

# 2010, the Year Fool's Gold Began

## Chasing Perfect, Book 1

**Charity Jones:** Charity Jones is an accomplished City Planner who's not nearly as good at planning her own future. She's always chasing the perfect job, the perfect life. When the city of Fool's Gold comes calling, Charity is convinced that the small town is the perfect place for her to settle down... except for one pesky detail: she can't get through a single day without running into sexy athlete Josh Golden, a man who plays havoc with her peace of mind. Josh is all wrong for her. He dates movie stars and models, lives life in the fast lane. So why do his kisses feel so... perfect?

**Josh Golden:** Josh Golden is hiding something. He's not nearly as perfect as everyone in Fool's Gold thinks he is. A fatal accident has left the former Tour du France winner with scars that no one can see. No one, that is, except the town's newest resident, Charity Jones. From the moment they meet, she sees right through his "everything's fine" charade. The question is, will she expose him as the fraud he is? If he knew what was good for him, he would stay far away from her perceptive brown eyes. But Josh has always been attracted to danger, and sweet little Charity just may be the most dangerous woman he's ever met.

**Fiona Golden:** Charity and Josh's first baby, born on Groundhog Day 2011. Josh wanted to name her Philippa after Puxatawney Phil from the movie Groundhog Day! Read about Fiona's birth and Charity and Josh's celebrity wedding on the News page at [www.foolsgoldca.com](http://www.foolsgoldca.com).

**Hunter Golden:** Charity and Josh's second baby was born on March 18, 2013. Big sister Fiona is thrilled. (Hunter was named by a reader on Susan's Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/susanmallery](http://www.facebook.com/susanmallery). Join the fun!)

**Marsha Tilson:** Mayor Marsha Tilson is the longest-serving mayor in the state of California. She first stepped into office when she was 26, a young widow looking for a way to make a difference. Now she seems to know everything about everyone, but no one minds because Marsha is always respectful and helpful. How is it possible that this wonderful woman was estranged from her own daughter for so long?

## Almost Perfect, Book 2

**Ethan Hendrix:** Ethan Hendrix always regretted hurting Liz. He'd been young and weak and tried to protect his family's strong ties in the community. Over the years, he has cheered Liz's success as a mystery author from afar, despite the fact that she keeps killing a character who looks suspiciously like him in every book. So when Liz returns to Fool's Gold, he's thrilled to see her... until she introduces him to the son he never knew, the son she kept from him for ten years. Ethan falls in love in ALMOST PERFECT.

**Liz Sutton:** When bestselling mystery author Liz Sutton was a teenager, she fell in love with Ethan Hendrix, one of the hottest guys in town. And he loved her, even though her family was poor and not exactly respectable! At least, she thought he loved her, until she heard him deny their secret relationship to his friends. Wounded and pregnant, she ran away, with no intention of ever returning to her hometown. Until her phone rings years later, and a small voice on the other end of the line says, "Aunt Liz? We need you."

Liz can't resist the cry for help from her young nieces, even if it means seeing Ethan again and introducing him to the son she thought he never wanted to know. Liz falls in love in ALMOST PERFECT.

**Abby Sutton:** Liz's niece

**Melissa Sutton:** Liz's niece

**Tyler Sutton:** Liz and Ethan's son, who looks just like his dad, except that he has Liz's smile.

## Sister of the Bride, Book 2.5

**Howard (Jackson) Kent:** Somewhere between graduating MIT and becoming a multimillionaire, software developer Jackson Kent left his nerd days far behind. He has no trouble getting his own dates and only agrees to escort Katie during the wedding weekend as a favor to his mother. But when he lays his eyes on Katie for the first time since they were kids, he has a feeling he'll owe his mother a big thank you instead of the other way around. Jackson falls in love in SISTER OF THE BRIDE (a novella).

**Katie McCormick:** Sportswriter Katie McCormick dreads her sister's wedding. Who could blame her, when her sister is marrying Katie's ex? Mostly, Katie dreads the looks of pity she's sure to get when she shows up at the wedding without a date. So despite her better judgment,

she finally agrees to let her mother set her up with super-nerd Howard "Jackson" Kent. Katie falls in love in *SISTER OF THE BRIDE* (a novella).

**Alex Lumpkin:** Can Alex help it that he fell in love with his girlfriend's sister? What was he supposed to do, NOT ask the woman he loved to marry him?

**Courtney Lumpkin:** Katie's somewhat self-involved younger sister, who isn't quite sure why Katie minds that she's marrying Katie's ex.

**Janis McCormick:** Katie's mom loves her daughters equally, so while she's happy Courtney found love, she wishes the girl hadn't fallen for Katie's boyfriend. No wonder she felt the need to get a little tipsy at the rehearsal dinner!

**Mike McCormick:** Life is good for Mike McCormick. He gets to play proud papa to walk his youngest down the aisle... and his older daughter, Katie, seems like she might have found a match, too. Now all Mike needs to make his happiness complete is a little nookie in the elevator with his sexy wife.

**Tully:** Katie's aunt, who has a bad habit of flirting with every man she meets - and sleeping with far too many of them!

**Tina Kent:** Tina doesn't hesitate to play the guilt card with her handsome son Jackson, if that's what it will take to get him to go on a date with Katie, her best friend's daughter. The two women have tried for years to get their kids together!

## Almost Perfect, Book 3

**Pia O'Brian:** As the Fool's Gold event planner, Pia is a pro at multi-tasking, but this is taking things a little too far. Her best friend has left her with not one, not two, but three frozen embryos. Pia wants to honor her friend's final wish but is overwhelmed at the thought of being a single mother to triplets. When she's pregnant is no time to meet a man who makes her stomach do flips. Pia falls in love in *FINDING PERFECT*.

