



holidaywishes



a gift from
New York Times & USA TODAY
bestselling author

*Susan
Mallery*

annual traditions in the Land of Happy Endings

In this issue:

Hendrix triplets, Christmas Babies
Cheerleaders' Pom-Pom-a-Thon
Recipes, free reads, and more!

Dear Reader,

Although Fool's Gold, California is the fictional setting of my latest series of romance novels, the town has come to feel very real to me. The series started in 2010 with *Chasing Perfect*, *Almost Perfect*, and *Finding Perfect* and will continue in 2011, 2012, and perhaps past that. The characters live beyond the books at www.FoolsGoldCA.com, where I post regular updates about what's happening in Fool's Gold. There, you can see wedding pictures, read between-the-books articles about the people in town, learn about the intriguing history behind the man shortage, get your hands on some fun freebies, and of course, read excerpts of the Fool's Gold books.

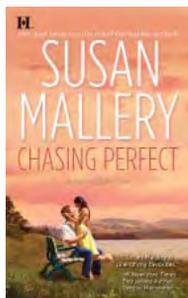
Whether or not you've already discovered the Land of Happy Endings, I hope you'll enjoy this glimpse into the town's holiday traditions. Fool's Gold is known for its many festivals and parades, so you can bet they do the season proud! Enjoy, and happy holidays to you ... from me and from Fool's Gold!

Love,

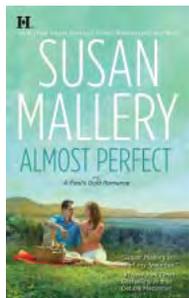
Susan Mallery

Romance Series

Fool's Gold Romances



Chasing Perfect - May 2010
Almost Perfect - July 2010
Finding Perfect - September 2010



Coming Soon:
Only Mine - August 2011
Only Yours - September 2011
Only His - October 2011

Lone Star Sisters



Under Her Skin - May 2009
Lip Service - June 2009
Straight from the Hip - July 2009
Hot on Her Heels - November 2009

Bakery Sisters



Sweet Talk - July 2008
Sweet Spot - August 2008
Sweet Trouble - September 2008

The Buchanan Family



Delicious - February 2006
Irresistible - June 2006
Sizzling - January 2007
Tempting - July 2007

The Marcellis



The Sparkling One - September 2003
The Sassy One - October 2003
The Seductive One - November 2003
The Marcelli Bride - May 2006
The Marcelli Princess - March 2007

Stand Alone Novels



Coming Soon:

Already Home - April 2011
The Knitting Diaries - April 2011
with Debbie Macomber and Christina Skye

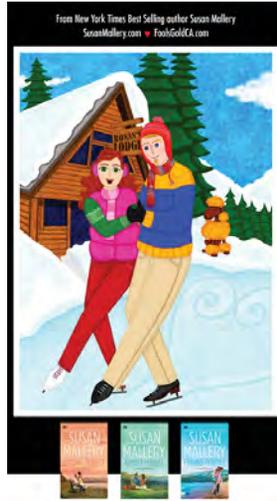
The Best of Friends - October 2010
Sunset Bay - March 2009
Accidentally Yours - January 2008
Falling for Gracie - March 2005
Someone Like You - October 2004
Married for a Month - October 2001
Sweet Success - May 2001

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plus...

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- Ho, Ho, Ho! cookies (recipe)*
- The Angel Fur Ball*
- The End Zone Kids return*

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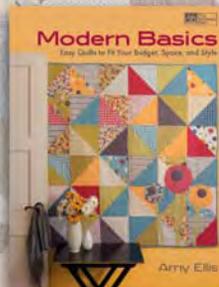
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with the author of Modern Basics

THEN



the best gifts come in **threes**

The Hendrix family has been in Fool's Gold since the beginning – they are one of the founding families of the Land of Happy Endings. So with their roots firmly planted in California soil, how did the Hendrix triplets wind up with names like Dakota, Montana, and Nevada?

It was Christmas 1982, and Denise Hendrix, then 26 years old, was in the hospital. She had given birth that morning to triplets. Girls. But no one was celebrating because complications with the birth had left Denise hovering on the brink of death.

