



Daughters of the Bride: A Novel

Susan Mallery

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With Joy, Love and a Little Trepidation, Courtney, Sienna and Rachel Invite You to the Most Emotional Wedding of the Year... Their Mother's

Courtney

~ **The Misfit** ~

As the awkward one, Courtney Watson may not be as together as her sisters, but she excels at one thing—keeping secrets, including her white-hot affair with a sexy music producer. Planning Mom's wedding exposes her startling hidden life, changing her family's view of her—and how she views herself—forever.

Sienna

~ **The Free Spirit** ~

When Sienna's boyfriend proposes—in front of her mom and sisters, for crying out loud—he takes her by surprise. She already has two broken engagements under her belt. Should she say "I do" even if she's not sure she does?

Rachel

~ **The Cynic** ~

Rachel thought love would last forever...right up until her divorce. As Mom's wedding day draws near and her ex begs for a second chance, she's forced to acknowledge some uncomfortable truths about why her marriage failed, and decide if she'll let pride stand in the way of her own happily-ever-after.

Daughters of the Bride: A Novel Details

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From Reader Review Daughters of the Bride: A Novel for online ebook

Ali says

Una historia muy dulce y muy bien escrita, que ha logrado atraparme y querer saber como iba a acabar la historia de cada una de las tres hermanas. La unica pega, que me hubiera gustado que el final hubiera sido mas desarrollado y ya puestos a pedir, un epilogo. Preciosa historia.

Kari says

Daughters of the Bride isn't really just a book about a mother getting married. It's more about second chances and learning to feel worthy. In the beginning of this story, none of the sisters feel worthy enough. Through helping their mother get ready for her wedding, they all begin to work out their issues and finally realize that they all deserve happiness. For the most part, this was an enjoyable book, but in the end, I didn't love it as much as I wanted to love it.

Out of the three sisters, I liked Courtney's story the most. I really disliked the way her family treated her because they thought she was "just a maid". That repeatedly made me angry. I couldn't understand her need to keep her education secret from them. She needed to shove it in their faces. My heart broke for her because she was so deserving of love. But, I could understand her fears when it came to loving Quinn. I loved them together and I was really rooting for him to get the girl!

But when it came to the rest of the story, it fell kind of flat for me. Sienna spent the entire book engaged to a guy who clearly didn't love her for more than her looks. Everyone knew it and never outright said anything. He treated her like dirt. In the end, I was left wanting more of the story with her and Jimmy. I didn't feel like her story was finished. I also didn't care for Rachel and Greg's story. My own feelings about cheating aside, I didn't buy into them being OK in the end. Whether they were too young or she was too much of a control freak, that didn't excuse what Greg did. I would have at least liked to have them talk about counseling.

In the end, for me, I would have loved this book more if it had just been about Courtney. I felt like the other sisters slowed down the book. This is a stand alone story, but I kind of wish it was a trilogy with each sister getting their own book. I wanted more of Sienna's story. Maybe we could get a novella?

Isha Coleman says

ARC Review: Daughters of the Bride by Susan Mallery

Daughters of the Bride is meant to be a classic. With each novel I read I fall deeper in love with Ms. Mallery's characters and her narrative style. She not only imparts sage advice, but creates stories that are a joy to experience. Daughters of the Bride is a story told with tenderness and nostalgia about the bonds of family. Devotion and understanding are essential to the dynamic of family BUT learning how to love enough to let go is one of the most important decisions a person can make.

With the help of surrogate mother Joyce, Sienna, Courtney and Rachel through self-examination discover the strength of love, forgiveness and healing. With a little bit of romance and a great deal of heart Susan Mallery

has created an emotional masterpiece.

books are love says

So mom began this venture seeming a wee bit selfish and definitely didn't like how she treated Courtney. Of all the sisters, she is the one I loved the most. She was sweet, kind, pleasant, fun and worked hard to become something and prove others wrong. I hated how she was always an afterthought to people and it is sad her view on love. Courtney meets an amazing guy in her bosses grandson and she runs when he says the I word. They had some terrific chemistry and I have to say the scene at the party where she plays the girl the exes are catty towards was hysterical. She is so centered and fun. Glad that she gets and HEA and learns that love doesn't hurt before it was too late.

Rachel is the serious one who doesn't think anyone can do things the right way so she never asks for help. This helped contribute to the communication issue with her ex husband who she still loves and he still loves her. Their tale was painful at times because of her attitude and how she was distant and didn't seem to be forgiving of mistakes. So glad she learned to change and they get to fall in love in a more beautiful way.

