



Sizzling

Susan Mallery

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A spiteful article about the former pitcher and current playboy questions his talent in the bedroom. And the newspaper's just the first bad news. Reid's grandmother Gloria's broken hip means she needs constant care?but Reid hired Nurses 1 and 2 for their bedside manner with him. So for Number 3 he chooses Lori Johnson, the first candidate who seems immune to his brand of charm.

Lori's never wasted her time with amoebas like Reid Buchanan. So why are her well-fortified defenses starting to crumble under the force of his sexy smile?and the kindness he shows her at every turn? There's only one explanation for the feelings flaring between them?chemistry. Chemistry so hot, it's sizzling!

Sizzling Details

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Desty says

Buku #3 ini adalah yang ter-favorit di antara serial Buchanans. Kali ini giliran Reid Buchanan yang menjadi tokoh utama. Reid mantan pemain bisbol terkenal yang terpaksa pensiun dini karena cedera bahu. Reid juga mencintai wanita... banyak wanita tepatnya. Jika ada yang "menyerahkan diri" padanya, dengan senang hati Reid akan melayaninya. Tidak ada yang meragukan kemampuannya, sampai sebuah artikel yang ditulis oleh seorang jurnalis wanita yang tentu saja pernah tidur dengannya, mengatakan bahwa Reid tidak hebat di tempat tidur. Artikel itu menjadi viral dan tentu saja mengganggu Reid. Akhirnya untuk menghindari pers, Reid terpaksa pindah ke rumah Gloria, neneknya.

Seperti yang diceritakan di buku Irresistible - Memikat, Gloria Buchanan mengalami patah pada pinggulnya ketika mendengar kabar tentang Walker Buchanan. Gloria harus menjalani serangkaian perawatan, dan Reid yang bertugas mengatur perawatannya itu. Reid juga yang memilih perawat untuk neneknya. Salah satu perawat yang terpilih adalah Lori Johnson. Jika dilihat dari penampilannya, Lori Johnson mungkin termasuk kriteria wanita yang tidak akan dilirik Reid. Tetapi kualifikasi Lori sangat meyakinkan. Dan itu terbukti hanya Lori yang bisa menaklukkan keangkuhan Gloria. Lori bahkan bisa mengubah Gloria menjadi pribadi yang ramah.

Karakter Lori sendiri cukup unik. Lahir sebagai anak yang tidak diharapkan kehadirannya, membuat Lori selalu mendapatkan perlakuan tidak menyenangkan dari ibunya. Apalagi kakaknya, Madeline adalah sosok yang sempurna. Lori tumbuh dengan keyakinan bahwa dia tidak akan pernah mampu bersaing dengan Madeline. Tetapi Lori adalah wanita yang bisa membereskan segala hal. Dia menjaga keluarganya agar tetap bersatu, dia pula yang membuka rumahnya ketika Madeline mengalami penyakit parah dan ditinggalkan suaminya. Lori berusaha mencari uang lebih agar bisa menabung untuk liburan di saat-saat terakhir dengan kakaknya. Tetapi Lori juga wanita biasa yang tidak bisa lepas dari pesona Reid. Sadar bahwa Reid tidak akan melirikinya, dia sering bersikap sinis pada Reid. Meski jauh di dalam dirinya, dia menyadari bahwa dia juga ingin menikmati pelukan hangat seorang Reid. Apalagi ketika dia tahu bahwa perawat lain yang direkrut oleh Reid pernah tidur dengan reid, hatinya menginginkan hal yang sama. Lori perpaduan sosok altruis dan egois.

Sementara Reid sendiri mengalami masa-masa terpuruk akibat perbuatannya yang sering tidur dengan banyak wanita. Reid melampiaskannya dengan membuat Lori semakin kesal. Tetapi ternyata interaksi dengan Lori selalu dirindukannya. Hanya dengan Lori dia merasa nyaman sekaligus berarti. Reid bahkan bersedia mencarikan donor bagi Madeline meski itu akan membuatnya harus berhadapan dengan pers yang menakutkan.

Serial ini semakin menarik, dengan menyisahkan kisah Dani, anak tiri dari keluarga Buchanans. Dani ingin mencari ayah kandungnya setelah dia mengetahui bahwa tidak ada darah Buchanans mengalir di dalam dirinya. Selain itu dia juga bergumul dengan pekerjaan dan kisah cintanya. Semuanya itu ada di buku #4 sekaligus penutup dari serial The Buchanans.

