



Sweet Spot

Susan Mallery

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If only her life was more sinful than sweet...

"Responsibility" should be Nicole Keyes's middle name. After all, not many people would sacrifice their lives to run the family bakery and raise a younger sibling. But with Nicole's twin sister now blissfully married and her younger sis turning out more femme fatale than girl-next-door, super reliable Nicole is getting sick of putting everyone else's needs first.

Enter Hawk. The deliciously sexy former NFL player offers Nicole a taste of the freedom she craves. Hawk may know the way, blindfolded, to her sweet spot, but Nicole's not about to let him get close enough to break her heart. Of course, she might not have a choice in the matter if Hawk's past keeps getting in the way of their present....

Sweet Spot Details

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Author : Susan Mallery

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From Reader Review Sweet Spot for online ebook

Jacob Proffitt says

This is second in a series and there's a lot of emotional and relationship baggage left over from that one. So I definitely recommend reading them in order.

I kind of knew what I was in for coming into this story. I didn't like Nicole in the first book, though she mellowed some near the end. This book continues her mellowing and that's to the good. Also, there are some stand-out secondary characters, headed up by Raoul. That kid was fantastic and Nicole coming to care for him was an outstanding made-family story arc that drew me in.

Unfortunately, Hawk was kind of a waste from start to finish. I normally like the strong, competent heroes, but Hawk just never could quite get there. His ego got in the way over and over again. And his rage storms, while never violent, were still too much and too broad and with too much (emotional) collateral damage. He hurt people he "cares" about too easily and too often and more often than not that was Nicole.

Also, this is apparently the series for one of my least favorite pet peeves, the (view spoiler)

So a three-star read, but enjoyable enough not to tempt me lower. I laughed out loud once or twice because Nicole talking straight was uncomfortable as a slip-n-slide at a wedding reception but a lot of fun if it's not your wedding...

A note about Steamy: There are three explicit sex scenes which puts this firmly in the middle of my steam tolerance. They were a little over-the-top, frankly, and Hawk's ego wasn't working for him the way he thought it was. So that's a bit awkward.

Suzanne (Under the Covers Book blog) says

3.5 Stars

I really liked this book, I already liked Nicole from the previous book and I love her sarcastic sense of humour, the guy, Hawk, in this book was also a lot better, he seemed to have more character and I could feel the relationship between them more.

The only character that annoyed me was Brittany, Hawk's daughter, she was selfish spoiled and really got on my nerves! How did she ever get a boyfriend as good as Raoul?!

Also is it a theme in Susan Mallery books that everyone gets pregnant at some point?!

Gail says

This is the second book in the "Bakery Sisters" series. The first book is about the twin who left home to be a piano prodigy. This is about the twin who stayed behind. It begins after the close of the first book.

The heroine has always been the responsible one. She's been running the family bakery, she helped raise her younger sister, and even though she's finally reconciling with her long-absent twin, her life is falling apart around her. Her marriage is over. Her younger sister has gone so far from the straight and narrow, the heroine doesn't want to even see her. And then this football coach, who just happens to be a retired NFL player, turns up in the bakery to bug her. The romance is as sweet as the bakery goodies, but it's grounded in real emotions and situations. Heartbreak and teenaged love and -- well, good stuff. Very much worth reading. I liked it a lot.

Songül says

?u serinin son kitab?n? 2 senedir ç?karamayan Pegasus'a öfkeliyim , hay?r ?imdi merak ediyorum ama elimden bir?ey gelmiyor ??????

Tu?ba At?c? Co?ar (okuryazarannecik) says

...

#kitapyorumu | Tatlı Aşk & Tatlı Kaçamak

Birine yorum girmeden baktım duramıyorum dedim hadi di?erini de bitireyim bari.

Keriann Davey says

So my guilty pleasure is books like this. I don't read them all the time but when I'm down or need a light read I pick up one and it always does the trick.

Unbeknown to me at the time this was a second book in a trilogy but it didn't matter I think anything you needed to know was laid out for you in the story so you didn't miss out on anything (saying that I have just borrowed book one from the library) this is a romance story about a feisty woman called Nicole, she has had a string of bad luck and in walks Hawk the local football coach and we'll need I say more.

Now although this story wasn't anything new or original to what I have read before and yes it was sometime silly with a certain sub plot it was the characters that really pulled this story for me, although I wasn't a fan of Hawk I found Nicole so relatable and I adored Raoul..he was 100% my favourite character and so grown up for his age.

I really enjoyed this book and it gave me some life relief and made me happy at a time when I really needed it..off to read book one.....see you all on the other side 🙌?

Gamruk says

İlk kitaptan daha çok sevdim sanırım. Nicole ilkinde soguk gibi gelmistir ama burada ayaklari yere basan ve kendinden ödün vermeyen bir karakterdi. Okuması keyifliydi. Hala o pisss kız karde?inden nefret ediyorum ama sanırım 3.kitabi da alıp okuyacağım ç?kt???nda.

