



## Sweet Talk

*Susan Mallery*

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## Is there anything sweeter than first love?

Don't ask Claire Keyes. The twenty-eight-year-old piano prodigy has never had a regular boyfriend, much less a real romance. Her music career has left little room for friends or family?which is just part of the reason she hasn't seen the family bakery or her two sisters in years.

But now Nicole is sick, and Jesse is AWOL. Despite the fact that Claire can't boil water, she's determined to play caretaker. Connecting with her sisters tops her to-do list...along with falling in love, or at least in lust, for the first time.

Ruggedly sexy Wyatt just might fit the bill. Although he keeps saying that he and Claire come from entirely different worlds, he lights up hotter than a bakery oven whenever Claire is near. If this keeps up, she just might sweet?talk him into her bed...and her life.

## Sweet Talk Details

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## From Reader Review Sweet Talk for online ebook

### Leah says

I love Claire and I love that despite what people say about her, she tries to learn new things to better herself; she embraces her strength and learns how to do things for herself. I love that she was persistent and that she didn't give up with Nicole, despite Nicole being rude to her all the time. She learned how to work at the bakery and excelled at it after she learned. I love how excited she was about the baby and how she didn't let Wyatt's negative and hurtful reaction get her down. I thought it was so adorable that Amy was the one who helped her to overcome her panic attacks when playing the piano for large crowds, and she goes to a club and plays to help with it, too.

I wanted to beat Wyatt when he was mean to Claire, and I hated when he freaked out about the baby and being her first time. I did love him, though; he was a loyal, determined, strong guy. I love, though, that Nicole and Drew had to be the reasonable ones with him about him, Claire, and the baby. Also, I loved when he went to New York with Amy to see Claire play and groveled to get her back.

I wanted to hurt Nicole so many times throughout the book, especially in the beginning, but I'm glad she finally made up with Claire and they were able to be friends. I did feel very bad for her about what happened with Drew and Jesse, though.

I absolutely loved Amy; she was totally adorable. It was unexpected that she was deaf but I thought it was cool that she was learning speech, lip reading, and teaching Claire sign language. I loved when she went shopping with Claire and was leading her all around the store, picking out clothes for her.

I didn't like Jesse at all, the little bitch. I hated that she was never really sorry about anything that happened with Drew and the cakes. It didn't even seem like she was that sorry that she hurt Nicole in the process either.

I loved this book, though, and I am looking forward to reading Nicole's book.

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### Julie (jjmachshev) says

Reviewed for queuemymreview.com. Release date: July 2008

Getting a sneak peek at the first book in a new series by one of my favorite authors is enough to make me do the happy dance (TMI?). I've been a big Susan Mallery fan since the first time I picked up one of her books. She seems to have the knack of making the unbelievable, believable. Her stories are sweet, smart, and sexy...and her latest "Sweet Talk" is certainly no exception.

For the first third of this book, I absolutely despised the heroine's twin. I just wanted to get her alone in a quiet room and smack some sense into her. Maybe I should up my meds? No, really...she was mean, spiteful, hateful, snotty...get the picture? I mean, I know this is one of the future heroines for this series and I was thinking, "How in the heck is Mallery gonna pull this off? I hate this woman!" But by the end of the book, I was panting for her story...go figure. That's one of the things I like about Ms Mallery's books, she can play my heartstrings like a maestro.

And speaking of maestros...

Claire Keyes is a 28 year old piano prodigy who was whisked away from her home and her twin at the young age of 6. Since then her entire life has been programmed and planned by her business manager. She has no idea of how to be 'normal' (and that's supposed to be a bad thing?), is still a virgin, has never driven a car, and has no idea of how to take care of herself, much less someone else. She has tried repeatedly to reconnect with her sisters without success. Yet when the youngest one calls her to ask her to come 'home' and help her twin recover from surgery, she drops everything for the chance to be part of a family. Claire doesn't sound very likeable does she? Don't we all hate the poor, little rich girl? The self-sacrificing sweetie? Yeah, me too. But after just a few pages, you DO begin to like her. She's kind of like the energizer bunny—nothing keeps her down. Watching her begin to take control of her life made me feel good.