★ Belle The Bibliophile ★ says

This book could have been **so** great but was executed poorly-- I'll explain later. I know this book is old but I'm so disappointed with the outcome I could just cry. I had such high hopes for the heroine.

Darcy says

I am torn with this book. I really liked it, liked how Reid was able to change, but I still have a big problem with him and his man-whore ways. Maybe it was the way that he was so nonchalant about it, but it bugged me. I sort of liked it when the reporter laid out the story with not good news about him, he really needed to be taken down a peg. I also found it interesting how Lori seemed to really accept this part of his past, maybe that makes her a better (yet still fictional) person than me.

I loved Lori from the start, she put up with no crap and called Reid and Gloria on it. She also had the whole ugly duckling thing going on, which I am not sure if I liked. She seemed comfortable with herself, but once she attracted Reid's attention she felt the need to change.

Gloria did creep me out with her new niceness, but it has been a long time coming. The side stories with Lori's sister and Dani were interesting. I thought things would end better for both of them. Although Dani's additional dating adventures had me laughing.

With what Dani learned of her father it will be very interesting to see what the next book brings.

Susan (susayq ~) says

Another great read by Susan Mallery.

I loved the changes in their witch of a grandmother, Gloria. Let's hope they stick around. She's been awful through the previous books. I didn't particularly love the main characters in here though. I've read plenty of books where the hero was a manwhore, but Reid took it to a whole new disgusting level. He even admitted to himself that he wouldn't be able to pick some of his partners out of a lineup o.O and Lori thought so poorly of herself all the way through the book. Even with is those complaints, I have to admit I enjoyed the book. Reading Susan Mallery is like snuggling with a comffy blanket...you know you'll enjoy it :)

ChloeLeeNH says

I am not a big contemporary fan... but this one caught my eye... and I read it before any in this series... another shocker LOL... what I found is that it really almost felt like a Regency Historical. He would have been a rake and she would have been the strong, kind of plain heroine that doesn't take any crap. I really enjoyed this book. Who knew!?

Kristen says

Almost 4 Stars

This is my favorite of the series thus far, and even though both the hero and heroine had their moments of

indulging in martyrdom, they made for a great couple. The romance was more prominent in this book than in the first two, which made their love story more believable.

My only real complaint, other than wondering why Dani's side story took up so much page time considering her book is next, **is the sleazy manwhore factor in which the hero was portrayed. My goodness, he came across more like a seedy porn star than the charming, sexy and famous ex-baseball player he was suppose to be.**

Other than the **YUCK** factor of picturing porn star Ron Jeremy as the hero during the first portion of the book, which I doubt was the authors intent, I really did like his character.

The final confrontation between the two main leads was fantastic and essential to make me a believer of their HEA. The happy-for-now ending left a smile on my face and excited to read the final book in this series.

Note: The first three books in this series all have different narrators but unlike the second book's narrator, I really enjoyed this one. Having said that, it's always best to keep the same narrator throughout a book series.

Mareli says

Another good one! This one was particularly Christmas oriented, as we can see that a horrible grandmother becomes a warm and caring person! Besides we can see more about another brother Reid, who has to defend his skill in bed, after some journalist put some doubts about it!

This series is really great and I love all the family interactions. I'm a bit sad because I'm already onto the last one :(

Niria says

Do you feel unfulfilled? "Average" looks and insecure about them? Feel the need to haughtily project said insecurities on more successful/attractive/not-bitter-all-the-time people in a convoluted effort to make them feel bad about making you feel bad for just being themselves? Does the line "He hadn't seduced her with his body- he'd seduced her with his soul" really get you hot under the collar?

Then this book is most definitely for you!

Sizzling started off interesting enough with the tried-and-tested formula of unwanted lust for the douche yet handsome employer. Along the way however, the book somehow turned into the script for both *She's All That* and *Not Another Teen Movie*, complete with a makeover, several hysterical breakdowns, and a subplot that veers into the strange and absurd.