Hawk güçlü, karizmatik, haval? eski bir NFL oyuncusu ?imdilerin genç babas? ve koçu adam ba?tan a?a?? karizmaay?mm diyor :D ama k?z? ve rahmetli kar?s? konusunda az biraz dik kafal? ve ben en iyisiyim dü?üncesinde. Zaten sonunda da görüyor babay? hahaha :D oldukça keyfi ald?m okurken yan karakter bir velet de vard? (18 lik velet de nas?l oluyorsa :P) çok efendi çok çok çokkkk gelece?in karizmas? bir o?land?. Ama dedi?im gibi küçük k?z karde?lerine hala ?s?namad?m, yapt?klar?n?n mazereti yok benim gözümde, yine de merak etmeden de duram?yorum, bebesiyle neler ya?ayacak falan :D Öyle i?te güzeldi seviyorum bu seriyi, ah?m ?ah?m de?il ama okutuyor :D

Sharon Mariampillai says

April 2018 Review

This was an amazing read. I thought the story was sweet. I really loved that the series is about sisters. Nicole is the responsible sister. I thought her character was written beautifully. She reconciled with her twin, running a bakery, and taking care of her nephew, she has to deal with being sick. I thought her character was strong. She always does her best for her family and it really made me appreciate her character even more. She falls in love Hawk. He is a former NFL player now football coach. He is sexy, but he is also polite. He really cares about the team he coaches for and I thought he was boyfriend/husband material. I thought it was adorable when he bugged Nicole in the bakery. Their romance was sweet. I thought that they had great chemistry. I can't wait to relive the moments of the third book. Overall, a fantastic read.

First Read: October 2014-November 2014

Nicola says

Sweet definitely describes this story. I did begin with a dislike of the main character - Nicole seemed harsh, rude and unforgiving. It reminded me not to judge people when you first meet them, as there is so much beneath the surface. As her story unfolded I grew to like Nicole, understanding why she reacted to things the way she did. Mallery was able to unravel her character, describing some background without interfering with the storyline, in a beautiful way.

I also began with a dislike of Hawk - typical athletic "I am great" male. While I did soften my opinion, it was not to the degree of Nicole. I still have my doubts about him and his spoiled little daughter! Again however, character development was great!

Raoul - I am a big fan of him!

I am interested to hear more about the the little sister - Jesse seems an interesting character to me. I was a little put off by the fact that everyone - including the dog - became pregnant though! Really? Isn't one unexpected (unwanted??) pregnancy enough. It did seem to glamorize pregnancies outside of committed relationships (sore spot for me a mother of two girls!)

Renae (Romantic Parvenu) says

In short, Sweet Spot can henceforth be known as the book where everyone (including the dog) gets pregnant. I swear Susan Mallery's characters just don't do birth control. It's insane, not to mention unrealistic, how

much pregnancy is happening in one family. I can't handle it. Sweet Talk was questionable. This is just plain bad.

What we have here is a failure to communicate. On every level. Mostly Hawk, our stupidly-named male lead, is our offender, but everyone else is guilty. Basically, everybody in Sweet Spot has the maturity level of a toddler (except maybe Raoul, the teenage side-character). I just could not with this characters. Especially Hawk. Somebody please go kill Hawk.

Okay, so. The book's protagonist is Nicole, twin sister to Claire. Nicole raised her baby sister and took over the family bakery at a young age. She also is in the midst of divorcing her husband, who cheated on her with said baby sister. Enter Hawk, former NFL player who's pushy, immature, and overconfident, but apparently sexy as all get out, so that excuses everything. His biggest problem is that he's convinced he's always right, and refuses to hear otherwise. He's spoiled his daughter and set up a shrine for his dead wife; Nicole points this out, and he blows up on her. He apologizes, but then lashes out the very next time she tries to explain why his life is falling apart. Hawk sucked. He treated Nicole like crap and NEVER figured things out unless another character sat him down and explained. He was like a stupid kid.

Meanwhile, we have the unfortunate fact that Susan Mallery is a serial pregnancy-writer. It's like if she's run out of ideas, she throws in a surprise pregnancy. Out of the four female characters in this novel, all four are pregnant. None of these pregnancies are planned. All cause immediate tension and stupid fights. The freaking dog is pregnant, okay? There is no story-telling in Sweet Spot, because it's just the characters running around acting immature, having unprotected sex, and then acting all surprised when they pee on the stick and it turns blue. What idiots.

This book is not well written. Sweet Spot infuriatingly bad, actually. I am officially parting ways with Susan Mallery. She is not the romance author for me. If you rely on unprotected sex to sell your "true love", you are most certainly doing it wrong. Very wrong.

