, and doesn't want a relationship, but they get over it in a timely fashion. Grow some balls and get the girl or guy and if they were a dick because of said fear they groveled. The heroes in this series aren't just scared they are cowards. Huge baby ass chicken dancing cowards.

Their fear is over the top and most of the time over normal ass problems that almost everyone in the world has dealt with. Losing someone they love, run of the mill shit parents, bad break up, cheated on, etc. And while I can understand them being reluctant after having to go through that shit the heroes in this series just run. The second the "L" word is said they run. They don't say a word just turn and walk away or they said super hateful shit and then run. They are gone for weeks, really hurting the heroine. Then at the very end of the book, like last page, they say a simple sorry and all is forgiven bam hea. Every single hero (minus Simon he rocked. He was scared too just he had a super good reason). No real groveling no real feelings of closure for me as a reader just a rushed sorry and hea!

Maybe it's because it was repeated over and over in every book that made it worse. As the series went on I got madder and madder. But really every hero? With each new book that I paid hard earned money for I got the same crap. It got old fast. When I wasn't burning with anger I was fighting boredom. You can only read the same shit so many times before it's old and busted and I need something fresh.

So with that lovely purging of my soul (or rant) I think I will stay far away from Susan Mallery's books. While she is a popular and talented author with most, her books rub me wrong. My very first ever DNF!!!! I'm out!

mirada says

En la línea de la serie. No hay ninguna novela que destaque sobre otra.

Sandra says

Sweet romance. My only complaint is that there should be a cast of characters & a map in every Fools Gold novel as I can no longer remember who's who.

Erin says

I think it is time for this series to end. I didn't care much for this book. there was zero chemistry between the two main characters. the biggest problem I had was that I waited literally for the entire book for this couple to figure it out and be together... and when it finally happened, the book ended. when I say that, I mean there was literally one sentence left in the entire book after they decided to be together. WTF? are you kidding me? ugh. I am so disappointed.

Lisa says

I normally really enjoy Susan Mallery novels. I did not care for this one so much. I found the two lead characters kind of one dimensional and I did not feel the spark between them. I did enjoy the sisters part of the story.

Nancy Stopper says

I really enjoyed the beginning of Hold Me, and my apologies for using a completely overused cliché - Kipling and Destiny have a witty repartee from the very beginning. Kipling is very comfortable in his own skin, and Destiny's outlook on life and love, albeit a bit screwed up, sets the stage for some fun interactions between Kipling and Destiny throughout the book. Both of them have strong feelings about relationships, influenced strongly by their childhoods, but in both cases they have taken it too far. What may initially seem as divergent relationship goals and personalities are actually very similar. From the very beginning, I loved how Destiny intrigues Kipling and he makes no apologies for his interest in her, albeit only in a "serial monogamy" kind of way. He sees her temporary residency as perfect to meet his goals.

Destiny has an innocence about her that is really quite endearing. Her background has left her both "wise to the ways of the world" and "innocent to the realities of love and emotion." Her views on life and love are really quite mixed up, and perfect for Kipling, who is a fixer. He doesn't even realize he's doing it half the time, but his interest in Destiny is partly due to his need to fix what he sees needs fixing. Destiny sees her views as protecting herself from what she saw as an lonely childhood. Everything she does in life is about what she believes is protecting herself from being emotionally hurt, up to and including her desire for a "sexless marriage".

In true "Fools Gold" fashion, the strong women in town influence the happenings, and I laughed as we see Kipling's partners in the "Man Cave" succumb to their wives desires with regards to the bar. I could literally see in my mind each of them looking sheepish as they explain the hold their wives had over them. And Kipling's completely baffled by this reaction. The gaggle of women that meet at Jo's bar were so welcoming to Destiny and Starr, and even Shelby (Kipling's sister), it makes me want to join them for a margarita-filled lunch one day! Hold Me is a great return to Fools Gold for 2015!

Christi Snow says

My Review:

I've really been looking forward to this book, ever since Susan Mallery introduced Kipling while he was injured in New Zealand. And while it was pretty good, I was hoping for a bit more angst and drama. It just didn't seem to pan out as well as I'd hoped it would with the possibilities of this great story line. But even with that tiny complaint, I did still enjoy this book. Although I was surprised to find that it was really more of Destiny's story rather than Kipling's.

Destiny grew up in the shadow of her country star parents who dragged her out on the road with them and through all the drama of their many high's and low's. As a result, she wants nothing to do with the music business although the music literally flows through her. She just chooses to ignore that side of herself. She also doesn't believe in love...a hard lesson she learned by watching her parent's many, many mistakes. She's a pretty stoic girl. She works hard to stay on a very even keel, but between Kipling and her new fifteen year old sister who she suddenly has to care for, that ability is getting heavily challenged. I thought the sisters story line was very well written and really enhanced the story of Destiny's own issues with both her parents and music.