Lori is fantastically capable as a nurse, easily wrangling in a strangely infantile Gloria and defying everyone's expectations. It's baffling, then, how her maturity quickly regresses as she becomes more and more obsessed with everyone's appearances, even as Reid supposedly becomes less interested. It's just convenient that when Reid decides to go for her, Lori suddenly turns into a hot girl with curves who gets Lasik on a whim (I know this is nitpicky but literally the day after deciding to get it, when the average wait time between consultation and procedure is a week to over a month). She drops outrageous amounts of

money on clothes, salon visits and the aforementioned surgery. Wasn't the whole point of this nursing job to save up money?

In terms of character development, nobody came out the winner here. I think Madeline was lucky dying as she was; compared to how all the other characters are butchered it seems the better fate. Gloria goes from a powerful misanthropic matriarch with deeply held prejudices to this happy old biddy, just like that. Just from Lori snapping at her. Her intense hatred and past actions are explained away as those of a grandma who just struggles to show how much she loves her grand-kids. This woman emotionally neglected her granddaughter, threatened to ruin the life of a woman who was at the time only tangentially attached to her grandson, and created so much stress for another grandson that it helped tear apart his marriage, and now the audience is expected to believe her actions were motivated only by love. That kind of extreme delusion is more *Master of the Game* than a regular romance novel.

Lori slowly deteriorates into an emotional mess who struggles to look at her sister as a regular human being and not a competitor in the game of life. Lori constantly victimises herself, which I get is the point to show her insecurity and reasons for being an uptight prude, but this behaviour only increases throughout the story. It does not taper off at all. Even two pages from the end of the book Lori is still complaining about living in her (now dead) sister's shadow. This leads to a rushed confession right at the end to explain her childlike insistence that it's the world at fault for dealing her a shitty hand, and not hers for refusing to look at it any other way.

Reid is so two-dimensional I can barely say anything about him. It's interesting seeing the man as the bland, virtually unchanging half of the couple after so long reading romances from the other side. After enduring the requisite identity crisis to cover character development, Reid becomes a pulpit for advocating monogamy. Lori hurls abuse at him and his sex life constantly. Now, I don't expect a romance novel to be a bastion of social justice and equality, but imagine if a man railed against a woman for how many men she had slept with? Imagine a man saying "On the one hand, you have moments of kindness and intelligence. On the other hand, you seem willing to have sex with most ~~women~~ men in this country. Or any country, I'm guessing." Mallery conflates sex and morals for some inexplicable reason that is never dealt with. Reid just accepts this is somehow wrong and settles down, and Lori only feels guilt when she hears the sob story about Jenny. But rather than learn from that, she goes on to say "I'm offended by the stupidity of women who walk around offering [sex]."

This isn't the first time this strange dichotomy appears in the Buchanan series. It seems almost every girl is either a nymphomaniac uninterested in depth, or the perfect person with enough emotional scope and intelligence for a Buchanan to marry. After all, Reid doesn't normally dally with articulate women: "I prefer my women simple."

Remember that subplot? I want to cover one more hysterical yet horrible character. From the ruins of her life emerges Dani. She's been emotionally beaten black and blue by the men in her life- as well as her sociopath of a grandmother- and once again is willing to take a chance in life. But nothing seems to work out for this poor child. Not a job, and not relationships. It can't be that she refuses to think of anybody else but herself, surely? Surely this stranger sitting in a cafe listening to her life's woes is fine with it. He's not feeling any attraction to her, that's absurd! After all: "He was gay. All the signs were there. His low-key occupation, the perfect grooming, **his interest in actual conversation, the lack of any sexual spark.**"

Bear in mind, this book was written in the ancient year of 2006. Heterosexual men and women weren't able to be friends without wanting to get into each other's pants. It was a really tough time and I'm glad humans have evolved beyond that primitive stage.

Of course Mallery loves pulling the rug out from under her readers. Reid has substance! Lori has emotions! Gloria's not a huge bitch! And now, drum roll, Gary is NOT ACTUALLY GAY.

You mean he's not Dani's gay best friend, I hear you cry. But he dresses well! And he has a...job? And a woman doesn't want to have sex with him! These are all the hallmarks of a gay man! It's written right there in the compendium of tropes and cliches!

