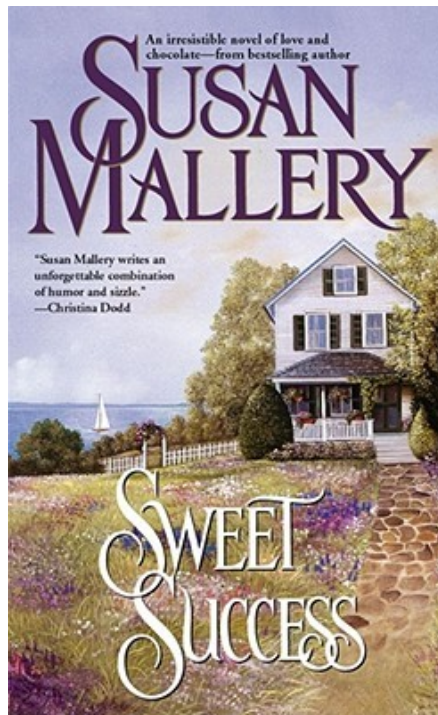




Sweet Success

Susan Mallery

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Bestselling author Susan Mallery awakens the senses -- and fills the heart with warmth and laughter -- in this tantalizing novel of love's richest rewards.

The free-spirited owner of a booming chocolate emporium in Santa Magdelana, California, Allison Thomas is out to save the world -- one truffle at a time. Everyone adores Ali -- who wouldn't love a lady who sneaks midnight chocolate deliveries to the local health spa? And even if a string of crumbled relationships have put romance on hold, Ali's perfectly content with her life and her high-flying career. That is, until the mysterious Matt Baker stirs up her world....New to town, Matt quickly gets under her skin and leads her into temptation. But neither love nor chocolate seems to melt Matt's icy heart. Now, in a unique setting where luscious desserts, sweet wine, and fresh ocean breezes intoxicate the soul, it may prove impossible for either of them to resist this seductive recipe for a wondrously indulgent passion!

Sweet Success Details

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Author : Susan Mallery

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From Reader Review Sweet Success for online ebook

Sarah Eiseman says

When I need a good book that I know is going to have a great love story, some funny shenanigans or kooky characters, and some fabulous cooking or baking, Susan Mallery is where I turn. This novel was one of her earlier books (2001) and there were some themes (i.e., computers, AOL, etc) that were a little dated, but nothing that seemed to take away from the main point of the story.

Allison Thomas is the proud owner of a successful chocolate emporium in Santa Magdalena, California. Her business has been successfully expanding to more mail order recently, prompting her to renovate some of her workroom. Her handyman, Harry, hasn't been available to do the work himself, so he finds a man passing through to help out. We meet mystery man Matt Baker, the troubled quiet one who just wants to work to deal with his demons. But Ali can't resist taking in a stray and Matt's mystery starts to get under her skin.

This book was a solid Mallery read, although I mentioned that you can't really go wrong with her books. Her stories are so much fun and I can almost taste the food that gets made in these books. I can't eat sweets for a while, so this was a nice "diet" alternative without any of the guilt or calories. Excellent selection if you are looking to test out an oldie, but a goodie.

Hazel McNellis says

Die Kurzfassung, weil ich so müde bin:

Der Roman ist generell gut und lesenswert und ich mag ihn. Aber leider sind die Protagonisten doch schon sehr stereotyp und klischeehaft. Das ist schade. Am besten und schillerndsten empfand ich die Beziehung von Alis Mutter zu ihrem ungewöhnlichen Haustier. ^^ Ansonsten ist die Spannung vor allem in der ersten Hälfte deutlich stärker. Ich hatte den Eindruck, die zweite Hälfte verkam mehr und mehr zu einem Einheitsbrei, was sehr schade war. Überraschend war es jedenfalls am Ende kaum bis gar nicht. :-/ Davon abgesehen war es unterhaltsam und spannend. :) Insgesamt also 3 ??? - I liked it. :)

Idania M says

Sweet Success is a little sweet story. Allison Thomas is free spirit who want to make the world a better place by feeding them chocolate. when she hire a handyman to build new shelves in her stockroom, in walks Matt Baker who appears to be a hollow shell of a man haunted by a past he is trying to runaway from. Matt quickly get under Ali's skin and leads her into temptation. love Susan Mallery books.

Diane says

i always enjoy mallery's ooks, but the hero in this one had me wondering. what kind of guy can walk away from a multi-billion dollar firm that he has spent his life working for without making sure provisions are in place for the company to keep on going? that makes absolutely no sense to me at all. i did like the heroine. i also wondered just how real the press bothering her would be after 30 years. i did enjoy this book, i just had

to suspend belief in a few instances!