Thenia says

[Haw

Hannah says

I should probably start off this review by stating that I am not usually drawn to contemporary romances that don't contain any suspense elements, so I am not really the intended audience for this sort of novel. That said, *Sweet Spot* failed miserably to meet even my lowered expectations. I had major problems with the writing, the plot, and especially the characters.

Susan Mallery's writing left a lot to be desired, at least in this book. While I didn't notice many grammatical or typographical errors, I just couldn't appreciate Mallery's uninspired style. *Sweet Spot* reads like the work of a novice author who hasn't found her own voice yet and employs every cliché she can think of to cover her literary shortcomings. The dialog and the descriptive passages all felt either too flat or too familiar, as if I had read them hundreds of times before in other novels.

I could forgive Mallery's lack of literary prowess, though, if she were a better storyteller. Unfortunately, the plot in this novel failed to interest me at all. There were too many side characters and too many unrelated things going on. Perhaps if I had read the first book of the series, some of the character interactions in *Sweet Spot* would have made more sense. Maybe. Unfortunately, the references to events that occurred in the previous book (*Sweet Talk*), and the set-up for the next book (*Sweet Trouble*), encroached on the story in this book.

My biggest problem with *Sweet Spot*, however, was the fact that the entire cast of characters seemed to be suffering from dissociative identity disorder. Nearly every character in the novel was inconsistent, and thoroughly unbelievable. The heroine, Nicole, was the only possible exception, but even Nicole's personality seemed to undergo occasional, inexplicable fluctuations.

Raoul, the teenage boy Nicole took under her wing, was a walking, talking contradiction. He was a homeless kid who grew up in the foster care system and who also happened to have a juvenile criminal record. At the very beginning of the book, he attempted to steal doughnuts from Nicole's bakery. Yet he was also the star quarterback of the local high school football team, he was dating the coach's cheerleader daughter, and he possessed a nobility and wisdom beyond his years. So which was he, the juvenile delinquent from the wrong side of the tracks, or the jock with a heart of gold? Mallery apparently intended to convince the reader that he could be both, but the two halves of his character didn't mesh in a believable way.

The hero, Hawk (*really*) was the worst part of the novel. The author's descriptions of him were unappealing, and his dialog was even worse. Either he was smugly talking down to Nicole as if he considered himself God's gift to womankind (which he clearly did), or he was whining at her like a petulant child for things that were in no way her fault. Why did she put up with him? Why would any woman be drawn to such an immature, egotistical idiot?

Obviously this is not a book I would recommend to anyone. The only thing I liked about it were Nicole's occasional bursts of snarky wit, but they were too few and far between to hold my interest in the book. It was a relief just to get it over with.

Leah says

Nicole Keyes really didn't want any more drama in her life. Enter Raoul, the teenage boy who attempts to steal five dozen donuts from the bakery. And along with him, enter Hawk, the studly, irresistibly charming football coach at the local high school who came to retrieve Raoul, his star quarterback. Against her better judgment, Nicole offers to have Raoul pay off the donuts he tried to steal by working in the bakery the next morning. To her surprise, the boy is a good worker and she offers him a job working for her.

As she gets closer to Raoul, she is forced to become closer to Hawk, despite her attempts to avoid the man, and much to her chagrin, it appears that Hawk will go to many lengths to get to her. Luckily for her, that makes him the perfect man to go along with her plan: She'll be his personal sex kitten but he has to be her pretend adoring boyfriend who she gets to flaunt to all of her friends and then dump whenever she so chooses. Throughout this "relationship," the two grow closer and they enjoy getting to know each other.

Then, one day, Nicole discovers that Raoul was no longer living in his foster home and was living in an abandoned building. Nicole offers to let the boy live with her. During this time, Nicole realizes that she

enjoys having teenagers in the house again, even if it fans the flames of pain she experiences due to her younger sister, Jesse, leaving town pregnant and upset.

About a month or so into later, Brittany, Hawk's daughter, tells Nicole and Raoul that she's pregnant and makes them promise not to say anything to Hawk. A few days later, Hawk asks Nicole to be his real girlfriend, and the guilt of keeping the secret eats at her. But, about a week after Brittany drops the bomb on her boyfriend and Nicole, she tells Hawk, who is not only enraged at Brittany and Raoul, but also at Nicole for keeping the secret from him. Not many days later, while Nicole is over at Hawk's, Raoul and Brittany run away to get married. That plan is thrown off track, though, when it is discovered that Brittany was not actually pregnant, and the two teens return home.

Later on the day when they return, Hawk goes to Nicole and tells her that he loves her. During which time she tells him that she is pregnant; he leaves without saying anything. Raoul, who overheard the conversation, tells Brittany and the girl comes over and has a temper tantrum over the pregnancy.