Sienna seems to be a bit stuck up at first and how she saw Courtney didn't win her any prizes. She seems to be put together but she is just a pile of mess like her sisters. She is like the Runaway Bride. I am glad she figured out what she wanted in the end and stood up for herself against her fiance because he was a major douche canoe. Her story was more complicated because we didn't get all her story as quickly as the others and she was lost for so long. She didn't really understand herself that well. She learned more about herself as her relationship became more real and he changed for not good. She learned to begin to listen to her instincts and stand up for herself more. She also stood up for Courtney when everything hit the fan and Courtney needed understanding.

Their mom is a piece of work. She seems to come off as selfish at first. She was not the greatest mom when these three were growing up and what she did and continued to do to Courtney was wrong on so many many levels. When she realizes her flaws and mistakes she does begin to make amends and the dynamic changes.

The story was entertaining and fun. Nicely paced and character emotion driven where we learn what has these three sisters tick, their fears, their feelings and we watch them grow and become more. Watching love bloom, love be reignited and strength in oneself and belief in their instincts come about for the three sisters who couldn't be anymore different was fun and light hearted. You will feel for Courtney and slap her upside the end near the end, hope Rachel learns to lean on others and pray Sienna finds the right guy and gains more confidence in her instincts. A wonderful beach or rainy day read or basically one to curl up in a chair and forget about the day while you smile away with this wonderfully enticing book.

Ezinwanyi says

This book was a slow burner romance. It wasn't really slow, but it was a steady build up with four different subplots converging to the middle, which was the Maggie's wedding.

Maggie was getting married and her three daughters, Rachel, Sienna and Courtney were assisting her to execute her plans. As they worked, the reader was given insight to each daughter's life and their "role" in the overall family dynamics. The three girls seem to fall into stereotypical characters. The oldest Rachel was my favorite as she felt the most familiar. She was used to being in charge and had a

hard time asking for help. She was currently divorced but her ex-husband has returned to the picture to resolve unfinished business.

Sienna, the middle child, was more flighty in personality. She seemed to be more concerned with outward appearances than being authentic to herself. I had a hard time with her initially.

Courtney, the youngest, was the strong woman who didn't need love since it hurts. She was content enjoying here and now. She also struggles with measuring up to the standards set by her older sisters.

Working on this wedding allowed each of the ladies to grow individually as well as collectively. Their journey was entertaining as well as inspiring. I enjoyed the story without feeling like it was preachy. I appreciate the author for not making it overly dramatic but a journey where the characters grew from their mistakes and found inner strength to be more.

This is my first book by Susan Mallery but her writing was definitely solid. The narrative was well developed and flowed well. I didn't have difficulty following what was going on and I felt satisfied with the ending. I look forward to trying other series by this author.

**I received this book in exchange for an honest review.*

Amy says

Full review on www.novलगossip.com

I've never read one of Susan Mallery's books before though I've seen them everywhere. They usually seem too romancey for me, I like my romances to have more humor and fun. But when I saw Daughters of the Bride on Netgalley it caught my eye. I liked the concept of three grown women helping their mother with her wedding and I love a good story about sisters. This one was just ok for me, there wasn't enough substance for me to really enjoy it.

Maggie is the mother and at first I assumed that she would have a larger presence in the story, but I'm really glad she didn't. Her husband died when they were young and left her in a bad way financially. While her story is sad, she wasn't a very good mother to the girls, especially Courtney. On top of that, she's a total bridezilla which is just never a good look for anyone. Rachel is the oldest and has been divorced for two years. Her character was alright but she loved to play the role of the martyr too much for my liking. Sienna is the middle child and she gets engaged to her boyfriend, David. It's clear the two aren't meant to be and I grew bored waiting for her to realize this. I did really like her job, she fundraises for a thrift shop that supports abused women trying to leave their awful situations. Seeing her at work brought a warmth to an otherwise cold character. My favorite hands down was Courtney. She suffered the most under her mother's neglectful manner when they were kids as she had a learning disability that was undiagnosed for far too long. Her family treats her like crap and I really wanted her to succeed to prove them wrong in thinking she's a loser.

The love stories were all predictable and formulaic, there just wasn't enough going on to make me enthusiastic about this book. It started off really slow too and took me awhile to even muster up a vague interest in the characters' lives. Thank god for Courtney, she's the only one who kept me reading. It was a cute enough book and if you want something really light and fluffy then this is for you. I was just too annoyed by the majority of the characters to fully immerse myself in the story.

Susan (susayq ~) says

3.5 stars

I thought this was a little different than most of the other things I've read by Susan Mallery. I enjoyed it, but it was heavy on the angst? Not really angst, but it had a sad or angry feel to it for a while.

