



You Say It First

Susan Mallery

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The #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of the Fool's Gold romances invites you to visit Happily Inc., a wedding destination founded on a fairy tale

Sculptor Nick Mitchell grew up in a family of artists and learned from his volatile father that passion only leads to pain. As he waits on a new commission, he takes a day job as a humble carpenter at a theme wedding venue. The job has its perks—mainly the venue's captivating owner, Pallas Saunders. Although he won't let love consume him, for ecstasy with an expiration date, he's all in.

Pallas adores Weddings in a Box. But if she can't turn the floundering business around, she'll have no choice but cave to her domineering mother and trade taffeta for trust funds working at the family's bank. Then when a desperate bride begs Pallas for something completely *out* of the box, her irresistible new hire inspires her. Nick knows she doesn't belong behind a desk, and she knows in her heart that he's right—where she *really* belongs is in his arms.

You Say It First Details

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From Reader Review You Say It First for online ebook

Cheri says

I know there are several bad reviews for this new series, but I enjoyed it. Was dragging threw it at the midway but then got pretty entertaining. I plan on starting to read the 2nd one as well

Melissa Borse says

I received a copy of this book from the author in exchange for my honest review. I was so very excited to be chosen to read this first in a new series because I was a big fan of the Fools Gold series and was beyond thrilled to have some of those characters show up in this book! I loved the concept of Wedding in a Box, very fun and creative. I loved Pallas and Nick and can't wait for the next book in this series as it is destined to be a great hit! Highly recommend!

Taryn says

I was worried that this new series would be too much like Mallery's Fool's Gold books, especially since we revisit some characters from that series, but was pleasantly surprised. There was no cause for worry, Happily Inc. is a wedding town filled with people, animals, and a heart all its own. It was delightfully warm and amusing leaving me wanting to know more about the town and its citizens. I was captivated from the beginning to end; one minute I was crying and the next had me filled with laughter. Mallery knows how to truly bring words to life and pull emotions right out of her readers. I genuinely look forward to meeting more of the people of Happily Inc and the writing that she has to offer.

Kris - My Novelesque Life says

RATING: 4 STARS

??(I received an ARC from the EDELWEISS)

(Review Not on Blog)

Listened to on Audio

The name of the heroine, Pallas, kept throwing me off as I listened to the audio but otherwise I really enjoyed this novel. Please note this the first book in the Happily Inc series, but is a spin-off of Fool's Gold. I find that after reading all the psychological gritty suspense and nonfiction I need a breather. I like small town romances as I need the sweet HEA to make the world right again. I am finding that since I met my own hero, I find them less annoying, lol. Instead of wishing for the hero in the book, I can smugly agree with the heroine's feelings. Happily Inc is a town meant for weddings, and Pallas finds that her lark in a wedding planning business might just be her dream job, instead of the finance world her mother wants her to be in. As she is trying to figure out if she wants to continue with her mentor's business she starts to fall for sculptor, Nick, who already has one foot out of town. I have read a few novels by Mallery and for the most part she creates realistic story lines with strong characters that aren't forced to fall for one another. I have to go back

to Fool's Gold at some point!

Peggy Jaeger says

I read the Happily, Inc books out of order, but when I did, I knew I just had to go back and read about how Pallas and Nick came together.

And boy, I wasn't disappointed.

Pallas owns Weddings in a box and has the most hateful mother I've ever read. truly. The woman is a class A bitch and all that goes along with it, and Pallas is at her wit's end trying to be the good daughter and live up to all mommy's expectations and demands.

Nick knows a little sumthin' sumthin' about demanding parents since his father is a world famous artist and a complete asshole. Pallas and Nick share more than just their parental angst. They are both at a bit of a crossroads in their professional and personal lives and those problems make YOU SAY IT FIRST such a good read.

Pallas finally finds her voice and confronts her mother, and in so doing realizes for the first time in her life that love isn't something she needs to earn, but something that she can give freely.

Nick finally understands that not all love is consuming and soul-sucking like his parent's marriage and love affair is.

I can see why this series is such a popular one with readers. It has great, complex characters, excellent internal and external conflicts, and fun secondary characters.