Marina says

I read this book originally because I thought it was part of the Sweet series. Well it is NOT but that does not mean it wasn't good. I enjoyed the book because it was about a chocolate emporium owner. Now who does not love chocolate tell me, hardly no one that is. I enjoyed this story especially how smooth it flowed I just could not put it down. I really like how the chemistry between the characters worked. I recommend this book and author for everyone who likes some comedy and good characterization in their romances.

Babs says

Da ich Susan Mallerys Bücher bislang alle ziemlich gut fand, war dieser Roman für mich natürlich Pflicht, zumal mich der Klappentext neugierig gemacht hat.

Susan Mallery zeigt mit diesem Roman mal wieder, dass überaus emotional schreiben kann, so dass man tief in die Handlung eintaucht und sich in dieser verlieren kann. Ich für meinen Teil habe diesen Roman wieder sehr genossen zu lesen.

Im Mittelpunkt dieses Romans steht vorrangig Allison Thomas, von allen nur Ali genannt, die eine Confiserie führt und dabei auf den attraktiven Handwerker Matt Baker trifft, der vor etwas davonzulaufen scheint.

Ali ist eine überaus selbstbewusste, aber auch zugleich fürsorgliche Frau, die dafür bekannt ist, sich um "notdürftige" Menschen und Tiere zu kümmern. Als sie auf Matt trifft, erkennt sie sofort, dass er vor irgendetwas zu flüchten scheint. Obwohl sie ihm zunächst ziemlich kritisch gegenüber steht, versucht sie hinter seinem Geheimnis zu kommen und ihm zu helfen. Dabei entwickelt nicht nur sie Gefühle für Matt, sondern auch bei ihm werden Gefühle wach. Beide wollen sich diese aber nicht so recht eingestehen, sondern versuchen dagegen anzukämpfen.

Beim Lesen fällt es einem leicht sich in die Figuren hineinzudenken. Diese sind wunderbar bodenständig und liebenswert gestaltet. Bisweilen kommen bei einzelnen Figuren auch schrullige Eigenschaften zutage, was sie nur noch interessanter erscheinen lässt. Insbesondere über Alis Mutter musste ich mehrfach einfach den Kopf schütteln, so sehr verhält sie sich abseits jeglicher Konventionen und Erwartungen.

Ich habe mich beim Lesen in die Figuren verliebt und insbesondere Allison und Matt sind mir total ans Herz gewachsen, da sie nach und nach zeigen, dass sie mehr ausmacht, als sie auf den ersten Blick zeigen können. Allerdings muss ich auch gestehen, dass ich nicht mit allen Handlungen von Matt einverstanden war, da er sich stellenweise auch ziemlich überheblich verhält. Allerdings machen dessen zwischenzeitlichen Entgleisungen final durchaus einen Sinn, da seine Vergangenheit seine Gegenwart bestimmt.

Susan Mallery schafft es mit diesem Roman mal wieder eine tolle Kleinstadt mit interessanten Bewohnern zu erschaffen, die man bildlich vor Augen hat. Man hat das Gefühl real vor Ort zu sein und alles live mitzuerleben. Ich für meinen Teil habe mich auch ein wenig in den Ort verliebt.

Beim Lesen vergisst man sein Umfeld und taucht tief in die Geschehnisse ein. Man fiebert und leidet mit den Figuren. Man merkt, dass diese wohldurchdacht sind und Susan Mallery ihnen trotz aller Widrigkeiten, die sie zu meistern haben, Stärke verleihen möchte.

Dieser Roman beweist erneut, dass Mallery den Kleinstadtcharme total vermitteln kann und diesen sogar noch perfektioniert hat.

Dieser Roman mag zwar in ziemlich einfacher Sprache geschrieben sein, vermittelt aber mit einem sehr bildlichen Stil eine enorme Spannung. Susan Mallery schafft es einen durchweg hohen Spannungsbogen aufrecht zu erhalten und kann immer wieder mit interessanten Wendungen aufwarten. Sie kann immer wieder mit kleinen lustigen Einwüfen die Stimmung, die stellenweise auch ein wenig melancholisch ist, aufheitern.

Zwar ist das Ende letztendlich schon ziemlich vorhersehbar, aber ich empfand dies nicht wirklich als störend, sonder eher als vollkommen stimmigen Abschluss.

Da mich der Roman vollends überzeugt hat, bekommt er von mir mit 5 (von 5) Punkten die volle Punktzahl.

Kathy says

Loved it

Amy Jacobs says

Whenever I need a feel good romance book, I always find myself turning to the books by Susan Mallery. The author never lets me down when I need a heart fluttering love story that ends with a happily ever after that we all love in a romance story.