**Raoul Moreno:** Former professional quarterback Raoul Moreno grew up in the inner city and has moved to Fool's Gold to open a camp to give other city kids a taste of nature. Stung by love in the past, Raoul has no interest in settling down, now or ever. But how can he resist a woman like Pia, who's so honorable that she's willing to make the ultimate sacrifice for the sake

of her late best friend? Loyalty like that doesn't come along every day... especially not wrapped in a package as sexy as Pia! Readers first met Raoul as a teenager in Susan Mallery's SWEET SPOT.

**Adelina Moreno:** One of Pia and Raoul's twins, carried by Pia, but the biological children of Crystal, Pia's late best friend.

**Peter Moreno:** After his parents were killed in a terrible car accident, ten-year-old Peter was alone in the world until he was adopted by Raoul and Pia.

**Rosabel (Rose) Moreno:** One of Pia and Raoul's twins, carried by Pia, but the biological children of Crystal, Pia's late best friend.

**Ryder Moreno:** Ryder was the adorable reason Pia decided to quit her job and stay home with the kids. With one in high school plus three under 5, it just made sense. Ryder was born on December 22, 2013.

**Crystal Danes:** When Crystal dies, she leaves her best friend Pia with a most unusual inheritance - both an unbelievable gift and an incredible burden - three fertilized embryos. Will Pia give life to her best friend's babies?

# 2011, the Year of the Hendrix Triplets

## Only Mine, Book 4

**Dakota Hendrix:** Dakota should be happy. She has a job she loves in a hometown she adores. But Dakota has a secret that's breaking her heart, a secret buried so deep that even her identical triplet sisters don't know what's causing the pain in her eyes. If screening contestants for a reality dating show doesn't shake her out of the blues, maybe the arrival of stern and sexy Finn Anderson will. Dakota falls in love in ONLY MINE.

**Finn Andersson:** Alaskan pilot Finn Andersson has weathered a lot of storms, including raising his brothers after the death of their parents. Freedom beckons with his brothers' long-anticipated college graduation – until the twins drop out to pursue fame on a silly TV show. Finn will do anything to get his brothers back in school where they belong... including facing off against the beautiful blonde with the sad eyes. Dakota insists he should let his brothers make their own decisions, even if they're wrong. Clearly the woman doesn't know the meaning of the word "family." Finn falls in love in ONLY MINE.

**Hannah Andersson:** Dakota and Finn's adopted daughter.

**Jordan Taylor Andersson:** Dakota and Finn's son, born in February 2012. Jordan Taylor's first word was "Hannah" because he loves his big sister so much. Jordan Taylor was named by a reader on Susan's Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/susanmallery](http://www.facebook.com/susanmallery).

**Aurelia Ronwell:** Stephen's girlfriend, who has gained a lot of self-confidence since seeing herself reflected in Stephen's loving eyes. Aurelia falls in love in a secondary romance in ONLY MINE.

**Sasha Andersson:** One of Finn's brothers. Sasha and his brother Stephen are twins, but are different in many ways. Sasha got his first taste of fame in the reality show True Love or Fool's Gold. Now he lives in L.A. where he's working as an actor. He plays a rookie cop on a primetime drama.

**Stephen Andersson:** One of Finn's brothers. Stephen and his brother Sasha were both on the reality dating show, True Love or Fool's Gold. While Sasha gained fame from the show, Stephen got something even better - true love with his girlfriend, Aurelia, an older woman. Stephen falls in love in a secondary romance in ONLY MINE.

## Only Yours, Book 5

**Montana Hendrix:** After years of moving from one job to the next, Montana has finally found the perfect career for her – training therapy dogs. Now she’s ready for life’s next step – marriage and kids. But the last man she would be intrigued by is dangerously sexy Dr. Simon Bradley. He may be brilliant, but Montana wants nothing to do with a man who can’t find humor in the antics of a clumsy mutt. Except... Simon is unbelievably gentle with his pediatric patients, and his nimble fingers, trained for surgery, can do amazing things to her body. Maybe, just maybe, a bad first impression can turn into a lifetime of romance. Montana falls in love in ONLY YOURS.

**Simon Bradley:** Pediatric burn specialist Simon Bradley has traveled the world saving lives, but he’s never been anyplace like Fool’s Gold. The friendly town pulls out all the stops to convince him to stick around, including sending alluring Montana Hendrix to be his personal tour guide. Simon learned long ago that he could find safety in the number one, but Montana’s sweet kisses and caring nature might convince the vagabond surgeon that making a home is worth risking the heart. Simon falls in love in ONLY YOURS.

**Henry Alistair Bradley:** Henry, Simon and Montana's second child, was born in June 2014, not quite two years after big sister Skye was born. Simon and Montana have their hands full!

**Skye Bradley:** Simon and Montana's daughter. Skye's mouth is a perfect little rosebud. She's thrilled to be a big sister.

**Kalinda Riley:** Kalinda is a pediatric patient of Simon Bradley's. Kalinda was burned in a terrible accident in her family's back yard. She and her mother have been virtually adopted by the people of Fool's Gold, and Kalinda is getting better every day. She felt happier after Reese Hendrix promised to marry her someday if she couldn't find a husband.

## Only His, Book 6

**Nevada Hendrix:** With both of her triplet sisters happily engaged and no romantic prospects on the horizon, engineer Nevada puts all of her attention on her career. She’s determined to prove herself away from the family business. Unfortunately for her, she discovers that her new boss is none other than the first man who ever saw her naked... and the first man who broke her heart. Could she survive losing Tucker a second time around?

**Tucker Janack:** In Fool's Gold to build a fabulous casino resort, Tucker Janack will never again allow love to consume him. Instead, he intends to focus on expanding his multimillion dollar construction empire. That means hiring the best woman for the job, even if she inspires fantasies that have nothing to do with work. Tucker falls in love in ONLY HIS.