Then there is Kipling. He knows he should stay away from Destiny...he's not a long-term kind of guy and it's obvious she doesn't have a whole lot of experience, but he can't seem to help himself. I have to admit there is one point in this novel that is VERY unlike the way most scenes like this go in romance novels. I loved that Susan Mallery went there and the entire situation kept me laughing and giggling as it ALL played out over the course of the book. I loved that little bit of unexpected and applaud her for going there.

I've enjoyed all the Fool's Gold series. And while this one doesn't rank up there at the absolute top of my favorites, I did really enjoy it. I LOVE that we have a new bar in town, too. While I love Jo's. I'm happy that the guys have someplace to go too...and karaoke? Oh yeah, I hope we see lots of this bar in the future installments in the series.

I received a complimentary copy of this book in return for an honest review.

Julie says

Hold me by Susan Mallery is a 2015 HQN publication.

This book is the sixteenth in Susan Mallery's Fool's Gold series. I have not read all the books in the series and have followed it in an erratic fashion, popping in and out from time to time. I picked this one up from my overdrive library hoping to catch up with the series a bit because I signed on to read and review an upcoming release.

Kipling, an Olympian who suffered a career ending accident, is putting his life back together now, and is the leader of the local search and rescue team as well as the owner of a new bar- The Man Cave.

Destiny is in Fool's Gold to test out her STORMS system that aids in search and rescue operations, which means Kipling is one of the first people she meets. She is also the sole guardian of a half-sister, Starr, a fifteen year old girl she had never met.

Kipling is a good guy and gives Destiny a shoulder to lean on and patiently listens to her problems. Destiny's biggest fear is to fall in love, or lose control over her reasoning power, which is something her famous parents have done time and time again. This fear also keeps Destiny from embracing her talent as a singer, and from taking risks in life. But, Kipling challenges all that, which causes Destiny to lose her battle against

falling in love. But, does Kipling feel the same way? What will happen when Destiny's job ends and it is time for her move on?

As is often the case with a long running series, one book will come along that doesn't have the same polish and shine as the others. This one falls into that category. While there are some emotional moments in the story, the chemistry between Kipling and Destiny is more like a dull butter knife than a razor sharp blade.

I liked Kipling right away, even if he was a little over confident, but I nearly lost all respect when he visits a doctor in one of the most ridiculous scenes I've ever read. It was funny on one hand, but irritating in another, and highly, highly, improbable. Then there were his reasons for holding back his feelings for Destiny, which didn't make a lot sense if you really get to thinking about it and so as the book progressed I ended up with mixed emotions about him.

I've read several novels that delved into the lives of the children of famous rock stars, all of them painting a grim, sad picture of the effects of fame. Destiny and Starr bear the scars as children abandoned by their parents, who put career first, and were so self-absorbed they didn't even know their own child's birthdate. This area of the story was the most compelling, I thought. Being responsible for a teenager who desperately needs a foundation and suffered the same disappointments she did, was an eye opening experience for Destiny who began to mature in ways she never would have imagined.

Destiny's character development was the strongest area in this story, with the romance taking it on the chin a little bit. Naturally, there is a HEA and the story is enjoyable enough, and has merit, it's just not on par with the other books I've read in this series.

3 stars

Janet Robel says

I enjoy reading the Fool's Gold series. Love the small-town setting. Destiny and Kipling are solid protagonists. They've both been through a lot. This town and each other may be just what they need for a fresh start.

Dee says

I have been a follower of Ms Mallery for years and have loved this series and look forward to each new one so it pains me to give this such a low rating.....As much as I love catching up with the residents of Fool's Gold I think the time has come for me to say goodbye :((

☆ Bianca ☆ BJ's Book Blog ☆ says

Book #16 - and finally Kipling's story - we've been waiting for him to come to town, ever since our Mayor went flying around the world to find him ?

He's a former Ski-Superstar / Olympic Gold Medal winner ... who's unfortunately had to end his career because of a bad accident - he almost ended up in a wheel-chair :(

But now he's in our favorite town, running the newly formed HERO - Search & Rescue unit.

And Destiny - she's in town for a few months to get the HERO software up and running...and then she'll leave again. That's what she always does. Work at one place for a while and leave. But this time things might be different. Not only because she's horribly attracted to Kipling (but she's SO NOT starting something with an adrenaline junkie!!! - at least that's what she's telling herself - she wants a quiet and safe and nice man.) But there's also her new half-sister. Not really new - Starr is already 15, but they never met before. And now she lives with Destiny. And the kid will probably need a safe place to live....and she seems to like it in Fool's Gold.

And even if Destiny might admit to herself to like the town and its people.... she doesn't believe in love...

