



Just One Kiss

Susan Mallery

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He won't hesitate to put his life on the line...but will he ever risk his heart?

Falling for Justice Garrett was a high point in Patience McGraw's otherwise awkward adolescence. Even after he disappeared, Patience never forgot the boy who captured her heart. Now he's back in Fool's Gold, California, and her passion for him is as strong as ever. But how can she trust that he won't abandon her again—and her daughter, too?

When bodyguard Justice Garrett was a young man, witness protection brought him to this idyllic town and he never forgot its warmth, or the sweet beauty of his childhood friend. He's returned to open a defense academy, and the Patience he once knew is all grown up. He can't resist her smile, or her curves. But Justice's past doesn't make him husband, or father, material.

Patience and Justice think they'll succumb to just one kiss... Then one more... Okay, just one night together. But they might learn that falling in love is beyond anyone's control.

Just One Kiss Details

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From Reader Review Just One Kiss for online ebook

Angelique says

Tomorrow has finally arrived in Fools Gold, but will it be too late for Justice and Patience?

When Justice left Fools Gold he took a piece of Patience's heart with him. She never knew what had happened to him or whether she would ever see him again, but when given a choice in where he will settle down the memories of that year in Fools Gold draw him back to the only place that ever felt like home and the one woman whom he's never forgotten! Can Patience forgive him for disappearing on her so many years ago? Do those old feelings still exist for them? Can Justice see beyond the demons that haunt him and trust his heart to Patience.

These hot bodyguards are settling down in Fools Gold for the long haul. The town may never be the same, as the hearts start racing and even the older women in town take notice. So grab your copy of Just One Kiss, a glass of wine and a quiet corner and settle in for a great day or night of reading. As usual Susan Mallery pulls us in and makes us a part of the town of Fools Gold. Two of a Kind can't come soon enough!

Sue says

Whenever I pick up a book by Susan Mallery my heart does a big happy dance!

Just One Kiss is another Fool's Gold story, featuring Justice and Patience. As a 14 year old Patience had a huge crush on Justice, the 16 year old new boy in town. Before she has a chance to gather the courage to tell him how he feels though, he and his uncle just disappear...leaving Patience sad, worried, and very confused.

Years go by and suddenly with no notice, Justice is back in Fool's Gold planning to stay and open up a body guard training facility. Patience has grown up a lot...she got pregnant when she was 18, had a brief marriage to Lillie's father, then her and Lillie were abandoned by Ned. Patience and Lilly live with Patience's mother, and Patience works as a hair stylist.

Grown up Patience is even better than Justice remembers her. He wanted to set things right and apologize for just leaving, but he is as drawn to her now as he was then. He is also trying to deny it now as he did then. Justice has not had the easiest life, and he fears that darkness and bad live inside of him. He has decided that he will never be good enough for Patience and Lillie.

Patience has to forgive Justice for not coming to her ealier than now, when he could have years ago. It turns out she still has some very strong feelings for him too! As Patience works toward her dream of opening up her own coffee shop, they find themselves spending more and more time together and scheming for ways to be alone! But Patience is still wary, not quite trusting that Justice isn't going to disappear again. And Justice is still convinced he's no good for Patience.

When Justice's past comes back to haunt him though, he puts it all on the line for Lillie and Patience even though it may mean she'll never want him again...and does he want her to want him?

Justice will have to search within himself to find out what's right for him. Will he disappear again, this time

of his own free will? Or can he trust that Patience sees the good in him and wants to spend their forever together? Can Patience keep putting her heart on the line for someone who doesn't want to take what's being offered?

Just One Kiss was a fantastic, 5 star read! Patience is the perfect name for Patience, as she'll need a lot of it with Justice! Although living in small town Fool's Gold means everyone knows her business, she loves it there and is working hard to make a good life for her and Lillie, as well as being there for her mother. She is very open, fun, and loving! Someone I'd love to hang out with!

Justice has emotional and physical scars from his past. If only can see that Patience is just what he needs! He is a protector and he has a lot of goodness in him that he can't see for himself.

I loved, loved the secondary characters in this book! Especially Felicia. She is such a sweetheart in her socially awkward ways. She reminds me of Sheldon from The Big Bang Theory, lol. I was so excited to see her book is next with Gideon's. Because I've been waiting for him!!! :)

Patience's daughter Lillie really pulls at your heartstrings with that innocence of children, but at the same time the wisdom!