“Ralph was beside himself, rest his soul,” Denise says now, 28 years later, the picture

of health. “He didn’t know whether I was going to live or die. He was so scared, he couldn’t think straight. A nurse kept coming in, pressing him to name the girls, if you can imagine that. Meanwhile, the boys were hounding him, asking him why Mommy wouldn’t wake up.”

Ethan, the oldest, was five, Kent was three, and Ford was two.

“Ralph said, ‘Let the boys name their sisters. It’ll give them something to do,’”

Denise says. “We can laugh about it now, but he always said that was the best and the worst day of his life.”

She’s ensconced on a sofa in her sunny family room, surrounded by her three daughters, Ethan, and his new wife, Liz. Her two younger sons no longer live in Fool’s Gold. Kent teaches school near

Sacramento, and Ford is serving overseas in the Navy. Her grandchildren are playing together in the back yard.

“Fool’s Gold takes care of our own, and sure enough, our friends and neighbors stepped in to occupy the boys so Ralph could stay with me.”

The boys settled on different names every fifteen minutes, constantly changing their minds, as children do. Rose, Lily, Petunia. Bert, Ernie, Grover. Vanilla, chocolate,

Dakota, Montana, and Nevada Hendrix



a GIFT to you
from **susan mallery**

Join the Members Only area at susanmallery.com for a free sneak peek of Dakota’s story, *Only Mine* (Aug. 2011)!

NOW

Chunky Monkey.

Montana, the youngest by minutes, punches Ethan in the arm. "You were going to name me Chunky Monkey?"

"Hey, don't blame me," he says. "Who gives a five-year-old that much power?"

"The one that really boggles my mind is Oceania," Denise says. "You came up with that one, Ethan. You were always watching nature shows with your dad."

As the day wore on, the boys grew tired, but they refused to leave the hospital without their mom and dad. So the people of Fool's Gold took turns reading every book in the waiting room to Ethan, Kent, and Ford.

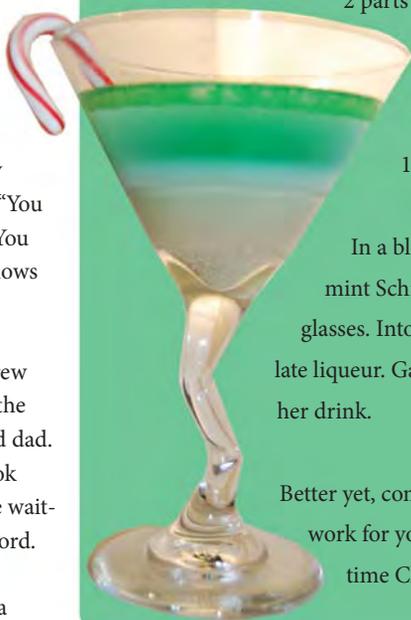
"Apparently, someone had left a Rand McNally Atlas at the hospital. By the time I came to, it was settled. The girls were named Nevada, Dakota, and Montana. I think everyone in town knew my daughters' names before I did. They're unusual, but honestly, I was just happy to be alive, and that all my children were healthy. You can't ask for more than that."

"Even so," Nevada says, "as soon as the new hospital is finished, I'm donating 100 children's books to the pediatrics ward with characters who have normal names."

Although the triplets have visited their namesake states, all three say they hope to live in Fool's Gold the rest of their lives.

"It's home," says Dakota. "Mom didn't tell you the whole story. After we came home from the hospital, Dad had to buy a new freezer to hold all the food that people brought. Mom didn't have to cook anything from scratch until we were around eleven months old. Fool's Gold is a very special place."