5 stars for YOU SAY IT FIRST from me!

Laura says

ARC Provided by the Publisher via NetGalley and InkSlingerPR

Susan Mallery books are like sitting down with a good friend and hanging out. No matter the setting, or the characters, or the plot, you know you are going to enjoy the book and be glad that you read it.

So, when I got ahold of this one, I dove right in.

Nick and Pallas are wonderful together, and so perfect. A woman who is afraid she is not good enough to be worthy of love, and one who feels that love always has to be earned, that it is not given freely. Nick is afraid of the kind of love that consumes a person, as he has seen the damage it can do (his parents are the ones he looks at for this example) and he wants nothing to do with a great passion.

But, as all best laid plans do, this goes awry as Pallas learns that you can love someone, without them asking or demanding it, and Nick learns that it might, possibly, be ok to love someone with passion, that his life is lacking because he closes himself off to this.

Susan Mallery's books are character driven and they are focused on the people in the stories, not just the romance. There were references to Fool's Gold, which were fun for those who have read the books. There is a slight connection in the new Happily Inc. to that series, but not enough of one that you are unable to read this as a standalone without reading all of the other books. That said, the plot of this does have a minor

spoiler to one of the Fool's Gold plot lines. But, it's not a huge issue.

The characters are all interconnected, and it seems clear that there will be a number of stories in the new series, but that is ok. There is some time spent in this title, as there is in all starts to a new series, building up the other characters so you have a relationship with all of the main people in the story. But, this is welcome, and it does not take away, much, from the core story of Nick and Pallas.

This book also has zebras. If you read it for no other reason (and honestly, there are so many good reasons to read it) read it because it has zebras.

I recommend this title and I look forward to the next in the series.

Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews says

Welcome to Happily Inc. where Susan Mallory will bring you into the lives and hearts of the wedding capital of the world. Nick and Pallas story was sweet, romantic, humorous and sexy. I couldn't ask for a more complete read with You Say It First.

I adored both Nick and Pallas. Nick was kind, considerate, talented and so supportive of a woman that he just met. Pallas has her moments that she didn't shine but that just made her more down-to-earth and endearing. You couldn't help but feel sorry for her at times, cheer her on at times and just wish that she would finally tell her mother off at times. But, she was the perfect fit for Nick and you knew it from the start. She inspired him and he knew the right things to say to get her inspired (even when she didn't see it). When he finally gets her to see the bigger picture and what she can do with Weddings in a Box, he sees his own aspirations come crashing down and he backs off.

They both have trouble with the word love ... Pallas feels like she has to earn it and Nick thinks passion consumes so he won't put his heart at stake. Neither of them had the childhood that encouraged love or showed just how wonderful being loved could be. But, ultimately, they find out that love doesn't have to consume or be earned ... it's unconditional and just is. With the help of family and friends and an alien world, Nick and Pallas find their way through the muddled waters to each other and find that love can be the be-all and end-all.

Susan Mallory is the ultimate Romance writer and knows just how to get you to invest your heart in her stories. I loved every aspect of You Say It First. All the characters had their own quirks but, combined, they formed a beautiful circle of friends. I loved the banter between friends. I loved the support they all showed each other. I loved how they knew just what to say and when to say it. Nick and Pallas ended up being a team, brought Weddings in a Box out of the box and learned just how wonderful and beautiful being in love could be.

Review copy provided for a voluntary review.

You Say it First is the first book in a brand new series from Susan Mallory and I couldn't be happier. She's

created another town in which it has an unusual beginning called Happily Inc, which turns out to be a wedding destination city. Here you will find the Mitchell brothers that were first introduced in Fool's Gold and they've settled here to create their art away from their dysfunctional father and mother. Nick Mitchell is looking for work when he goes to Wedding in a Box and ends up hired to help at a wedding when Pallas Saunders is short one male attendant. She does eventually hire him for his woodworking talent to restore some wood panel scenery, and gradually gets to know him and finds herself attracted to him.