**Hendrix Janack:** Hendrix was born on March 19, 2013, one week after his due date. Nevada tried all sorts of things to try to get labor started, but Hendrix had a schedule of his own. Check out the News page at [www.foolsgoldca.com](http://www.foolsgoldca.com) to read about Hendrix's birth and other between-the-books updates! (Hendrix was named by a reader on Susan's Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/susanmallery](http://www.facebook.com/susanmallery).)

**Caterina Stoicasescu:** Tucker's ex-girlfriend Caterina is a world-famous sculptress known for pushing art into sometimes shocking directions. The women of Fool's Gold are somewhat aghast about the "gift" that Caterina is determined to bestow upon the town.

**Denise Hendrix:** Widowed for ten years, Denise is beginning to feel restless. She loves her three sons and triplet daughters, and she loves her grandkids and hopes more will follow... but is that it for her? Or could there be a life still waiting for her, with a man who makes her heart beat faster? Denise finds love in a secondary romance in ONLY HIS.

**Jo Trellis:** Ever since Jo arrived in Fool's Gold in 2006, rumors have swirled about her. Is she a mafia princess in witness protection? Is she on the run from an abusive husband? No one knows, and Jo's not telling. Jo finds love in a secondary romance in ONLY HIS.

**Max Thurman:** Max is a man of mystery when he first arrives in Fool's Gold and opens K9Rx Therapy Dog Kennels. With steel gray hair and piercing blue eyes, Max is proof that some men grow better with age. The Hendrix kids wonder, could this be the same Max whose name has been tattooed on their mom's hip all these years? Max falls in love in a secondary romance in ONLY HIS.

**Will Falk:** Will Falk is a man of few words, but there's a lot of strength in his silence. He's Tucker's right-hand man, in charge of multi-million dollar construction projects. Will admires strong women, particularly Jo, the owner of Jo's Bar. But when he discovers the truth about Jo's past, will he still want her? Will falls in love in a secondary romance in ONLY HIS.

## Only Us: A Fool's Gold Holiday, Book 6.5

**Cameron McKenzie:** Cameron McKenzie doesn't need romance. His veterinary practice in Fool's Gold fulfills him at work, and his daughter keeps him from getting lonely at home. His life is very... okay. Why, then, has he suddenly begun to notice that Rina's eyes are as blue as the December sky? And why does he keep thinking of new spots to hang mistletoe? Cameron falls in love in ONLY US, a novella. (Cameron was created by Susan's Facebook friends. Join the fun at [www.facebook.com/susanmallery!](http://www.facebook.com/susanmallery!))

**Carina (Rina) Fiore:** Pet groomer Rina has a problem: she's in love with her boss. Cameron is kind, loves animals and children, and he's sexy, too. Unfortunately, he sees Rina as nothing more than an employee and part-time nanny to his precocious daughter. If Rina confesses her feelings, she could lose them both forever... but if she doesn't, she might be doomed to spend another Christmas alone. Rina falls in love in ONLY US, a novella.

**Jonah McKenzie:** The Fool's Gold vet and his beautiful young wife were proud and happy to welcome young Jonah into their lives on January 21, 2013, their first anniversary. What a way to celebrate!

**Kaitlyn Leigh McKenzie:** Cameron's adorable daughter. Rina used her pet grooming experience to do Kaitlyn's hair before school every day, and they grew as close as mother and daughter.

## 2012, the Year of the Cowboy

### Almost Summer, Book 6.75

**Alistair Woodbury:** Since the tragic loss of his wife, surgeon Alistair Woodbury hasn't lingered long in any one place. When circumstances force him to stay in Paige's house, her bright smile and caring nature make the good doctor wonder whether solitude is the prescription for what ails him, after all. Alistair falls in love in ALMOST SUMMER, a novella.

**Paige McLean:** Although she loves Fool's Gold, yoga instructor Paige McLean longs to see the world. Until now, fear has kept her from hopping on the next plane overseas. When "the world" lands on her doorstep in the form of a sexy British doctor in need of some TLC – a viscount, no less – Paige thinks that maybe, just maybe, she simply didn't want to fly alone. Paige falls in love in ALMOST SUMMER, a novella.



## Summer Days, Book 7

**Heidi Simpson:** After a vagabond childhood, goat herder Heidi is living the life of her dreams. She finally has a home to call her own. At least, she thought she did, until she lands in court, facing off against sexy, angry Rafe Stryker, who is convinced that the Castle Ranch belongs to his family. Heidi falls in love in SUMMER DAYS.

**Rafe Stryker:** To protect his family's interests, developer Rafe Stryker will become the one thing he swore he never would be again – a cowboy. He'll work the land of the Castle Ranch, land his mother rightfully owns, until the judge decides their fate. What he won't allow himself to do is fall for Heidi's fresh face and guileless green eyes... and he refuses to be tempted by her milkmaid-voluptuous body. Rafe finds love in SUMMER DAYS.

**Clara Stryker:** Heidi and Rafe welcomed little Clara into the world on July 7, while the rest of Fool's Gold celebrated the Fourth of July Festival. She arrived in TWO OF A KIND, and you can get the full story of her birth at [www.foolsgoldca.com](http://www.foolsgoldca.com). (Clara was named by a reader on Susan's Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/susanmallery](http://www.facebook.com/susanmallery). Join the fun!)

**Glen Simpson:** Heidi's grandfather Glen is a bit of a rebel... which is catnip to women of a certain age. Glen is a very popular new arrival in Fool's Gold, but one special woman wins his heart. Glen falls in love in a secondary romance in SUMMER DAYS.

**May Stryker:** May is a loving mom to her three grown sons, Rafe, Shane, and Clay. However, her relationship with daughter Evie has been strained. May knows she should love her children equally, but when she looks at Evie, she sees the one-night stand she had while grieving her beloved husband. May falls in love in a secondary romance in SUMMER DAYS.