If you haven't read Susan Mallory's books I highly recommend them! Once you pick it up you will be immersed in where ever she's writing about...in this case Fool's Gold. Her writing is so smooth and descriptive, I could easily be walking around Fool's Gold waving at the Mayor!

Amanda says

I liked the story in this book for the most part, but the names made me cringe every time I read them. Patience and Justice? Bleh. Justice was too hung up on the possibility he might be like his father, even though he very clearly wasn't and everyone told him so. I liked Felicia the best, and I might be tempted to read more books in the series to get to know some of the other characters, but this one was just okay.

Christina T says

I am really torn about my feelings about this book. I enjoyed it but there were a quite a few things that really grated on my nerves. In this 11th full length Fool's Gold novel I have to wonder if they've run their course and the entire town should retire. On the other hand I truly love revisiting the quaint town. See, told ya', I'm torn.

This particular venture into Fool's Gold just didn't work for me. The town took on a Stepford feel to it where the children are just precocious, the teens are all heading to college with the highest honors, Mayor Marsha seems to pop in at a moments notice, as if she's hiding behind bushes and billboards waiting to pounce and new business ventures never fail.

Even Patience herself was irritating. Perfectly named, Patience was almost too kind and caring. When she

did show some 'negative' feelings ie: jealousy, it seemed so out of character it tipped the scale toward shrew making her look petty and ugly.

There were several plot threads woven throughout the story and all were wrapped up quickly in bright shiny convenient bows. Speaking of convenient, at one point Patience is telling Justice that she wants nothing more than to open up a coffee shop. She even has the name and logo picked out but she is lacking the funds to start such a venture. Next thing we know a Great Aunt Becky has died, leaving her a whopping sum. She was able to pay her mom's mortgage and open up her business. Never mind that Patience didn't even know who the woman was. There were a couple other 'too convenient' happenings too.

I also had a problem with the ending. There were no hard feelings and all was forgiven by an 'I'm sorry' where there should have been massive groveling and some sort of wow factor to go along with the apology. At least the man should have brought flowers!

All of that really prevented me from fully enjoying this book but it wasn't a total loss...

The chemistry between Justice and Patience is sizzling and pretty awesome. I also appreciated that both characters were smart and prepared with condoms. In this day and age not having them mentioned is almost irresponsible.

There are quite a few characters that are super intriguing too. Angel, Ford and Felicia for starters. These are the people helping Justice start up his business. Also, Noelle is interesting as is Gideon. Looking forward to more of them.

Despite the many eye rolls I did during the reading of this book I still am a huge Mallery fan. Even with the issues I had with this particular book it still felt good getting back to Fool's Gold (even with the many shades of Stepford). These books are my comfort food and I'll continue reading them. I just wish I'd enjoyed this one more.

I'd recommend this book to other Fool's Gold fans but keep in mind that you'll have to suspend your disbelief a lot. I would also recommend that readers new to Susan's work or just new to Fool's Gold might want to start with another one, perhaps starting at the beginning with Chasing Perfect.

Debra Taylor says

I have tremendous love for the Fool's Gold series. Mallery's brings a fresh outlook to each book that keeps the series from getting stale as some long running series often do. I'm just saying that I've enjoyed each new book but Just One Kiss is one of the best of the bunch. It had the perfect element of suspense without overwhelming the romance and I really enjoyed that. Cause you know it's all about the love for this gal. This wasn't Justice Garrett's first time around the block in the town of Fool's Gold. He'd lived in town for a while. I got that impression when he first showed up as bodyguard to the stars in All Summer Long. Turned out that I was right, as usual, and he had a past in the quaint little town. Now, he's back to open a defense academy along with one of the town's prodigal sons.

Well informed readers know that the town has a shortage on hot guys so they pretty much get snatched up as soon as they hit town. So it came as no surprise when Justice hooked up with his old school friend, Patience

McGraw. They'd been close and she'd had a crush on him before he disappeared so suddenly all those years ago. FYI : He was in the witness protection agency and had to cut and run when the heat got too hot. The two are still drawn to each other and inevitably begin a romantic relationship. But they've both got some issues with commitment that stand in the way. She is afraid to fall in love only to be abandoned again. He is afraid that the sins of the father will revisit him and in a way he was right. The truth is that they were both scared to be hurt anymore, I'm thinking.