Susan Mallery has a knack for creating flawed characters and giving them opportunities to figure it out for themselves. I can definitely relate to these ordinary complications, especially when it comes to family dynamics. Both Nick and Pallas have a different take on what love is and how they try hard to either earn it or avoid it. Over the course of the story you see them together and with their own families and its entertaining and disappointing on how each behave. I couldn't be happier that there is a new place to fall in love with just like I did with Fool's Gold. I have been anticipating this story's arrival and I'm happy that it is finally here.

Review copy provided for a voluntary review.

4.5 stars

Stacee says

I had read and enjoyed some of the books from a previous series, so I required this one on a whim. It was a delightful surprise to find it featured characters from that series.

I liked Pallas and Nick well enough. They're both good, supportive people and I think that might be the best thing I can say about them. I didn't quite get their chemistry and while the conversation was decent, it lacked banter. Thankfully, there are loads and loads of other characters who provide levity and sarcasm.

Plot wise, it was quite slow. Scenes felt repetitive and I wish I would have counted how many times "passion consumes" or a variation was used because it felt like it was literally on every page. Of course this all sounds like I didn't like the book, but I did. The break up didn't last too long and the epilogue was just enough.

Overall, it kept me entertained and I'm eager to see who stars in the next book.

****Huge thanks to HQN Books for providing the arc free of charge****

Lisa (Remarkablylisa) says

RATING: 3/5 STARS

This is my first Susan Mallery book and I have to say that it won't be last. I was intimidated by the sheer number of books she has written in the past. And I didn't know what type of writing style she has but now that I have finished You Say it First, I know that her writing is an easy to dive into type of style that makes readers enjoy the story more.

Pallas Saunders, our heroine, has lived well, an interesting life. Left behind a themed wedding company, she runs the highly praised, Weddings in a Box. She works hard, trying to please everyone from the bride to the groom and most importantly, her less than supportive mother. In *You Say it First*, you can see the troubling relationship she has with her mother. Her mother runs by rules. Rules that determine if Pallas is standing on the good side or bad side of affection from her mother. It was frustrating to read the injustice Pallas suffered when her mother critiqued her and insulted her. I knew that I would not be satisfied until Pallas stood up for herself.

Nick Mitchell, our hero, is a passionate one who loves his art and loves his wood. Wink. I'm joking. I actually mean wood like from trees. He's a carpenter and finds his happiness through carving and creating fine pieces of work using wood as his main source of material. He likes to keep everyone at distance, claiming too much passion is not a good thing. It will consume him, destroy him, and ruin him in the end. So, definitely, love is not an option.

When Nick and Pallas meet, the chemistry is palpable. I really liked how flirtatious they were when they first met. Pallas asks for him to take off his shirt without warning and to body paint him so he could look like a greek warrior, carrying one of the greek goddesses aka the bride to her wedding. It was hilarious and I knew the story was off to a great start.

The only thing I didn't like about this story was that it seemed generic. It was very cut from the same cloth as a lot of books and nothing was much different so it kind of got boring midway through.

MY RECOMMENDATION:

Pick it up if you're a Susan Mallery fan!

☆ Bianca ☆ BJ's Book Blog ☆ says

Step aside Fool's Gold - here comes Happily Inc!!

This is a brand new sweet romance series that's a bit of a Fool's Gold spin-off.

We already met Nick's family in FG and now he and his two artist brothers moved to Happily Inc to get away from their dad.

Nick is waiting for a call from Dubai - he's in the running to build a huge piece for a hotel lobby over there. That would take him away from home for two years.

But for now he's here. And he's working as an underpaid carpenter for Pallas.

She recently inherited the wedding company where she worked while going to college for a degree in finance.

Because that's what she's supposed to do with her life: work for the family bank in town.

But for now - or at least until the end of wedding season - she's working hard to keep *WEDDINGS IN A BOX* alive.

And if watching the sexy carpenter working shirtless is the price she has to pay for that - all the better.

Nick is equally attracted, but he doesn't do love. His parents taught him that.

What will happen with Pallas & Nick??
Will there be HEA in Happily Inc??
READ THE BOOK TO FIND OUT! ?

????????????????????