## Summer Nights, Book 8

**Annabelle Weiss:** Librarian Annabelle Weiss longs for the kind of happy ending she reads about in books, but at 27, she's starting to wonder whether she'll ever meet The One. Her best friend Heidi recently got engaged – maybe there's hope for her yet! Except... Shane Stryker, the only man who's caught her eye in years, thinks that she's too dangerous to date. Annabelle falls in love in SUMMER NIGHTS. (Annabelle is Susan's gift to librarians who were sick of the nerd-in-a-cardigan stereotype.)

**Shane Stryker:** Shane Stryker can tame any wild horse, but he doesn't have the same luck with women. Love has kicked him in the gut. He wants no part of it, wants no part of passion.

Which is why he's determined to stay far, far away from the petite redhead with the killer body and a mouth made for kissing. Annabelle is far sexier than a librarian ought to be! Shane falls in love in SUMMER NIGHTS.

**Wyatt Stryker:** Baby Wyatt was a surprise to Annabelle and Shane – the happiest surprise of their lives. Born in April, Wyatt already shows signs of being a future cowboy like his daddy and a bookworm like his mommy.

## All Summer Long, Book 9

**Charlie Stryker:** As a firefighter, Charlie Dixon has risked her life many times without a moment's hesitation. But to risk her heart? That scares her to death. A trauma from her past is keeping her from moving forward with her life. When Clay Stryker comes to her for help to make the squad, she wants to refuse... but Clay is being judged solely on his looks, and Charlie knows how much that hurts. Maybe Clay can help her in return. For some reason, this dangerously sexy guy is the only man who makes her feel safe. Charlie falls in love in ALL SUMMER LONG.

**Clay Stryker:** As an underwear model and Hollywood butt double, Clay Stryker amassed a fortune, so it shouldn't bother him that even in Fool's Gold, everyone judges him for his looks. Everyone, that is, except strong and stubborn Charlie Dixon, the most genuine person he's ever met. Now, if only he could convince her that inner beauty is what he's been looking for all along. Clay falls in love in ALL SUMMER LONG.

**Dominique Guerin:** Dominique Guerin may have been a world-class prima ballerina, but she wouldn't have won any awards for being a mother, as far as her daughter Charlie was concerned. Dominique always cared more about her audience than her own child, and at a critical moment in Charlie's life, her mother failed to stand up for her wounded daughter. Can Charlie ever forgive her?

## A Fool's Gold Christmas, Book 10

**Dante Jefferson:** During his delinquent youth, Dante Jefferson learned that love can be deadly, and he's been a lone wolf ever since. But then his business partner fell in love and moved to a small town in the mountains of California, and Dante finds himself in his own personal version of hell, with clog-dancing children thumping in the studio above his office.

Unfortunately, the sexy dance instructor is none other than Evie, his business partner's sister... firmly off limits, no matter how tempting she may be. Dante falls in love in A FOOL'S GOLD CHRISTMAS.

**Evangeline Jefferson:** The holiday spirit in Fool's Gold is hard to resist, even for dancer Evie Stryker, who learned at an early age to protect her heart by keeping her distance. She was the family afterthought, and they made sure she knew it. She finds an ally in handsome Dante Jefferson, a fellow outsider in this too-perfect-to-be-real world. But is Dante – her brother's best friend – really on her side? Or are his mistletoe kisses part of the conspiracy to convince her that Christmas miracles really do come true? Evie falls in love in A FOOL'S GOLD CHRISTMAS.

## 2013, the Year of the Bodyguards

### Halfway There, Book 10.5

**Fayrene Patterson:** After her parents died when she was young, Fayrene only felt safe when she followed a very specific life plan. And the plan does not include love for another three years! Even if a certain sexy young man has been tempting her with late-night kisses. Fayrene falls in love in HALFWAY THERE, an ebook novella in May 2013.

**Ryan Patterson:** Wind engineer Ryan Patterson was happy to come to Fool's Gold on a temporary assignment, but once he discovers the town's most precious natural resource - Fayrene - he may not be able to make himself leave. Ryan falls in love in HALFWAY THERE, a Fool's Gold ebook novella.

### Just One Kiss, Book 11

**Justice Garrett:** Justice has never forgotten sweet, sassy Patience, the girl who stole his heart during his year in Fool's Gold, where witness protection hid him from his dangerous father. When Justice returns to town to open an elite defense academy, he can't resist seeing her again, even though he knows the last thing he should do is touch her with the darkness inside him. Justice falls in love in JUST ONE KISS.

**Patience Garrett:** Patience's first love disappeared overnight, without a trace, so she's thrilled when Justice reappears just as suddenly in Fool's Gold. But how can she ever trust that the handsome bodyguard won't leave her again? This time, her young daughter's heart could be broken, too. Patience falls in love in JUST ONE KISS.

**Lillie McGraw:** Patience's nine-year-old daughter, who loves to dance but isn't very good at it. (Shh! Don't tell her!)

**Ava:** Patience's mother, who struggles with the symptoms of MS but tries hard not to let them get her down. Ava has a secret she's been keeping from Patience. When her daughter learns the truth, will she forgive Ava for her deception?

## Two of a Kind, Book 12

**Felicia Boylan:** Felicia just might be the smartest person in the world, but after being raised on a university campus, she feels socially awkward and wants nothing more than to be normal, to fit in. Maybe Gideon, the man she seduced into taking her virginity, can teach her how people behave when they're in love. Felicia falls in love in TWO OF A KIND.

**Gideon Boylan:** Gideon Boylan spent two years in a Taliban prison, where he learned that loving someone makes you vulnerable. He won't allow himself to go there. So when smart, sexy Felicia asks him to help learn how to be in a real relationship, he's confident he can play boyfriend for a time without risking his heart. Gideon falls in love in TWO OF A KIND.

**Carter Gates:** Ever since his mom died, Carter's heart has ached with loneliness, but he hides his tears from the world. He's brave, strong... traits he got from the father he never met? Only one way to find out: track down his dad!