She had a rough childhood. With famous country-singer-parents who were divorced and married a million times ... she never had a safe place to live until her grandma took her away from Nashville into the mountains to live with her.

But she still has some Nashville left in her...she needs music...to listen to it - to create and play it - and to even sing it - but she only does all that in the privacy of her bedroom.....

Will Kipling - with his fix-everyone-who-needs-fixing gene - be able to pull her out of her denial and get her to believe in love and life??

Could this gorgeous guy and this lovely town, probably be her - ha-ha - Destiny??? ?

What will happen to Destiny & Kipling?

Will there be a HEA?

Nope - I'm not telling you ?

Ugh - I just LOVE Fool's Gold and its people - I would be happy to have a new Fool's Gold book every month for the rest of my life! ?

I was sooo looking forward to finally find out what Mayor Marsha had in mind when she went to New Zealand to get Kipling ? Now we know....

He's so cute and funny and sexy and it's really admirable how he dealt with the loss of the love of his life: skiing.... He misses it like crazy, but he knows he needs to start the next phase of his life....and not only will the HERO unit be part of it - he's also hoping that Destiny will be the most important part of it.... But of course he doesn't know that in the beginning - he's happy that she'll leave again in a few months...he's not looking for something serious...poor guy ?

Just like every single Fool's Gold Romance, HOLD ME was just as great...

Of course we already meet or at least hear about, some new guys & girls - who will find their HEA in the upcoming books...can't wait!!!

GO AND BUY HOLD ME - it's another amazing Mallery Romance that has it all: The town of Fool's Gold with all its amazing inhabitants - a hot Ski-God - Love - Moving & adorable moments & romantic sexiness ♥ like all of SUSAN'S books = JUST PERFECT ?

Jackie says

Perhaps I'd think differently if I started Mallery's series with book 1, rather than jumping in at book 16. But to me, the friendly California town of Fool's Gold seemed like my idea of hell on earth. Sharply drawn gender lines (there's a bar for women, and a bar for men, called The Man Cave, ugh!); our new-to-town heroine is immediately invited into the club with the heroines of most of the previous books in the series, and, despite being an introvert loner, strikes up friendships immediately; women hanging out only with other women, and talking about their hunky husbands/boyfriends ad nauseum, while the men hang out together, too; major panic over 15 year-olds kissing (my lord, how old do your kids have to be before you'll allow them to date??); and tough alpha husbands who give in when their wives get angry. Never mind the category-romance-type plotline, with a emotionally stunted virgin heroine who gets drunk, has unprotected sex, and of course gets preggers. Or the wealth of telling rather than showing.

Perhaps that's the key to Mallery's success? That she writes category-type Harlequins, but they're just a little longer, giving her space to include lots of gender-inflected interactions between girlfriends as well as predictable romance storylines?

In any case, definitely NOT my cup of tea.

Claire says

I normally adore Susan Mallery's books, but this one was not my favorite. The whole thing felt pretty rushed and clunky. It skipped around without really going anywhere. I didn't feel like there was really any real romance between Destiny and Kipling, it was more like she was super grateful that he was helping to solve the problems between her and her step-sister because "that's what he does"-- he's a problem solver (and it's not like that was mentioned about 500 times or anything)!

Plus, ****SPOILER ALERT**** if you make it to your late 20s without realizing that if you have unprotected sex, even if you were a virgin, you may get pregnant (THERE'S NO FREE PASSES FOR YOUR FIRST TIME, DUMBASS), you might be too stupid to live. No thank you.

Kristen Anderson says

I have enjoyed the Fool's Gold series, but there was so much NOT to like about this entry. Spoilers ahead.

The story in this book is about Destiny and Kipling. Kipling is recovering from an accident that left him unable to ski professionally. He is heading up the rescue squad for FG. Destiny writes and maps the software bought for this project. She has two famous parents that didn't care for her right when she was growing up, and is taking care of a half sister she's just met. Destiny believes sex is the root of all evil. Long story short, she gets over that, they fall in love, the end. Along the way she decides she's pregnant- I say decides because she never takes a pregnancy test or visits a gyno before the book ends.

The thing that outraged me most about this book was a subplot about Kipling's bar. Kipling, along with several men in town, opened a bar for those men that didn't feel comfortable at Jo's Bar, which famously caters to women, what with the bright colors and tvs on the shopping network and all. FG, a city that according to a population sign Destiny notes, has 125000 people plus tourists, should easily be able to support two bars, right? NOPE. Jo gets all bent out of shape and then gets the women to get their men to pull out of the men's bar, which they do because they are total pussies. Jo later tells Kipling he should have discussed his business with her before opening. WTF is that about? REALLY?? Does this town just have one of everything? And shouldn't the all knowing all powerful Mayor Marsha have stopped this before it started?

Ugh. I'll read the next book because I am curious about Zane, but if he turns out to be a whipped wimp I quit.