Now Wyatt, on the other hand, is such a sweetie. He's Claire's twin's best buddy. A single dad with an 8 year old daughter who's deaf, a successful businessman, and muy macho...very sexy...and VERY attracted to Claire. UH OH. But he's also a man, which means he's gonna mess up BIG time and not realize he's falling in love, and do stupid man things. Yet, I still ended up cheering for him when he did manage to get things right...and the ending? Very sweet, what every woman dreams of...a man who admits he was **WRONG!!**

Susan Mallery knows her audience. She delivers a sweet, but still sensual and sexy romance with witty dialogue and touches of humor. Her descriptions of the life of a world-class pianist help bring her heroine down to our level, and wow can she ever give us the men we'd all like to have! She's an author that's made her way onto my auto-buy list, whether it's one of her stand-alone novels, Silhouette, Harlequin, or series. I'm entertained, amused, and sometimes aroused...and isn't that a pleasant way to spend a few hours? Give her a try. Pick up "Sweet Talk" and see if you don't develop a 'sweet tooth' for this author's stories.

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### **Gokce ~Muslin Myst~ says**

I was really disappointed with this book. Not only the author has put me under her spell with a previous series-first I've read by her, Delicious, but also the plot had so much more promise.

It tells the story of the clueless pianist Claire and the single father Wyatt.

I'm gonna be harsh about this book and the characters. Claire is a pianist, she's very very talented and is taken away from her home when she's like 6 years old to get her music lessons and is plunged into the world of orchestra. In all her 28 years of life, everything is done for her. She's pampered and all she had to do was to devote her life and talent to shows, concerts and charity events etc. The idea we need to get is that she's clueless about 'real' life because, well you know, everything's always been done *for* her. But I truly don't believe one person, no matter how pampered or spoiled they are, could be this clueless about life. All through the book she's portrayed as clueless. I know I keep using that word but that's exactly what she is, clueless clueless clueless. It's as if she hasn't come from a different, pampered upbringing but from a different *time*, one where there are no cars, no microwaves or no jeans or something. Now, although she manages to learn all that in short time, it still annoyed me that she was so..yes, you know what's coming..clueless!!

Let's move on to her two sisters who are the heroines of the upcoming books. One of them is the nurturer, Claire's twin, Nicole. Who is, one of the most annoying, self-centered women I've read so far. All through the book all she did was to complain, complain and complain some more. She was a total bitch, pardon my

french. She kept blaming Claire for *being* taken from the family when she was only *six years old!* She was just a child when she was forced to leave and even though she tried to contact Nicole when she grew up, somehow she still ended up as the bad guy. I thought Nicole didn't deserve Claire's attention and love. Not at all.

And then there's Jesse. The youngest of the sisters whose actions and reasons behind those actions are questionable, unclear and confusing. She supposedly slept, I say supposedly because I'm still not clear about that, with her sister Nicole's husband and now Nicole naturally hates her. All Jesse did in the book was to pop up from somewhere and refuse to acknowledge the fact that she slept with Drew, Nicole's husband. She doesn't exactly say she slept with him, but neither does she completely deny that she did! When she's asked to explain she's being vague and then when someone accuses her of her mistake she pouts and says they don't understand her! She was utterly frustrating.

Wyatt was a weak hero, if not altogether as annoying as the rest of the bunch. But really, he didn't strike me as the kind of man I'd want to read in my romance books either. I think the only good thing about this book was Amy, Wyatt's little girl. She was 8 years old but she was more than adult than any of the actual adults in this book. Now, if *she* gets a book years later with a man worthy of her, that I'd be willing to read but other than that, I don't have much interest in what happens to the other sisters here.

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### **??Trea says**

I wasn't sure what to expect from this book, but I did get an entertaining story!

The characters didn't really resonate with me. I found it hard to identify with Claire, and couldn't like Nicole. Jesse was this little talked about quantity, and I found Wyatt to be a total a-hole. What I did like was seeing Claire just BE. I liked watching her grow as a person, and that's where most of my enjoyment of the book came from. I would have liked to learn more about Amy as well!

I'm not sure I will continue the series...

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### **Tu?ba At?c? Co?ar (okuryazarannecek) says**

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#kitapyorumu | Tatlı? A?k & Tatlı? Kaçamak  
Birine yorum giremeden bakt?m duram?yorum dedim hadi di?erini de bitireyim bari.