Just One Kiss is as good as it gets in the contemporary romance genre. Charming characters, engaging plot and the wonderful hometown setting that I've come to love in regards to this series. An superbly written story that hooked my interest and kept it right up until the ending. Even better is that it kicks off the newest trilogy and gives me something to look forward to reading this summer. I love how Mallery releases this amazing series in trilogies and doesn't make me wait a year in between them. Cuts down on the withdrawals. I'm giving Just One Kiss four flying stars. I loved it and happily recommend it to all.

ARC received courtesy of the publisher, HQN, and Netgalley.

Jacob Proffitt says

I've liked some of the others in the series. Not this one. I got maybe a third of the way through before just losing all patience with both of them. Mostly Justice. You'd think he'd be irresistible, what with the tough-guy profession and obvious competence and all. Only, he's one of those idiots who think they're bad because of an awful parent; like DNA determines character. So he's spending the whole novel so far whining (in his head) about how "bad" he is for Patience because he can't trust himself to be a good guy. It's just tedious. The man is thirty-some years old. He should know by now if he's a bad guy or not. And since every single piece of outside evidence is that he's stable, protective, and kind—to the point that he protects people for a living, for heaven's sake—his whole "I'm bad" thing is just so much self-indulgent codswallop.

Add that Patience has her own stupid thing going on in starting a relationship "against her better judgement" (on such little evidence—almost like the author is looking for an excuse to keep them apart) and you can see the train-wreck start already and it's all so by-the-script stupid that I just can't stand it. Also, the coffee shop plotline is an overdose of hopium. Opening a coffee shop in a small town that already has a Starbuck's? This is your dream? Really? And yet, we don't get that Patience has any particular passion about good coffee (she's forever drinking diet colas). And she's not really that gregarious... It's just so tacked-on hokey.

So yeah, going to cut my losses on this one.

Angela says

Another fantastic Fool's Gold book! I loved that Justice finally gets his HEA. And the back story with Patience's mom was a wonderful addition to the story, showing that age and "disability" have nothing to do with romance! I can't wait to read the next 2 bodyguard books! LOVE LOVE LOVE this series!!

Deborah says

This story felt flat. Not that it didn't have potential but what was going on could have been half the pages

because much of it was filled with the inner turmoil and angst of the characters. At times I wanted to scream just move on already. Then the whole story happens in a few pages at the end tied up with a bow. Come on.

Fanny says

La Caricia De Un Beso es el decimo libro de la saga Fool's Gold y tiene como protagonistas a Patience y Justine, personajes que conocemos brevemente en el libro anterior.

Reconozco que no estaba muy " motivada " cuando comence la lectura, en parte porque la pareja protagonista no me atraia y tambien porque habia leido una reseña bastante negativa, imaginense mi sorpresa cuando lo inicie y ya no lo solte hasta horas mas tarde ... despues de terminarlo, ademas esta ha sido la historia que mas me ha sorprendido de la serie, aunque tiene sus cliches y el giro final me lo esperaba , eso no quita que fuera el libro mas " trabajado " de todos los de la saga.

3.5 Estrellas!

Brianna (The Book Vixen) says

Review copy provided via NetGalley

Why I Read this Book: This small town romance series is on my auto-read list.

What I Liked: The prologue hooked me in; there was a little bit of mystery and suspense going on that I was anxious to get to the bottom of. It also set the stage for a 'reunited friends who become lovers romance'.

Both Patience and Justice are each in the process of opening their own business. I love the idea of Justice opening a defense training academy. Can you just imagine the type of male clientele that this establishment will bring into Fool's Gold? I sure can!!

I love speculating on what's going to happen in the town of Fool's Gold, including soon-to-be couples. I do it every time I read a book in this series. One of my speculations is that someone is pregnant, someone who has had their own book already. As far as couplings go, we know who Ford and Gideon end up with but who does Angel pair up with? Hmmm.....

Speaking of Ford, I am so excited that he is finally coming home. Series readers have heard about him in many of the Fool's Gold books and we're finally going to get his book!

What I Didn't Like: There were inconsistencies regarding the timeframe when Lillie's birth father left the picture. At first Patience tells Justice that the father left when "Lillie was three weeks old". Later on, Patience tells Justice it was "a couple of months after Lillie was born". Also, at first Patience 'does the math' for Justice and provides the breakdown on when Patience got pregnant and how old she was when Lillie was born. A little later on, Justice 'does the math' for himself during a conversation with Patience.

There was one aspect that was entirely too predictable and the way it played out was too over the top.

Felicia's personality rubbed me the wrong way. Her perceived mental prowess came up in just about every single conversation she was a part of and it was a tad annoying. For instance:

"There are some subtleties I can't explain to your ordinary intellect."