Courtney, Rachel and Sienna lost their dad when they were little. Their mom did the best she could to take care of them but they lost everything. It effected each daughter differently. Rachel, being oldest felt she had to shoulder responsibility on her own while Courtney, being the youngest, got pushed to the side and ignored and learned that loving someone meant you got hurt.

I loved Courtney and Quinn's romance. I loved even more Rachel and Greg trying to reconnect. And Sienna...well, her story was interesting and that's all I'll say so I don't ruin it LOL I wasn't so much a fan of their mom, Maggie.

This wasn't my favorite by Susan Mallery, but it was still a good read :)

thanks to RockStar Lit for a copy of this in exchange for an honest review

Deb Fernow says

I received an ARC from the author for an honest and unbiased review.

Absolutely spot on! Where to begin? I have sisters and the family dynamics are so familiar to me. Susan Mallery really captured the tension and emotions that a family of girls has with their mother. If you don't have siblings or sisters, then you might think this story is a bit farfetched sometimes, but it is not. There wasn't a single place in the story that I thought that things were exaggerated or embellished. You would have to live it to understand completely.

She again captured the small town atmosphere of everyone knowing everyone else's business. In this story, Maggie, the mother, is getting married again after decades of being a widow. Her daughters are helping to plan it and have to deal with the changes and additions made on a daily basis. Each daughter has her own uniqueness to bring to the table that influences how each of them views the grand event. Sienna is the oldest, most engaged (three times) and often the bossy one. But she also can't seem to get her own life settled either. She is quick to fall back into the defensive pattern of criticizing her youngest sister who she thinks will never amount to anything. Clumsy and very tall Courtney had some learning issues and no one thinks she can handle anything more than being a maid. The third sister Rachel is trying to make things work as a single mom when all she wants is the man she divorced for cheating but still loves.

I love the way the story winds from one sister to the other and brings in a little of the local flavor as well. You can feel the pain of the characters and for that, you will need a tissue at all times. But of course there ends up being a solution to all problems, some you will be able to guess and some that catch you by surprise. I can't wait for more episodes of life in Los Lobos!

Susan Crowe says

Awww! What a great book. I may have shed a couple of tears at the end.

Highly recommended!

I love Susan Mallery!

Sandy *The world could end while I was reading and I would never notice* says

If you like 'happy ever after' - this one's a gem! It has left me with a smile on my face and a genuine liking for this family. To all you who know me, this is indeed high praise coming from someone who doesn't 'do romance'.

Daughters of the Bride is not 'schmaltzy' - it is enjoyable. I even laughed out loud in several places - yes, a good look when you are sitting in a café on your own.

Next time I fancy something light and enjoyable, I will be looking at Susan Mallery first.

DJ Sakata says

Favorite Quotes:

She was battling an extra twenty pounds and the constant fear that she was the 'before' picture, while everyone around her was an after.

You look stunning. I should hate you. The fact that I don't is a testament to my excellent character.

He confused her and excited her and challenged her. Basically he was catnip and she just wanted to purr and rub all over him.

I hate to say this, but I'm feeling better. What a nightmare. What if everything they say about exercise is true? What if I have to do it forever?

We all have secrets. It's just yours are more interesting than most.

I had a mean girl moment. It was fantastic, although she was disappointing. She didn't tell me I was ugly or that you were using me. Doesn't she watch teen movies? There's a way to do that sort of thing right.

My Review:

Daughters of the Bride was a delightful surprise and a treat - from start to finish. I did not expect to find such

a beautifully packaged, well crafted, multi-layered, clever, and keenly insightful study of family dynamics. The characters were well drawn, endearing, and while deeply flawed and at times disappointingly so, they remained likable - for the most part. The writing was smart, amusing, endlessly entertaining, and totally engaging. I enjoyed each daughter although I truly favored one significantly more. Each of the three daughters carried a different personal misery, sense of failure, and secret insecurity - although they each attempted to present themselves as being unruffled and happy in their lives. Their family relationships were despairingly askew and always had been, but were now worse than ever with increased exposure to one another while planning their Bridezilla of a mother's second wedding, and no one was willing to address their herd of elephants.

The storyline was entertaining yet relevant and was comprised of characters with real-world problems. I reveled in the humorous and witty rapid-fire banter the characters engaged in, particularly Quinn and Courtney, I just adored them - individually and as a couple. I also found the premise of the book to be unique, with the bride being a mature woman of adult daughters. Wedding planning is always tricky with stress and chaos being the norm, no matter how meticulously planned, and this one was no exception to the rule.