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### **Kath says**

Susan Mallery is usually a safe read for me as her books are usually pretty light and enjoyable. This one, I had so many issues with. While I liked Claire mostly, I found her to be a doormat. She will do put up with anything in order to gain the approval of her sisters, whom she hasn't seen much of over the years since childhood. Claire left home at the age of 6 as a piano playing prodigy. Claire's mother and grandmother traveled with her at times and when Claire went home, it was very apparent that her sisters did not welcome her, particularly after her parents died.

Claire's twin sister Nicole, is a mean, bitter woman who blames Claire for all her problems. Nicole tells Claire that she hates her, wished her dead, Claire killed her mother and she ruined her life because her mom was traveling with Claire and she had to take care of their little sister. With all the bickering between Claire, Nicole and their little sister Jesse (who is accused of sleeping with Nicoles husband), it's just a very sad group of sisters. Nicole seems to be at the crux of it all, badmouthing Claire and treating her like dirt and throwing Jesse in jail for "stealing" a family recipe.

I did read the 3rd in this series first, and loved it. I would have never guessed that these sisters had all this baggage based on what I read in book 3. Book 2 is about Nicole and I can't bear to see her get a HEA after all the pain and grief she's given everyone around her. Pass on this one. While Claire is a good character on her own, Nicole steals the show and not in a good way.

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### **Sharon Mariampillai says**

#### **December 2017 Review:**

This was an enjoyable read. I thought the story was well-written and great. I really liked the relationship between Wyatt and Claire. Claire is a great heroine and I really liked to she does not let anything keep her down. I really like her characterization. She is really relatable to me as she has the same attitude as me. Also, I still really love Wyatt. I love that he is a single dad with a deaf daughter who he loves with all his heart. He is a businessman and best friends with Claire's twin sister, Nicole. I can't wait to reread the rest of the books. Overall, a great read.

#### **October 2014 Review:**

I quite liked this book! I will read the other books too! I love Claire's spirit! She's kind of like the energizer bunny. She doesn't let anything keep her down, which is a strong lesson for anyone to learn. But I think what made this book for me was her love interest, Wyatt. He is a sweetie! He's best friends with Claire's twin sister, Nicole. He is a single father and his daughter is deaf but still means the world to him! He is a businessman and is described as very attractive! But what I loved about him most is the fact that he knows the right thing to do and when he is at fault for his mistakes such as not realizing he loves Claire! It's every woman's dream guy!!!

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### **Min Li Li says**

Daha önce Kordon'dan ç?kan ilk kitab?n? okumu?tum ve pek be?enmemi?tim aç?kcas?.Bu kitab? da orta dereceydi.Serinin di?er kitaplar? belki daha iyi olur.Tuhaft?.Bir bak?yorsunuz bir karakterden nefret ediyorsunuz,sonra bir bak?yorsunuz ki onu seviyorsunuz.Fakat hala Jesse'yi sevmedim yapt???.?eyin benim gözümde kesinlikle bahanesi yok. \*-\*

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### **Samantha says**

I wanted to like this book more. It had so much potential but the female characters in this book really made

me angry. It was hard to connect with them. Claire was a complete doormat and after a while I wanted her to stand up for her self. Nicole was a mean girl and I hated her in the beginning but surprisingly even I started to warm up to her after a while. Jesse was so dense and after a while I gave up on her. While all of the family drama was going on, I couldn't find myself liking the idea of Wyatt and Claire. There was chemistry but then they had the big argument at the end and I felt like Wyatt felt trapped. You have to read it to understand what I mean.

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### **Wendy says**

I just have to say that Susan Mallery is a really fun Author to read. This is another one of hers that I just found and turned out that I really liked. She has unconventional characters that interact in a way that will have you rolling.

Mallery captures the feelings of a family that is torn apart by their different paths in life and their misunderstandings of each others lives. Her characters come together in love, hate, envy, lust, disappointment and greed. She paints a picture in all of her books, but particularly in this one, of how people react to one another. It is very true to life.

This book will have you laughing, crying, and wanting a happy ending.

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### **Krissy says**

Nicole: fuck you

Jesse: fuck you

Drew: fuck you

Amy: you're cool

Wyatt: fuck you

Lisa: fuck you

Claire: you're annoying and stupid

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### **Dee says**

Two-haiku review:

After years she's home  
Tries to care for estranged twin  
Meets and falls for guy

Really tugged my heart  
Outstanding character depth  
Overcame problems

Read in "Bakery Sisters Bundle" kindle book borrowed from library.