Overall Impression: *Just One Kiss* was not my favorite book in the series but it was still an enjoyable read.

Susan says

I love small town romances and the Fool's Gold books are among the best. This is the first of this summer's trilogy and focuses on Patience and Justice. They had been friends for a year back in high school. Patience had a crush on him and was about to tell him her feelings when he disappeared without a trace, leaving her heartbroken. Now he's back and their feelings are becoming even stronger. But can they overcome their pasts and make a future together?

I loved Patience. As a teenager she had been a very good friend to Justice, who always seemed to be a little bit withdrawn from everything around him. When he disappeared she worried about him and never forgot him. She married young when she got pregnant, then her husband left them. She has lived in Fool's Gold all her life and can't imagine living anywhere else. She cuts hair for a living but dreams of opening her own coffee shop. When Justice comes back into her life they resume their friendship as though they'd never been apart. But there is also an attraction between them that she is somewhat wary of. After being abandoned both by her father and her husband, she worries that Justice could disappear again, destroying her heart completely. I loved seeing their friendship continue and grow into love. Patience had a way of seeing the vulnerable man under the loner exterior and providing the caring that he needed but wouldn't admit. I loved the way that she refused to accept his statement that he wasn't a good man.

Justice had never forgotten Patience, who had been the one bright spot in his time in the Witness Protection Program. Now that he is back in Fool's Gold he finds that his connection to her is even stronger. He still tries to maintain an emotional distance from those around him but it just doesn't work. Not only do Patience and her family make him part of their lives, but the people of Fool's Gold also won't allow it. There's a great scene where Denise Hendrix welcomes him back and puts a totally panicked look on his face. The more time that he spends with Patience the more he wants her in his life permanently. But he is fighting the demons of his past and is not convinced that he won't turn into a man like his father, even though everyone else can see just how wonderful he is. When his past catches up to him and puts his future in danger it only reinforces his feelings. I loved it when he finally realized what an idiot he had been.

Besides the story of Justice and Patience and their romance, I also enjoyed the story of Patience's mom Ava. She also has her own romance that happens, overcoming her health issues and the identity of her sweetheart. I loved her quiet strength and the support that she gives Patience in everything.

One of the greatest "characters" in the book is the town of Fool's Gold. Previous heroes and heroines make appearances in perfectly logical ways, not just thrown into the story willy nilly. I loved Mayor Marsha's freakily perfect timed appearances and interferences. The Fool's Gold community participation in things like

the work party for Patience's coffee house was ideal small town life. I also love their welcoming attitude toward new people such as Felicia, who is endearing and scary at the same time. I also love the friendships between Patience and the other women and how they support each other through good and bad. I'm really looking forward to the next book.

Lisa says

This is book 11 already in Susan Mallery's Fools Gold series. It's never too late to start this series. I think you can jump in pretty much anywhere and figure your way around. I kind just want to jump up and down a bit because we are getting so close to knowing more about Ford and Gideon!! They have either made appearances or been mentioned in previous book and the build up is getting to me. For this book though we get to meet a brand new guy Justice Garrett. Although his real name isn't Justice he picks that name when he needs to have it changed and once you read the book it's really quite fitting for him. Patience McGraw has been seen a bit in previous books but it brought out to the for front for this one. She's a single mom to an adorable little girl but when she was 14 she became good friends with a new boy she thought was 16. Yup Justice Garret. After a while she realized she loved him as much as a 14 year old girl can love a boy. Before she can tell him though he disappears without anything sign he was ever there. Justice is in witness protection to save him from his criminal father who is out to kill him. He's also 18 years old not 16 so although he has feeling for Patience he knows he can't act on them and then he's forced to leave when his father is spotted in the area. Fast forward years later and suddenly Justice is back in town. Justice is the one thing that Justice pulled out in all the years he'd been gone from Fools Gold and in the military. Now he's back to start a new business and to see Patience. They start a romance that's full of doubts. For Patience. Will Justice stick around this time. For Justice is he worthy of love and is it safe. There are a lot of fears to be worked through and then the worst thing happens and the delicate balance is blown apart. I could see the big event that happens toward the end of this book coming. I knew it was going to happen early on but that's ok because it's not the focus of the story anyway. What i wondered of course was how the characters would handle it and how would the happy ending come about. lol Again Susan Mallery delivers another winner in my eyes. While this romance was really more laid back i enjoyed it. The characters are believable and we get some interesting glimpses into what's coming in the future with new character introductions and a look at past stories as well as those relationships progress and secondaries.