**Gabrielle-Emilie (aka Ellie) Boylan:** Gabrielle-Emilie was born on September 22, 2014. Read all about Felicia's unusual naming ceremony on the News page at FoolsGoldCA.com.

## Three Little Words, Book 13

**Ford Hendrix:** After years as a Navy SEAL, Ford Hendrix is finally coming home to Fool's Gold to open an elite defense academy with his ex-military buddies. He's not sure how he feels about living so close to his family again. He loves them, but his mom is determined to find him a

wife so he'll never leave town again. The things he has seen and done have changed him inside. Ford still believes in love – but he also believes that he is incapable of feeling it. Ford falls in love in THREE LITTLE WORDS.

**Isabel Hendrix:** When Isabel Beebe agreed to run her parents' bridal boutique, she didn't know hometown hero Ford Hendrix would also be back in Fool's Gold. Now she's ducking around corners to avoid the handsome ex-SEAL, her unrequited first love – the man she wrote to for years, confessing her teenage dreams. He never replied, not once, and now that she's all grown up, she's embarrassed about the secrets he knows. Isabel falls in love in THREE LITTLE WORDS.

**Consuelo Hendrix:** Feisty Consuelo can take down a trained fighter twice her size, but facing a small-town math teacher with a heart of gold intimidates the hell out of her. If Kent knew the truth about her, he'd stop looking at her with love in his eyes, she's sure of it. Consuelo finds love in a secondary romance in THREE LITTLE WORDS.

**Kent Hendrix:** Kent, the second of the Hendrix boys, hasn't been lucky in love. His wife abandoned him and their son, Reese, and for a long time, Kent has wanted nothing more than to have his wife back. But is she the right woman for him? His mom, Denise, certainly doesn't think so! Kent falls in love in a secondary romance in THREE LITTLE WORDS.

**Leonard:** Leonard's worst fear has come true. His wife's ex-fiance and his former best friend, Ford Hendrix, is coming home. Has Ford ever forgiven them for breaking his heart?

**Maeve:** Isabel's sister Maeve made a mistake many years ago, but her mistake wasn't in jilting Ford, it was in getting engaged to him in the first place. Now happily married and popping out babies, Maeve might be the only person in Fool's Gold who isn't exactly excited that Ford's coming home.

**Reese Hendrix:** Reese, Kent Hendrix's son, is a great kid. It's too bad that his mom virtually abandoned him. Her loss. Reese has a terrific heart and Fool's Gold is lucky to have him. (His dad will find love again in 2013.)

## Susan Mallery's Fool's Gold Cookbook, Book 13.5

**Ana Raquel Clary:** Ana Raquel's parents died when she was young, and she and her sisters were split up and sent away from Fool's Gold. Now, finally, she's back and ready to open

the first street food trailer the town has ever seen. She's thrilled to be back in her beloved home town, but not nearly as thrilled when Mayor Marsha asks her to work with her childhood nemesis to put together a cookbook with the town's favorite recipes. Ana Raquel finds love in a bonus romance in SUSAN MALLERY'S FOOL'S GOLD COOKBOOK.

**Greg Clary:** Restaurateur Greg Clary is happy when Mayor Marsha asks him to help Ana Raquel write the Fool's Gold cookbook. No one says no to Mayor Marsha, which means Ana Raquel will have to stop running away from him the way she has done since their senior prom six years ago. And maybe Greg will finally get the chance to tell Ana Raquel how he feels. Greg falls in love in SUSAN MALLERY'S FOOL'S GOLD COOKBOOK.

## Christmas on 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Book 14

**Gabriel Boylan:** Gabriel Boylan is Gideon's fair-haired twin brother, the one who played by all the rules, became a surgeon on the Army's dime. Working with wounded soldiers convinced him that death is too near for him to ever risk falling in love. But Noelle's Christmas cheer - and her beauty - just might be enough to heal his warrior heart. Gabriel falls in love in CHRISTMAS ON 4TH STREET.

**Noelle Boylan:** Noelle has good reasons for wanting to grab life with both hands. On impulse one day, she spun around, put a pin in the map, and moved to Fool's Gold to open the Christmas store she'd always dreamed of. Next step, find love. Except... Gabriel, the only man to tempt her, thinks love is too dangerous. Why can't he see that the real risk is never loving at all? Noelle finds love in CHRISTMAS ON 4TH STREET.

# 2014, the Year of the Football Players

## When We Met, Book 15

**Angel Whittaker:** Dark, dangerous bodyguard trainer Angel Whittaker has been scarred by love and protects himself by sticking with women who know the score. Right now, he has his sights set on Taryn, but what will he do when he discovers that Taryn's tough talk masks her vulnerable heart? Angel falls in love in WHEN WE MET.

**Taryn Crawford:** Taryn Crawford likes to think of herself as a PR goddess, a take-the-world-by-storm city girl... so how on earth did she end up in Fool's Gold? Excitement comes knocking in the form of mysterious Angel, who's intent on claiming her for his own. Will she ever forgive herself if she surrenders to him, and to her own passion? Taryn falls in love in WHEN WE MET.

## Before We Kiss, Book 16

**Dellina Ridge:** Dellina's parents died when she was 17. After raising her younger sisters, she's done with the "mom" thing and wants to focus on her party planning business. She's not looking for a ring, she's looking for a fling... with Sam, a football hero and the sexiest man she's ever met. When Sam leaves her hanging after jumping to the wrong conclusion, Dellina determines to make him work his way back into her good graces - and her bed! Dellina falls in love in BEFORE WE KISS.

**Sam Ridge:** In the NFL, Sam scored big as the league's best kicker, but he had terrible luck with women. An ex who wrote a tell-all, a stalker... who could blame him for running from a late-night tryst with Dellina after he discovers a room in her house filled with wedding gowns? The only thing missing is a groom! When he's forced to hire Dellina to plan his firm's client event, Sam's not sure he'll be able to resist her after all those long nights together. Sam falls in love in BEFORE WE KISS.