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### **Suzanne (Under the Covers Book blog) says**

I quite liked this book, I don't normally read much contemporary romance, but I thought this was sweet and funny. What stopped me giving it more than 3 stars was that I found Jesse the younger sister extremely annoying and selfish I don't understand why she just didn't out right say what her problem was! I didn't mind so much Nicole, mainly because I found her sarcasm funny. Wyatt was a weak hero though, he was nice, but I didn't really feel the chemistry between him and Claire. Their deaf daughter Amy however was adorable.

I am going to read the next one and although I liked it, it didn't really rock my world.

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### **Laura says**

This is the first in a series about the 3 Keyes sisters. Claire is the "middle" child, but only because she is the younger twin to her sister Nicole. Claire left home at 6 to become a famous pianist. Her sisters have never forgiven her for leaving and taking their mother with her. Although they are biologically related, they barely know each other. When younger sister Jesse calls and tells Claire that Nicole is having surgery and needs her, Claire returns home looking for the family she has always wanted. They have rejected her for years and she finally feels like they might want her around.

Nicole has been telling her friend Wyatt about her selfish and horrible sister for years. When she walks into the family bakery, he can't believe that Nicole was talking about Claire, but Nicole is his friend and he trusts her. Time tells him that maybe Nicole's viewpoint was a little skewed.

The beginning of this book is excellent. I really felt Claire's sadness. She was naive and unsure of everything. She lacked confidence in herself and it was well done and believable. Her budding relationship with Wyatt was sweet and cute. Wyatt's reaction to her was also well written.

Where the story fell apart for me was when Claire and Wyatt began to have a relationship. Her naivete was over-the-top and annoying. While Nicole started to like her sister again, I began to feel like Nicole did before and thought she was selfish and stupid. She really did some terribly stupid things. The last quarter of the book was annoying and I had to force myself to finish it. It was all too simplified and unbelievable.

I'm far more interested in the relationship between the other two sisters, Nicole and Jesse. I'm hoping there is more depth and better stories for them.

As a note, I am a fan of Susan Mallery. I have not read any of her category romances, but I read her full length books and have enjoyed most all of them--especially the series books as of late. Unfortunately, this one just didn't hold up as well as the others.

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### **Jacob Proffitt says**

I picked this up on sale at a really good price and I'm pretty satisfied with it. I stayed up way too late to finish, but that's not as big a recommendation as it could be.

I really liked Claire. She has been isolated since she became a child prodigy at age six and has lived in something of a bubble since then, surrounded by managers and scheduled beyond all reason (to develop her talent, but also to perform and perfect and all that). So she's finally on her own with the excuse to help her sister after a surgery and I liked seeing her explore herself and her world. She has blind spots in her worldly knowledge, but she knows it and is game and persistent and works very hard to break through the barriers keeping her from her family (emotional barriers, but strong all the same). I had one problem with her that was hard to ignore but I'll get to that in a bit.

Everyone else in the book were various shades of crappy. Nicole is a stone-cold monster, wrapped up in self-pity and without even the empathy bestowed on kitchen appliances. She's such a jerk to Claire that I had a hard time warming to her even when she stopped being such a huge snotweasel.

And just as Nicole stopped being a turd, Wyatt started. He was Mr. DreamyPants for the first bits but then he went all commitment-phobe and spouted the dumbest drivel ever about how bad relationships are "in my DNA", like that's even a thing. Man that got tired fast and he hit that note like a monkey with one key made of banana.

Which sounds worse than it is because I just loved Claire and this book is all about her and that's a good thing. This was cruising for a 3.5 rounding up. Until the big pet peeve hit. Major spoilers. (view spoiler)

So yeah, rounding down. I still stayed up way too late to finish this. But it was mostly inertia and not being thrilled to face the new week rather than a gripping tale I just couldn't wait to get more of. So weak reader rather than strong story.

**A note about Steamy:** There are two explicit sex scenes and they're pretty over-the-top. So the middle of my steam tolerance, but with a kicker of being on the far end of "yeah, like that's gonna happen".

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