Allison Thomas is the daughter of a famous movie star with a chocolate shop nestled in Saint Magdelana, California. She loves sharing her sweet creations with the town, and in the process helping those in need of a second chance in life. She has a big heart that has always been her downfall in relationships. She always seems to find men who need something instead of a relationship. When Matt Baker arrives at her store to do some construction, she finds herself trying to fix him as well. She can tell that something is haunting him from his past, but Matt is not the type to share it.

As the two work together on fixing her store room and other items on her to do list, we see each of them slowly do the dance of falling for each other and opening up about their pasts. Is the story predictable? Yes. Do we know that they are going to be a couple that has a happily ever after? Yes. What makes it enjoyable though is the story in between. Each of the characters have flaws that they need to work through before we get to that point, but in the end making it worth it for both of them. With a "small" surprise that enters the picture later in the book, it made it even more enjoyable.

I also enjoyed the secondary characters, and found myself wanting to learn more about them than the main characters at times. Rick, Ali's brother, was witty and full of laughter. I loved how he was always there to cheer Ali up when she needed it. Charlotte Elizabeth--Ali's mother--was an enigma of her own with a pudgy pig as a pet that she treated like a child. Every time she showed up with Miss Sylvie in tow, I laughed with the mental image the author created!

While this isn't one of my favorite books by this author, it is a book I would reread again for that feel good moment we enjoy in reading romance books. Another great read by a fabulous author who never lets me down!

Krista says

Susan Mallery is one of my favorite Romance authors. From reading the synopsis, I thought this book would be all romance and no storyline. I was wrong. There was a cute story line. Not major genius, but a fun read. There is, as usual, a R-rated scene, but just turn the page, and you'll be fine. Fun characters, and a place that I would like to visit again. I found myself wishing that there was a sequel!

Leah says

Susan Mallery is one of my favorite writers, and definitely one of my favorite contemporary romance writers. I almost always enjoy her books to the point of constantly having a smile on my face or laughing over something. (I say almost because there has been one or two that weren't my favorites.) Sometimes the stories are a little cliché, sometimes they aren't, but no matter what, I love them. And *Sweet Success* was a delightful read.

I enjoyed the characters of Matt and Ali immensely, and I thought that they fit well together--first as friends, second as lovers. Sure, they had their conflicts, but what relationship doesn't? And! As a plus, I didn't hate them at any time in the book! (That seems to have been happening to me a lot recently.) I liked Rick, Harry, Kasey, Willie, Sara, and Charlotte Elizabeth (with Miss Sylvie). All these wonderful side characters added more warmth and depth to the book, making it all the more enjoyable.

Not that it was actually in any question, but I will definitely be reading more of Susan Mallery's books. She's just too awesome to pass up!

Michaela says

Die Bücher von Susan Mallery lese ich zwischendurch immer Mal wieder gern. Sie hat einen sehr schönen Schreibstil und ich kann bei ihren Geschichten immer gut abschalten. Dieses Buch hat mir auch wieder gut gefallen. Allerdings fand ich beide Protagonisten im letzten Drittel des Buches sehr naiv. Keine Ahnung wieso keiner von beiden darauf gekommen ist was Ali fehlt. Ansonsten hat es mir gut gefallen und ich hatte beim Lesen ständig Hunger auf Pralinen... :-D

Maria says

I love Pollyanna books where the heroine fixes everyone's problems, especially when it's mostly by being sensible and big-hearted. Ali not only fixes problems, she makes chocolates! I had chocolate cravings the entire time I was reading. Matt, one of her projects, turns out to be a fixer as well, except that he fixes businesses rather than people. All in all, a great read, not least because Ali's mother has a pet pig, a secret wish of my own, although Sylvie isn't as smart as pigs are reported to be, which was a little disappointing.

Stephanie says

if i could this book would be .08 stars i decided to give up on it. I am 200% bored I do not know whats going on because all that is going on is whining and complaining its driving me insane! NEXT BOOK PLEASE!

Trang Nguyen says

Mallery is one of my favorite authors. But I have to say this was a 2.5 for me. It took me about half way through the book to get involved.

Matt is a wanderng lost soul who is barely living when he meets Ali, a chocolate shop owner who is looking for a handyman for her shop. Ali is a savior, she likes to attempt to save and help people in need. Matt, is unfortunately need of help and Ali is the wrong person for him because he wants to be emotionally unattached to anyone who comes his way. Of course the two fall head over heels for each other but have to fight complications with both their pasts and the different worlds they are in.

Heathy says

Took forever to finish! Put it down for awhile, forgot all the characters' names, then finally forced myself to finish it.

It never grabbed my attention. The only enjoyable character was the little pig. I found the female lead (Ali, if I recall) to be very annoying.

And I didn't even think the relationship was believable. Lust? Sure. But I just don't buy it that they fell in love after such a short time & without much meaningful interaction.