**Lark Heuston:** Lark Heuston is a hoot! Sam's mom knows all about the joys of sex, and as a sex expert, she's paid - and paid well - to discuss them. Poor Sam has been embarrassed by his mother all his life!

**Reggie Ridge:** Reggie Ridge, Sam's dad, considers himself to be the luckiest man alive - he's been happily married for more than 30 years to Lark, a woman with not a single sexual hang-up.

## Until We Touch, Book 17

**Jack McGarry:** As a pro quarterback and as the head of a PR firm, Jack McGarry considers it his duty to care for others - from a distance. Larissa, his trusted assistant, stands between him and the world of messy emotions... until he discovers that Larissa has been harboring secret

feelings - for him! Suddenly, Jack's sexy thoughts about Larissa become more appropriate for the bedroom than for the office. Jack falls in love in UNTIL WE TOUCH.

**Larissa Owens:** Larissa Owens is fully aware that Jack is her boss, not her boyfriend, no matter how much she wishes otherwise. She's made peace with her unrequited crush... but then her mom tells him the truth. How embarrassing! Will he fire her? Should she quit? Or maybe, just maybe, he'll start to see her as something more. A girl can hope! Larissa falls in love in UNTIL WE TOUCH.

## Yours for Christmas, Book 17.5

**Bailey Voss:** Bailey Voss has a crush on a new guy in Fool's Gold, but she has zero chance with Kenny, a giant guy who couldn't be more gentle with her beloved daughter. He was a pro athlete - she's just a small town secretary! There's no way that she could be exactly what he's been looking for all his life. Bailey will fall in love in YOURS FOR CHRISTMAS.

**Kenneth "Kenny" Scott:** Though he thinks of himself as an Iowa farm boy, former NFL receiver Kenny Scott comes from money, but all the riches in the world couldn't protect him from a devastating loss. Will Christmas in Fool's Gold convince him to risk his heart with Bailey, a shy single mom who has visions of forever dancing in Kenny's head? Kenny falls in love in YOURS FOR CHRISTMAS.

**Chloe Voss:** All Chloe wants for Christmas is a daddy - and she knows just the man for the job. Now if only she can figure out a way to convince Kenny and her mom that they're perfect for each other.

# 2015, the Year of Search & Rescue

## Hold Me, Book 18

**Destiny Gilmore:** Her parents may be country music royalty, but Destiny Mills is no princess. She turned her back on their way of life - and on her own passionate nature. With love comes pain. The instant she meets Kipling, her heart sings and her body hums. Her head tells her to resist but, for the first time, desire may drown out logic. If she succumbs to her feelings this one time, will she open the floodgates? Destiny falls in love in HOLD ME.



**Kipling Gilmore:** Heading the new search and rescue squad is the perfect fit for Kipling Gilmore, who once dominated the slopes as G-Force, his Olympics nickname. In his heart, Kipling needs to be a hero to atone for leaving his sister with their volatile father while he took off to train. Maybe that's why he's so drawn to the beautiful newcomer with a fragile look about her. A summer fling could make Destiny smile again and allow him to feel like her rescuer without putting his heart on the line. Kipling falls in love in HOLD ME.

**Starr Mills:** People think having a famous dad is killer, but Starr Mills would much rather have a father who loves her. Instead, her absentee dad is on tour, her mom is dead, and she's stuck spending the summer in a weird little town with a big sister she just met. And if that weren't bad enough, Destiny claims she can't teach Starr to play the guitar, when Starr can hear her secretly writing songs late into the night. No fair!

**Lacey Mills:** Lacey Mills is larger than life, beloved by millions of country music fans. As a mom, she wasn't so great, but she gives her daughter, Destiny, all the love she's capable of and wishes it were enough.

## Kiss Me, Book 19

**Phoebe Nicholson:** Phoebe Kitzke loves helping young families find a home, something she never had as an orphan. How lucky Zane is to live on a ranch with five generations of history! Although the taciturn cowboy doesn't show it, she can tell he, too, values family above all else. Now, if she could just get him to admit how good they are together, maybe they could make the next generation. And, for the first time in her life, Phoebe could feel like she finally belongs. Phoebe falls in love in KISS ME.

**Zane Nicholson:** Rancher Zane Nicholson has his hands full raising his genius brother. He doesn't have the time or energy to deal with a brown-eyed city girl whose determined optimism makes him ache with yearning. Unfortunately, he's stuck with Phoebe - and a whole herd of city slickers - on a cattle drive meant to teach his brother a lesson. But Zane might be the one to learn a thing or two... about hope and forgiveness and the kind of love that lasts a lifetime. Zane falls in love in KISS ME.

**Chase Nicholson:** Sometimes teenager Chase Nicholson is too smart for his own good. When people sent money for the cattle drive he advertised as a joke, he planned to issue refunds - right after making enough money on the stock market to fund his robotics research. Instead, he lost it all, and now his mean brother is going to hold the cattle drive to teach Chase

a lesson, giving him all the crap jobs. Literally. Chase wouldn't mind so much, though, if Zane would at least accept his sincere apology. But forgiveness doesn't come easy to the Nicholson men.

## Thrill Me, Book 20

**Delany "Del" Mitchell:** Once, Del Mitchell thought he'd live in Fool's Gold forever, but after his first love said both he and the town were too boring, he took off to explore the world and make a fortune. Now he's back for his dad's birthday. Maya's back, too, as tempting as ever. Only this time she seems settled, while he feels... restless. His desire for Maya is anything but boring, but could he be happy living in this small town the rest of his life? Then again, could he leave, if it meant leaving behind the women he still loves after all these years? Del falls in love in THRILL ME.

**Maya Farlow:** Fool's Gold is the Destination for Romance, and as the town's new Communications Director, it's Maya Farlow's job to spread the word. Even if it means filming a series of videos with Del, the first love she never forgot. She's always regretted the way she ended things, with a lie borne of fear. The camera loves Del, and she's starting to feel the same way. But this time, her greatest fear is that he's too big for this town, and she'll be the one who's left behind. Maya falls in love in THRILL ME.