Jackie Lane says

This is a story of a mother and her grown up girls and how they react to love and loss after being raised by a mother struggling to keep things together.

The book centers on the mother's wedding, but sprinkled into the mix is the relationships of her 3 daughters. Each has a unique take on why they are the way they are.

They each have relationships that have never come to fruition or have fizzled out.

It was a well written book giving us enough information on each to like their characters and want them to succeed with their HEA.

It had some fun and sass mixed in with the emotional aspects.

4 stars

Sherry Fundin says

I am always amazed when I love a "romance" so much, but great writing is great writing, no matter the subject or the genre.

Three sisters, each with their own distinct personality, each harboring their own secret.

The writing is fabulous and their world was so easy to visualize. I loved so much of the verbal banter between Courtney and Quinn. I laughed out loud when Rachel was 'cramping' in the kitchen. Come on Sienna. Listen to your instincts. They are speaking loud and clear.

Even with a predictable story, Susan Mallery can weave a story with some heat and bite, that had me

laughing, smiling, oohing and aahing.

She wasn't sure what was more eye catching – the convertible with the top down, the handsome man driving it, or the blonde poodle sitting next to him in the passenger seat.

Basically, he was catnip and she just wanted to purr and rub all over him.

I had seen Daughter of the Bridge by Susan Mallery on another blog and mentioned that I don't think I had read any of her work before. Then, surprise, surprise, I get the beautiful signed hardcover with a gorgeous bookmark arriving at my door. No review asked for, but I try to review all the physical books I receive, so no request necessary.

At the end of the book are discussion questions, perfect for your book club, and some “sweet” recipes in honor of the Drunken Red Nosed Honeybee.

This is one of those books I feel could be on everyone's reading list.

See more at fundinmental

ShoSho says

I went into this book with the lowest expectation possible. I'm truly surprised how much I loved it. The great narrator of the audiobook helped too. There was humor, emotions, sadness, family dynamics ... it just sucked me in. Loved all the characters even the dogs!

Judy Collins says

A special thank you to HQN and NetGalley for an ARC in exchange for an honest review.

From the stunning front cover and buzz, Susan Mallery delivers **DAUGHTERS OF THE BRIDE**, with lots of drama and sizzle— from bees, secrets, love, sisters, relationship, steamy sex, rock stars, family, bravery, wedding plans, wit, and yummy recipes. *Get ready for the hottest bridal season!*

The daughters of a woman soon to be married help with wedding plans while confronting the truths about a hidden affair, a proposal, *and a failed marriage*.

Set in seaside community of Los Lobos, California, Maggie Watson is getting again almost 24 years after being widowed. With her first wedding her mom made all the decision. This time around, Maggie is determined to get the wedding she dreamed of when she was a teenager.

She now has all these wedding ideas that she never got to do, the first time around, and she's going to do them now. It doesn't matter that the powder blue tuxedo is forty years out of style. She also wants Cosmos (like Sex and the City) and the more “pink”, the better. Pink and blue was a big thing back then.

(OMG my first husband, 1970 me--two days out of high school, he in college--- wore the powder blue coat tux, and the honeymoon blue Ford Falcon car to match)! *Showing my age here.*

When their mother started dating Neil, none of the daughters thought much about it. They were different. He won her over with his kind heart and honest love.

However, what about dates for the wedding?

Nearly twenty-four years before, when Sienna and the sisters had lost their father, and Maggie widowed, the family had been thrown into chaos. A lack of life insurance, Maggie's limited income and three little girls to support had left the young mother struggling. Joyce moved them in the hotel.

Meet the daughters: Rachel, Sienna, and Courtney are sisters, and each is so different.

- **Rachel**, hairdresser is recently divorced and trying to raise her 11-year-old son. She is doing it alone. Except for the linen closet at Los Lobos Hotel. (Ex-Husband, firefighter Greg)
- **Sienna** is a commitment-phobe who gets engaged often but finds it more difficult to stay engaged. Works for nonprofit that assists women who are escaping domestic violence. Why does she accept marriage proposals?
- **Courtney**, maid/concierge at Los Lobos Hotel. The youngest, has long felt like the black sheep of the family. She is keeping the biggest secret. Her mom wants her to have more ambition. Why was she keeping a secret? There is much to her than appears.

As each sister is forced to confront their past, they have to decide if they want to take a chance on love, while seeking a happy ending. The strong bonds of mother and daughters. I liked the mom's story, since in the age group.

As always, Susan is a pro , - (four books a year-a rock star), she knows contemporary women of all ages, romance, chicklit, and their vast complexities.

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