Nicole says

Full review posted here: <http://thebookpushers.com/2013/05/27/...>

I love the Fool's Gold series, it's one of my favorite contemporary romance series, and I absolutely adore all things Susan Mallery.

Patience loves living in Fool's Gold, can't imagine ever living anywhere else. She had a normal childhood, except for the time her best friend Justice suddenly disappeared without a word, or a trace. When Patience finds out Justice has returned to Fool's Gold, and discovers his history in witness protection, they resume their friendship as if nothing had ever come between them. Except now, they are both adults and able to act on the attraction that has been simmering for years.

Justice always loved Patience. As a boy, he loved her innocence and pure outlook on life. As a man, he can

appreciate her personality, her beauty and everything else he remembered about her. As much as Justice wants to be able to keep Patience as his own, his past is one that he doesn't think he'll ever be able to outrun. But when life catches up with them both, love might be the only thing that can save them.

I adored this story. I always worry that with long standing series like this, the books can start to get old and feel recycled. However, this book felt fresh and new and I am so excited about this new trilogy, especially since we've already met the heroes. After I finished this book, I wanted to forsake my TBR pile and glom onto the next two books in this series.

I really liked the idea of Justice being in the witness protection program, and how that played such a huge role in this book, and his life. I loved that he became a bodyguard, and really devoted his life to saving others, like the US Marshall's did for him. I just wish that Justice would have been able to see that his genetics didn't make up the man he was. He really let his father determine who he was, how he identified himself. I hated that for him, because everyone else besides him was able to see just how incredible of a man he turned out to be.

I thought Patience was wonderful. If I could choose the kind of best friend to have, it would be someone like Patience. She was so down-to-earth and fun and loyal. She loved Justice from the moment they first met, and she never really stopped. She was dedicated to her friends, standing behind them one hundred percent. Even when she wasn't sure she wanted to make a new friend, she was able to look past the surface and see down into the individual. She is the kind of romance heroine I love reading about. Seemingly perfect in every way, and yet the kind of woman who didn't let it go to her head, or make her any less loveable.

The romance between these two was somewhat subdued. Their sexual relationship starts off with a bang, and although they both kid themselves that it's just physical and nothing more, it was obvious to me that the two of them fell pretty much in love the minute they laid eyes on each other as adults. They beat around the bush and tried to convince themselves it wasn't the real deal, and yet there was never a moment I didn't believe these two wouldn't make it.

All in all this is another fabulous romance in the Fool's Gold series. I love Mallery's writing, and I think this installment is one of the better ones in the series as a whole. I am so anxious to read the next few books in the series, as I think the heroes are all going to be badasses, and the heroines sweet and fun. This book has rekindled my love for this series!

I give Just One Kiss an A-

Molly says

My summer vacation in Fool's Gold begins...

And it looks like it is shaping up to be a good one!

Just One Kiss, the 11th book in the Fool's Gold series is about Patience and Justice. They were friends as teens until Justice disappeared one night, leaving Patience heartbroken and confused. Now Justice is back and oh so wonderfully grown up. Patience is divorced with a pre-teen daughter. They were attracted to each other as teens, but never acted on those feelings. Meeting as adults the attraction hasn't waned.

This is another charming story by Mallery. I love the Fool's Gold series because we get to meet the new central characters of this story, while also catching up with the all members of Fool's Gold that we already know. Also, the close-knit community of Fool's Gold always seems welcoming and charming, not Stepford-ish like other series books I have read.

Patience and Justice have a wonderful romance, which of course has a few bumps before we can get to their happy ending. Mallery's characters, as usual, are grounded in reality. Patience life isn't quite where she wants it to be, but she has learned to be happy for what she has. Justice has had to overcome a difficult and frightening childhood and he is full of self-doubt if he can be a life partner to anyone.

Their story develops nicely, without feeling rushed or pedestrian. After 10 previous stories in the town of Fool's Gold, Mallery still keeps it fresh and fun. If you haven't read a Fool's Gold book before, don't worry, you won't be lost or confused. Mallery always gives enough background information that each book stands nicely on its own.

I completely enjoyed Patience and Justice's story and can't wait for Two Of A Kind.

Jessica's Totally Over The Top Book Obsession says

The hero does run in this book but at least he had a good and real reason for it so I liked this one a lot better and the others!