Jo's Chocolate Peppermint Martini



2 parts vodka

1 part green creme de menthe

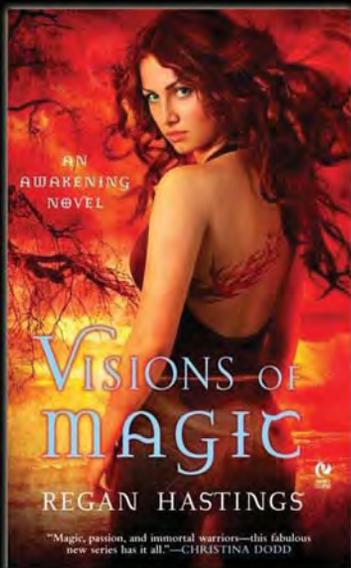
1 part peppermint Schnapps

ice

1 oz Bailey's mint chocolate liqueur

In a blender, combine ice, vodka, creme de menthe, and peppermint Schnapps. Blend until ice is crushed. Pour into chilled martini glasses. Into each glass, carefully add one ounce of Bailey's mint chocolate liqueur. Garnish with a mini candy cane, which reveler can use to stir her drink.

Better yet, come to happy hour at Jo's Bar in Fool's Gold and let us do the work for you. Where else in America will you find a bar playing a Lifetime Christmas movie marathon on the big screen TVs?



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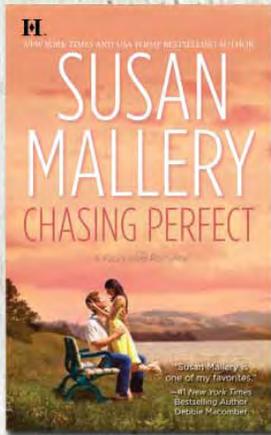
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Happily.



Ever.



After.



Unmissable

6 Cool Things to Do in Fool's Gold this December



1 *Vote for the Cheeriest Storefront!*
While you're shopping downtown, don't forget to vote for the Cheeriest Storefront in Fool's Gold. The winning store will be honored during the Christmas Eve-Eve parade on December 23. Last year's winner was the Fool's Gold Toy Emporium, pictured here.

2 *Lighting of the Menorah*
The Menorah will be lit each night during Hannukah (December 2-9) in the window of Temple Beth Shalom. On December 9, the congregation will enjoy traditional latkes. Yes, it's free



food; yes, we know how much the people of Fool's Gold love free food; and yes, all faiths are welcome!



3 Go Sledding

Ditch the skis on Saturday, December 18 and join thousands of tourists who come from neighboring towns to sled the slopes at The Gold Rush Ski Lodge and Resort. Sledding is a lot more fun when you have ski lifts to carry you back up the hill.



Find a partner and play in the Foolish Winter Games

Every Sunday afternoon in December, semi-organized pick-up games will be held near the gazebo in Pyrite Park. Come every week or just one time on the spur-of-the-moment. Bring your own partner, or one will be assigned on the spot. A great way to make new friends!

All players welcome, fun for all ages. Foolish Games include Snow Golf, Twister on the Ice, Backward Snowshoe Races, and more. Prizes will be awarded each week, and refreshments will be served by The Fox and Hound Restaurant.



Go to page 8 for more cool things to do in Fool's Gold!

12th Annual Christmas Cheeroling Pom-Pom-a-Thon



Get the hot chocolate ready, and keep an eye on your front yard. The Fool's Gold cheerleading squad will start the 12th annual Christmas Cheeroling Pom-Pom-a-Thon on Friday, December 3. Instead of caroling, the squad goes house to house to spread Christmas cheers.

*R!
R-U!
R-U-D-O-L-P-H!
Rudolph!
Rudolph!
Go, go, go, Rudolph!*

While the cheerleaders will gladly accept that hot chocolate, what they're really after is your money. The squad is raising funds to pay for Cheer Camp next summer, and the Pom-Pom-a-Thon has traditionally been their biggest moneymaker.

"We're also collecting toys for Gold Santa," says Damaris, the 2010-2011 school year's

head cheerleader. Gold Santa is a local program that gives toys to needy children. "The toys should be new and unwrapped. We need them for all age groups."

The Pom-Pom-a-Thon was started 12 years ago by Pia O'Brian when she was in high school. Since the City's event planner graduated, she has joined the squad on their rounds. But not this year, if her fiancé has anything to say about it. Ms. O'Brian is pregnant with twins, and her fiancé, former NFL quarterback Raoul Moreno, is using his renowned nimble feet to keep his woman off of hers.