Eeeeeep a new Susan Mallery series!

I LOVED Fool's Gold. And this is looking just as good.

We already know the 3 brothers and Pallas introduces us to all her besties - there's LOTS of room for lots of interesting books in this new town - I love it!!!!

This was such a sweet romance. Exactly what you've been used to from Susan.

Plus it has lots of weddings! So romantic and funny and adorable!

Of course it's not all insta-happy-endy. We have some serious 'afraid-to-love' problems to overcome - but of course we'll get there in the end! ?

The perfect book to read while lounging on your couch with a glass of wine and some snacks.

Oh and I should also mention, if you thought Fool's Gold was crazy with their resident elephant! Happily Inc has zebras, water buffalo, a GIRAFFE ... and so much more!!! ???

(We find out more about all that in book #2!)

I enjoyed every second of this book!

Can't wait to read the second one!

YOU SAY IT FIRST was such an adorable and funny and romantic love story! Run to your nearest amazon for your own Nick - this one is MINE! ?

??

??

Sarah says

4 Stars

Challenges:

♥ What To Read in 2018: Task 20: Favorite author - you may either re-read an old favorite or continue on with one you haven't read yet.

♥ RRRC: Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs Quarterly Challenge:#33. Tourmaline : Read a book with at least three colors on the cover or a sports story.

??Hannah?? says

I enjoyed this book for the most part. I felt bad for the MC her mother was horrible. Thankfully we find out why and they work on that. My only complaint was that this was a romance book but yet they didn't really focus on that much. It spent most of the time on her wedding business. Other than that this was a good book and I would definitely recommend it to others.

☆ BJ's Book Blog ☆Janeane ☆ says

ARC received for an honest review

This is my first ever Susan Mallery read - yes, I can hear your gasps of shock! Heck, B has been trying to get me to read her for years!

Welcome to the town of Happily Inc and it's motley crew of residents! There is a lot of background and introductions in this first book in this series, but it is well worth it!

There are a LOT of weddings in this book, however I loved that they are not the run of the mill I Dos.

And there are plenty non-run-of-the-mill characters too. I adore Pallas and all her insecurities. Add Nick to the equation, and things start to get a little steamy!

Add in the fact that both our lovelies have commitment issues, well you just know that they are going to take us on a ride to find their HEA.

There are great secondary characters, whom I am looking forward to getting to know better as the series continues.

Light, fun , sweet and adorable, You Say It First is a great way to spend a few hours.

Ann Lorz says

Reviewed for Romancing the Readers Blog: <https://romancingthereaders.blogspot....>

I can't seem to remember a time when I wasn't reading Susan Mallery. She's one of the few authors that I can honestly say that after 20 years plus, I'm still reading her. I'm just glad that I can say after all this time of reading Mallery I still enjoy her books like I'm reading her for the first time!

When Mallery decided to end for now her Fool's Gold series (for now, fingers crossed) I can honestly say it felt like my heart was being ripped out of my chest. I've spent so much time with these people and loved reading about them that it really felt like it physically hurt. Silly, I know but that's how I felt.

When you read so many book in one series you really feel like you belong there. You honestly get to know the people like they are your neighbors. At first I wasn't going to read the new series but then I made the mistake of reading both Thrill Me & Best of my Love. Both are part of the Fool's Gold series and are Mitchell brothers. Bam! Just like that I was intrigued. I now needed to know about these brothers that moved away. Sneaky move there by Mallery.

Once I started reading You Say it First I was so glad that I decided to move on to the next series. I love Nick. Yes I knew him from his brothers book but he hadn't really shined yet. Here he did. You really got to know the real man behind the art. He is really a good guy who loves to create.

He has some of the same issues his brothers have about their father and I like how he worked through them as much as he can. Do we ever really get over our parent issues? Added to the father issues they also have mother issues. How they all turned out pretty well balance is a mystery.

Nick isn't alone with his mother issues, Pallas herself has a few. I'm not sure who's is worse. But rate up there as horrible mothers. Poor Pallas has to work so hard at making herself feel good about who she is.