Realizing that he did the wrong thing and needed to fix the situation, Hawk mistakenly comes to the conclusion that he should propose to Nicole, and he does so without even talking to her about the pregnancy and his reaction first. She rejects the proposal and Hawk is not only angry but embarrassed. Thankfully, he goes to Claire, Nicole's twin sister, for advice on how he should handle the situation. Through several meaningful gestures, Hawk shows Nicole how much he really loves her. So she goes to see him at the high school where he tells her that he's really excited about the baby, he loves her, and he wants to marry her. Finally, Nicole accepts and they live happily ever after.

I love Nicole and I see a lot of myself in her personality much of the time. That being said, however, she continued to drive me crazy with the way that she refused to actually *listen* to Jesse about the situation with Drew. Maybe it's because I've already read Jesse's book, but I just wanted to smack some sense into Nicole and tell her to *listen* to what Jesse (my favorite of the Keyes sisters) had to say. Not taking into account that situation, though, I really liked Nicole, and I loved the way she took in and cared for Raoul when he had no one else.

Hawk, oh Hawk. Adorable, charming, intelligent. Completely frustrating, blind to the reality of his situation with his daughter and his late wife. Hawk was quite the character, and while I did not like that he constantly blamed Nicole for things, I couldn't help but love him.

Raoul was utterly adorable and I love how protective he became of Nicole, even to the point of standing up to Hawk.

It was nice to see parts of Jesse's life that I had no prior knowledge of when I read her book. It was good to see how things went down with Matt and how she finally ended up in the comforting, protective shelter of Bill. Of course, it drove me crazy when Claire and Nicole refused to listen to her and that whole situation continually made me teary-eyed.

This was a wonderful book, I'm glad to have read it, and I know I will probably be rereading this wonderful, *frustrating* series multiple times in my life.

Julie (jjmachshev) says

Reviewed for queuemyreview.com; book release: August 2008

How does Susan Mallery do it? Her stories interest me, suck me in, make me think, spit me out smiling, and then leave me hungry for the next! The heroine of "Sweet Spot", Nicole, was introduced in the first book of this series, "Sweet Talk". I really didn't like Nicole! She was snarky, bad-tempered, and whiny. I just couldn't see how even Susan Mallery could make her likable. Well, darn it, she did it. As I read Nicole's story, I began to understand the whys and hows of her behavior. And, even though there were still times I wanted to kick her into next week, she turned out to be someone I'd really love to have as a friend.

Nicole has some pretty good reasons to be unhappy. She was forced to accept too much responsibility too early in her life. Her future in the family business was mapped out for her almost from the cradle. She became the mother figure for her younger sister and pretty much raised her through rebellions and tantrums. She's always been the responsible one. In the last year, she's had two surgeries and caught her younger sister in bed with her soon-to-be-ex-husband. She's tired of the pitying looks and being responsible. So she cooks up a plan with one of her gorgeous, sexy customers. She will be his strings-free sex kitten and he'll play her adoring, infatuated boyfriend. All she has to do is keep her heart behind those tall, hard walls and she'll be fine. Right?

Hawk's life is on cruise control. He's young, well off, and charming...and he knows it! He's also a widower with a 17-year-old daughter, a job he loves, and women throw themselves at him all the time. He doesn't need a relationship. He loved his wife and dotes on his daughter. His job as a high school coach keeps him in shape, close to his daughter, and working with the game he loves. And then...he meets a woman he can't charm. She somehow gets under his skin, but he knows if he can just 'have her' a few times, life will go back to normal. Right?

Whew. Do these two need some counseling or what? They don't sound likable, do they? Umm hmm, just keep reading. The sexual tension between these two is sizzling and non-stop. But as they learn more about each other and become more involved in each other's lives, something strange happens. They actually like each other...even without sex! There are some fairly intense situations in this book, dealing with single-parent and teen pregnancies. I appreciated the fact that Ms. Mallery didn't try to tie it all up with a pretty bow and pretend that these situations will always end happily. Because they don't and won't. However, she also shows that regardless of the situation, honesty and communication are the keys to a successful relationship...EVERY time.

I like this author. I liked this book. It ended way too soon for me and the short glimpse provided of the next book in this series left me hanging. If you enjoy stories that pull at your emotions, don't miss "Sweet Spot" by Susan Mallery.

Tuba Özkat says

Gerçekten güzel bir kitaptı. Severek çevirdim, sonraki sayfayı merak ederek ilerledim, bazen önden gidip

okudum.

Kadın karakter: Güçlü, bağımsız, sert gibi görünen ama yumuşak kalbi var, azıcık da çenesini tutamıyor.

Erkek karakter: İstediyinin peşinden giden, güçlü, arada sırada lafı tersten anlayan, biraz geçmipte kalmış, tatlı bir herif!

Yan karakterler de güçlü ve sevilesiydi.