So get ready to cheer for the cheerleaders when they show up at your house!

*Fool's Gold -
Better watch out!
Fool's Gold -
Better not cry!
Fool's Gold -
Better not pout!
We're gonna tell you why:
Santa Claus is coming -
Oh, that fat boy's coming.
Santa Claus is coming
To town.
Ho-ohhhhhhhhh!*

Go to www.FoolsGoldCA.com/cheers.html to listen to the Fool's Gold cheerleaders' Christmas cheers.



❄️ Unmissable

(continued from page 6)

5 Enjoy a romantic carriage ride

The new owners at Castle Ranch have agreed to continue the tradition of offering horse-drawn carriage rides along the trails on their property every Sunday during the month of December. Please call Pia O'Brian for the schedule.



6 Send a free e-postcard to out-of-town friends and family

The Fool's Gold city website has a series of fun, colorful e-postcards that you can send to anyone not fortunate enough to live in the Land of Happy Endings.

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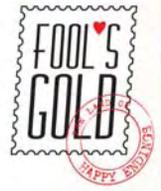
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*You are invited
to the Angel Fur Ball*

Nikki Mallery, the six-pound official mascot of Fool's Gold, would like to invite all residents and visitors to attend the seventh annual Angel Fur Ball on Friday, December 10th at the Community Center. Dress is semi-formal for humans and their well-behaved canine guests. (Cats don't like to dance.) The ball will begin at 7 pm and will feature the music of Slow Smoked Piggie Fingers, an all-female firefighter cover band.

Proceeds from the event will benefit the Fool's Gold animal shelter. Help us give our four-legged friends a happy ending of their own!

Bring your checkbook. You don't want to miss the silent auction! Here's a partial list of items that will be up for bid:

- **A Castle Ranch Gourmet Goat Cheese Gift Basket.** Castle Ranch isn't about cows anymore. The new owners raise goats imported from France, and they use the milk to make gourmet cheese. The winner will also have the

opportunity to milk a goat, but it's not mandatory.

- **A Private Night at Jo's Bar.** Jo will close the bar for one night for an exclusive party for you and your friends or for you and one special friend! (No sex on the pool table, please.) This prize is always a big hit, so prepare to be generous! Although Jo's tough on the outside, she has a soft spot in her heart for helpless animals who need a home.
- **A Round of Golf with Josh Golden and Raoul Moreno.** The two superstar athletes of Fool's Gold will play a round of golf at the Rolling Hills Country Club with the winner and a guest. Will this prize be popular with the ladies, even though both men fell in love this year? Or will 2010 be the year that a man finally wins a bid on something in the auction?

The evening will be cohosted by Nikki the toy poodle and Charity Golden, the City Planner.

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Ho, Ho, Ho! cookies

½ cup Butter, softened
¾ cup Sugar
1 Egg
¼ cup Milk
1 tsp Vanilla
1 ¾ cup Flour
½ cup Baking cocoa
½ tsp Salt
½ tsp Baking soda
18 Large marshmallows
2 Tbsp Butter, softened
2 cups Confectioner's sugar
Dash Salt
3-4 Tbsp Milk



Preheat the oven to 350°. Cream together butter and sugar until fluffy. Mix in egg, milk, and vanilla. In a separate bowl, combine dry ingredients. Add gradually to the butter mixture. Drop by tablespoons onto 4 ungreased baking sheets. Bake for 8 minutes.

While the cookies are baking, cut the marshmallows in half. Press a marshmallow half onto each cookie, cut side down. Return to the oven and bake for 2 more minutes. Cool on wire racks for 2 minutes, then flatten each marshmallow gently with the back of a spoon.

Frosting: Beat the butter, confectioner's sugar, cocoa and salt until smooth. Add milk one tablespoon at a time and mix well. When frosting is spreadable, stop adding milk. Frost the cookies after they're completely cool.

download the free *Fool's Gold Family Recipes* cookbook at foolsgoldca.com/funstuff.html

Ethan Lives!