**Elaine Mitchell:** Most of her life, Elaine Mitchell has put her own needs behind those of her husband and five sons, and she's doing it again now - keeping a secret that would only cause them pain. At some point, though, this wife and mom will have to admit that she's a woman first, and that sometimes she's the one who needs to be nurtured.

**Ceallach Mitchell:** A true artist must be self-absorbed, Ceallach Mitchell believes, because only in focusing inward can he reveal truths about humanity. He loves his wife and five sons, but feels that it's only right their lives should revolve around him. It'll take something pretty shocking to make him realize that his wife needs more.

**Nick Mitchell:** After watching his tempestuous father destroy a year's work in a fit of temper, Nick Mitchell has learned to deny his artistic side. If managing The Man Cave bar doesn't exactly fulfill him, at least it lets him live in peace.

**Mathias Mitchell:** Mathias Mitchell and his twin, Ronan, left Fool's Gold under mysterious circumstances a few years ago. The youngest sons of the Mitchell clan make their home in Happily, Inc, a California town known as a wedding destination.

**Ronan Mitchell:** Ronan Mitchell and his twin, Mathias, left Fool's Gold under mysterious circumstances a few years ago. The youngest sons of the Mitchell clan make their home in Happily, Inc, a California town known as a wedding destination.

## Marry Me at Christmas, Book 21

**Jonny Blaze:** Somehow, while cleaning pools in Hollywood, Jonny Blaze lucked into a career he loves—as an action movie superstar. But sometimes he misses the simple life, so he bought a ranch outside Fool's Gold, hoping to bring a little “normal” into his crazy life. Little did Jonny know that there's nothing normal about Fool's Gold! Jonny falls in love in MARRY ME AT CHRISTMAS.

**Madeline Krug:** After lots of missteps along the way, Madeline Krug finally has a job she loves, managing Paper Moon Bridal. When Mayor Marsha asks her to help plan a Christmas wedding, it seems a natural fit, until Madeline finds out who's getting married—the younger sister of Jonny Blaze, her movie star crush! How can she organize a wedding when she can't even organize her thoughts? Madeline falls in love in MARRY ME AT CHRISTMAS.

**Ginger Blaze:** Doctoral student Ginger Blaze is getting married in quaint Fool's Gold...thanks to her generous big brother Jonny, who has agreed to plan the wedding between movies, so she can pursue her degree. Now if only she can find someone who will keep Jonny from turning it into an over-the-top, opulent affair. Ginger wants simple, but Jonny likes to show his love through grand gestures.

# 2016, the Last Year? (maybe, maybe not)

## Best of My Love, Book 22

**Shelby Gilmore:** Shelby Gilmore would do anything for the people she loves, which she proved when she rushed to her dying mother's side, even though it put her in range of her father's fists. Now she's ready for love, but first she needs to teach her stubborn psyche that

she can trust men. What she needs is a guy friend... just a friend. Aidan Mitchell is perfect because she would never be interested in a bad boy like him! Shelby falls in love in BEST OF MY LOVE.

**Aidan Mitchell:** Aidan Mitchell puts the "adventure" in Mitchell Adventure Tours, the family business he runs. Adventure is what he's looking for in his love life, too... until he accidentally breaks a woman's heart. Shelby's friendship plan might be just what he needs to keep from becoming a total jerk. If he can resist the urge to seduce his new BFF... Aidan falls in love in BEST OF MY LOVE.

### Some other colorful characters you'll love

**Alice Barns:** Alice Barns is the police chief in Fool's Gold. Married, with strapping sons on the high school football team, Alice is strictly business when it comes to the law. She has no patience for stupidity, and in her experience, most criminals are stupid.

**Bella Gionni:** One of the feuding hairstylist sisters. No one knows why Julia and Bella fell out in the first place, but to keep the peace, the women of Fool's Gold make a point of alternating between the two.

**Eddie Carberry:** Even in her 70s, Eddie remains ever hopeful that she'll snare a man one of these days. She and her BFF Gladys are very vocal in their appreciation of all the handsome men moving to Fool's Gold.

**Gladys Smith:** Gladys Smith doesn't like being called a busybody. She's concerned, that's all. About everything and everyone in Fool's Gold... especially all the handsome eye candy in town. She's on the City Council, so she figures it's only right that she know what everyone in the city is up to. How else can she counsel them?

**Julia Gionni:** One of the feuding hairstylist sisters. No one knows why Julia and Bella fell out in the first place, but to keep the peace, the women of Fool's Gold make a point of alternating between the two.

**Morgan:** Morgan has owned Morgan's Books for as long as most people in Fool's Gold can remember. The quietly refined man knows his customers well, and makes a point of personally calling each when a new book arrives that he thinks he or she will enjoy. Morgan's daughter Amber runs Ambrosia Bakery.

**Percy:** Percy grew up on the streets of L.A. When he aged out of foster care, he remembered the special little town where he spent one summer at a camp for city kids, and he came to the one place in the world where he felt safe.

**Ryder Stevens:** Ryder Stevens was created by Facebook fans at [www.facebook.com/susanmallery](http://www.facebook.com/susanmallery). Watch for him to appear in an upcoming Fool's Gold book, and join the fun crowd on Facebook!

**Trisha Wynn:** Trisha Wynn plays to win, in the courtroom and in the bedroom. She's known as something of a cougar around town. She sees sex as a weapon and a tool, and isn't above advising clients to hop in the sack if it will make a legal problem disappear.

**Ralph Hendrix:** Denise's late husband, father of the Hendrix kids.

## The Animals of Fool's Gold

### **ALEXANDER, CAT-LONG-HAIRED TUXEDO**

Alexander was at the Fool's Gold animal shelter, looking for a home when Evie found him. Happily, he remembered how to purr when relaxing on her lap.