I happened to like who Pallas is. She brings happiness to people and their special day. Her problem is that she has to realize she lovable. That people really do care about her and that she's good enough.

You'll enjoy how both Nick and Pallas work out their pasts and look to the futures. Yes there are a few missteps but those are what make a good romance story.

Wait until you read You Say it First, you'll find a whole bunch of new neighbors to love. Plus, we have to Mitchell brothers left that needs to find their happily ever after.

You can start this series without reading the Fool's Gold series but I'd make sure to read both Thrill Me & Best of My Love first. That way you'll have the two Mitchell brothers story that came before and those set up the main thread that runs through all the stories. You don't need to, but you might feel like you are missing something.

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<https://twitter.com/Romancingreader>

Morgan says

So, Mallory's new series is kind of a spin-off from the Fool's Gold series and located elsewhere with three out of the five Mitchell brothers in the desert area that's famous for weddings. I never read the Fool's Gold series and I don't intend to. I tried reading one book and easily got sidetracked. But after reading the well thought out reviews on every book, it's safe to say the author uses the same romance formula that Harlequin loves so much. Emotionally damaged characters who are too stupid to deal with their problems and throw love up against the wall in all the wrong ways.

Anyway, Nick comes from a family that has a famous father who is an artist but doesn't give a rat's ass about his family except for his art and has no qualms hurting everyone that's considered close to him, so he and his two youngest talented brothers move away when the dad admits that he had an affair and his mistress gave birth to one of his son's and their mother decided to take him in as his own and pretend he was a fraternal twin of Mathias all those years. On top of that the mother later had breast cancer and still keeps her shitty husband because she thinks he's God himself. There's the reason Nick is emotionally damaged and believes "passion consumes" due to his parent's fucked up one-sided relationship.

Then we have Pallas who inherited her former boss's wedding business and took her in since her father died a long time ago and her mother hates her for being loved by everyone and was too emotionally unavailable almost her whole life and Pallas felt that love had to be earned instead of just giving it willingly and freely with no constraints. Nick, who is a sculptor, is hired to help Pallas' wedding business and a huge chunk of the book is describing the planning details which gave the book worth something to read despite getting a little dull at times, but well thought out plot by keeping the characters moving throughout the story.

You see foreshadowing with Mathias and Ronan (the bastard half-brother) since they appear a lot and engage with Pallas' friends. There were over five of them and I only cared about Alan since Mallory put an effort of having a gay character in the story, but alas, I'm sure Harlequin isn't going to give him a main lead of him finding true love and you can sense some underlining homophobia from the other male characters in the book besides a faceless boyfriend who comes to visit from LA with him. I've read a few same-sex stories and they were alright, but it is extremely difficult finding them when you have an overwhelming amount of white, straight romances controlling the industry. The one thing I liked was Nova and Joel when they got married to have Nova's terminally ill father to walk her down the aisle. The author did point out that Nova was Asian and I was thrilled, but sad at the same time because Harlequin is so whitewashed with their romances and whenever they ever bring up diversity, they're only used as supporting characters or the main character's who have an inch of non-white are stereotyped poorly by white authors.

Sorry, I had to get that rant out and I hope bestseller authors keep moving forward and finally grow a pair by making more characters that aren't always white or straight. And without insulting anyone. I know that's got to be hard for some authors, but everyone deserves representation. Let's just hope they overcome their repetitiveness with bland personalities and petty issues that main characters face first.

Moving on, Pallas grows as a character and I do like her for standing up to her cold mother as well as overcoming her fear on loving. But Nick is just a dolt I want to kick in the butt since he loves to wallow in his own misery. I guess that truly makes him an artist after all... Even if he doesn't get the commission to India, he still rejects Pallas with his bullshit reason for not falling for her and passion kills everything. Well,

boo fucking hoo! I'm a shattered soul with crappy parents and siblings who are just as messed up as me that I can't lurve! BAAAAAAAAAAAAHHHHHH!!!! Haven't heard that story before. Sounds new to me. How groundbreaking of Susan Mallery! It's not like she's done it twenty some times in her Fool's Gold series.... It's completely original. Believe me!