Pictured above: A young woman reads Liz Sutton's latest hardcover, *Gold-Blooded Killer*, in Pyrite Park. Sutton has been quoted in interviews as saying that this is the first book in which she didn't kill a character who looked suspiciously like Ethan Hendrix. "He's not on my murder list anymore," says the bestselling author. "He's too cute to kill."

Sutton married Hendrix earlier this year.

in the zone

End Zone Kids Return for

Winter Fun

Last summer, new Fool's Gold resident and former NFL superstar Raoul Moreno opened the End Zone Camp for Kids to offer an opportunity to experience nature and small town life to inner city teenagers, especially those considered "at risk." Moreno himself grew up in and out of foster care, and he even spent some time on the streets.

"I know what a lot of these kids are going through," Moreno says. "I want them to see that another life is possible. It's up to them to decide how they want to live once they reach adulthood."



Although the camp closed temporarily to accommodate students displaced while repairs are being made at Ronan Elementary, Moreno wanted to ensure that the End Zone Kids got a taste of winter fun outside the city. He chartered a bus and brought

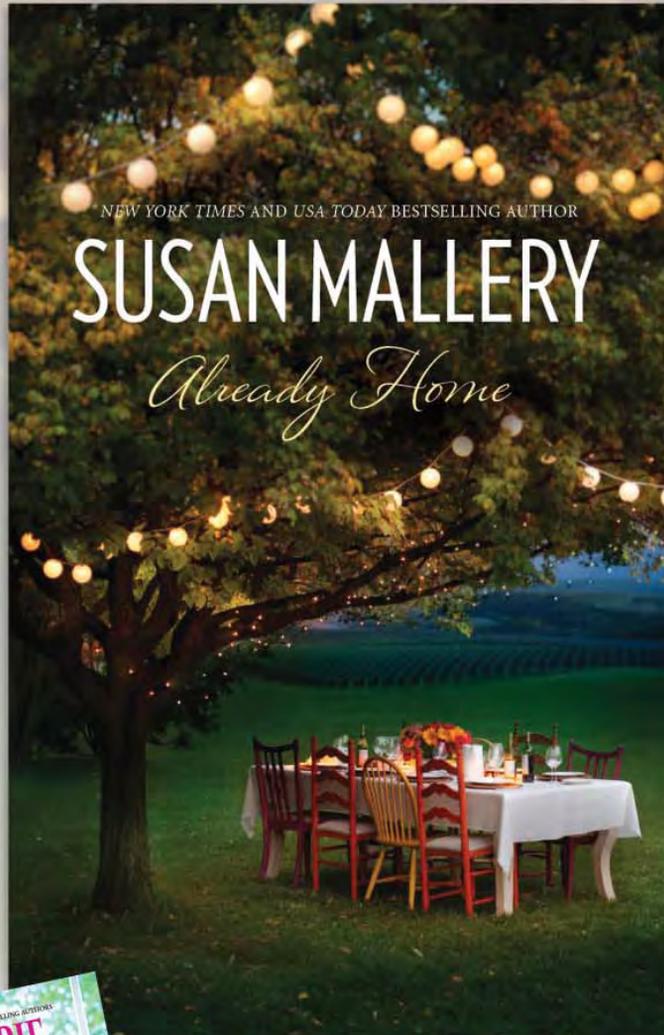
30 inner city kids to town to enjoy the snow.

Many local residents have been impressed by the End Zone Kids' cheerful attitude, intelligence, and work ethic, and have asked if there's a way to give gifts to the teens. Montana Hendrix has agreed to coordinate the gift delivery. If you'd like to participate, please bring your gifts to Montana's office before December 12.

"Nothing expensive," Montana says. "Just something to show the kids that Fool's Gold cares about them."

*For anyone who has ever wondered where she's from...
or where she's going. Already Home, April 2011*

a novel about finding family
from *NEW YORK TIMES* bestselling author Susan Mallery



Already Home is linked to Susan Mallery's
story in *The Knitting Diaries* with
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April 2011