### **ATHENA, GOAT-NUBIAN**

Athena is the ring leader of Heidi's herd, and a true escape artist. But she's sweet and loving and happily follows as Heidi leads her back home.

### **BUDDY, DOG-LABRADOODLE**

Buddy is a terrific therapy dog, part of Montana's reading program. With a perpetually worried expression, Buddy inspires young students to take pity on him and read him a story, even if they're not yet good readers.

### **CAMEL, DOG-POMERANIAN**

Who knew that Mayor Marsha had a dog? Or does she? Caramel is an adorable little Pomeranian who dances on her hind legs when she's excited – and she's almost always excited! Caramel was named for the winner of "Your Pet in a Romance Novel," a fundraising auction with the Seattle Humane Society.

### **CECE, DOG-APRICOT TOY POODLE**

Cece is a sweet, gentle, lovable toy poodle, one of the tiniest therapy dogs in the K9Rx kennels. She loves to cuddle up with children in the pediatric burn ward, and then hang out with her new daddy, Dr.

Simon, in his office, where he keeps a drawer full of toys just for her. (The real-life inspiration for Cece is Susan Mallery's toy poodle, Nikki.)

## **Charlie, DOG-BICHON FRISE**

Charlie is not the kind of dog Aidan Mitchell was looking for when he went to the shelter. He wanted a big, masculine dog. Instead, he got what he needed--an adorable fluffball who is friendly, easygoing, and always up for another adventure. Charlie is a bichon frise who was named for the winner of "Your Pet in a Romance Novel," a fundraising auction with the Seattle Humane Society.

## **DAYTONA, CAT**

Charlie the firefighter takes her commitment to the town seriously, even rescuing cats who get stuck in trees... usually Daytona, even though he never seems to appreciate the help.

## **DYNA, CAT-RAGDOLL**

Dyna is a blue-eyed Ragdoll cat who was alone in the world after her 93-year-old human passed away, until she was adopted by warm-hearted Larissa. Dyna's beauty is a bit intimidating to Larissa; it's not easy living with a supermodel. Dyna was named by the winner of "Your Pet in a Romance Novel," a fundraising auction for the Seattle Humane Society. Visit the Freebies page at [SusanMallery.com](http://SusanMallery.com) to see pictures of Susan's ragdoll cats, Alex and Lucy.

## **FLUFFY, DOG-LAB/GOLDEN RETRIEVER MIX**

Fluffy is a 90-pound sweetheart, but with exuberance like her, she was not cut out to be a therapy dog, despite Montana's best efforts. She's happy and free now as Kent and Reese Hendrix's dog. She gets to be her goofy, lovable self.

## **JAKE, CAT**

Jake belonged to Crystal, Pia's late best friend. When Crystal passed away, Pia thought she was getting the cat. Imagine her surprise when she discovered that Jake would go to bartender Jo, and Pia would get Crystal's frozen, fertilized embryos!

## **KHATAR, HORSE-ARABIAN**

Khatar the Arabian stallion has a temper and isn't shy about showing it - that is, until the day Annabelle the librarian approaches his stable at the Castle Ranch. Instantly in love, Khatar becomes a new horse. Docile, obedient... he'll do anything for the tiny woman who has captured his heart.

## **LILLIE'S KITTEN, CAT**

Playful and sweet, Lillie's first kitten is a ball of fun!

## **MANNY, ANGUS STEER**

With a half-bitten ear and a permanent bovine scowl, Manny the steer looks dangerous. But he's a softie when it comes to Phoebe. He'd follow her anywhere!

## **MASON, HORSE**

Mason is Charlie's horse. Now that Charlie and Clay have their own ranch, Charlie gets to ride Mason more than ever.

## **NOAH, DOG-SHELTIE**

When Kaitlyn McKenzie was little (or littler), she surprised her veterinarian father by bringing home an adorable little Sheltie, whom she had named Noah. The name stuck, even though Cameron quickly discovered that Noah is a girl. (Noah, Cameron, and Kaitlyn were all created by Susan's Facebook fans. Join the fun at [www.facebook.com/susanmallery!](http://www.facebook.com/susanmallery!))

## **PRISCILLA, INDIAN ELEPHANT**

When you're driving through northern California, an Indian elephant is not a common sight, but the people of Fool's Gold are becoming accustomed to Priscilla sightings. Priscilla is a gentle giant. All she wants is to belong, to be part of a group. The Strykers are adopting other animals for Priscilla to bond with, to make her feel right at home on the Castle Ranch.

## **RAVEN, DOG-BLACK LAB**

Raven's life took a turn for the better when she was adopted by action movie star Jonny Blaze. She's not impressed by his fame, but she does like the way he showers her with much needed affection, after her previous family left her at the animal shelter.

## **RENO, PONY**

Reno the Pony is happy to have joined Priscilla the Elephant's happy little herd. They keep each other company!

## **ROCKY, HORSE**

Rocky is a heroic horse who helped Phoebe save a herd of cattle in KISS ME.

## **SOPHIE, DOG-BEAGLE**

Elaine Mitchell's beloved beagle Sophie is a lover, never more excited than when one of her five human brothers returns to the family homestead. Sophie happily (and loudly) greets all guests, and then faithfully returns to Elaine's side.

## **WEBSTER, DOG-GERMAN SHEPHERD**

Webster is a rambunctious German shepherd puppy. When Carter is allowed to get a dog, he feels truly safe and loved for the first time since his mother died. He chose the name Webster because he loves learning new words.

## **WESLEY, HORSE-ARABIAN**

Another of Shane's Arabians, Wesley is known for his ability to count by nodding his head. What a smart, big boy!

## **WILBUR, PIG**

Wilbur thinks of Priscilla the elephant as the biggest pig he's ever seen... but she's good company, and she blocks the wind. Wilbur's quite content to be part of her herd.