Oh, but it gets better. Not only is he not gay, he used to be a priest. I don't know what Mallery intended with this new plot twist, but I was crying my eyes out laughing. If the intention was to create a wacky parallel story line to cut through the grim mess that was Lori's insecurities, it certainly succeeded. It also led to the best rejection in any romance I've ever read:

"I have the most uncomfortable feeling that God is sending me a really big message. He's telling me I'm not supposed to be with anyone right now...For once, I think I'm going to listen."

After completely annihilating Gary's self-esteem, Dani swears off romance. The entire thing is so strange I almost expected Carrie Bradshaw to appear and wrap the story up:

"I started to wonder, In a city as cynical as ~~New York~~ Seattle, is it still possible to believe in love at first sight?"

Wendy says

I found this one at the second hand book store and I was really surprised and delighted with what I found. This is going to start something new for me, I'm totally hooked on Susan Mallery now.

Reid Buchanan is a retired baseball star with nothing to do. When he picks up the newspaper one morning he finds that he is again in the news, but this time it is questioning his prowess in bed. What? Disgusted with the way things are going in his life, and trying to hide from the press he seeks a refuge at his grandmothers home where she is recovering from hip surgery. He has hired three nurses to care for her and at their interviews two of them come on to him and he takes advantage of their willingness. The third is different. Smart, funny and up front about life, Lori is something new to Reid.

Lori has just been hired to care for Gloria while she recovers from her surgery. To bad that the most handsome and charismatic man she has ever met hired her and is now living where she works. Lori is definately drawn to Reid, but why would he be interested in a plain, curly top, red headed nobody? Only in her dreams.

Reid and Lori's confrontations at the house are funny and start to heat up after he asks her opinion about the article and his life. He can't beleive how candid she is, but he thinks he kinda likes it. Nobody has ever told him the truth before. They usually are just star struck. Hummm...

This book surprised me when it was not only touching and funny, but completely heart wrenching as well. There a couple of twists to the story that you don't expect but will definately love.

Novel says

After reading Delicious (Buchanans #1) I immediately read Dani's story because I thought Reid and Walker's stories weren't that interesting, but I was wrong. I loved Reid and Lori's book! It was so easy for me to

connect to Lori, we have so much in common. First of all, were both nurses, I have experience with crabby patients and even crabbier patient relatives. If Gloria was my patient...asdjfhdsjhgfgjdshgf... in other words, I'm amazed with Lori's nursing skills. =) It was her who cracked Gloria's tough shell and also assisted her in making her family love her. It was really nice to see Gloria trying to be pleasant and lovable for her family. Like Lori, I also have an older sister, I understand the feeling of living under someone else's shadow. However, I love my sister! I love reading her diaries and beating her accomplishments! LOL, just kidding! (well, I wasn't kidding about the diary though, she saw me, haha) I was really upset when Madeline (Lori's sister) died on the operating table. =(Reid was...Reid. LOL! In the first book we already know him as a celebrity and a playboy. The book starts with him finding his name flashed in the newspaper stating that he was lousy in bed.

Anyway, my questions in book 4 were answered here. We found out that the change in Gloria's behavior started here. Also, we learned that it was Gary (the ex-priest) who gave an idea for Dani to find her biological father.

I really enjoyed reading this series and I promise to read Walker's book (Buchanan #2).

Dee says

Two-haiku review:

He's womanizer
She's nurse for his grandmother
Is he bad in bed?

Didn't love this guy
But he turned his life around
Third book in series

Juliana Philippa says

This is my first Susan Mallery book and I'm not sure I'm going to be giving her another try. I'm almost tempted to give *Sizzling* 2.5 stars, but it wasn't absolutely horrible and Mallery is a good writer, technique-wise; I mean, there are no run-on sentences, her punctuation is correct, she writes good romance scenes, the characters are pretty interesting ... I don't know, the story just wasn't as compelling as other romances I've read. I was actually anxious to finish the book, but only because I wanted it to be done already (once I pick up and start a book, I have to finish it - it's sometimes a curse).

I did like Reid a lot and I kind of went back and forth on Lori. Reid was an interesting hero and very engaging; I think that the way he changes his behavior was very believable and I liked his honesty and straight-forward manner. The scene where Reid walks in to find two surprisingly naked girls in his bedroom and then runs off to get Lori to kick them out was very funny.

MAIN PROBLEMS

- (1) I felt like we're plopped into the story too quickly, since we don't get to see the hero and heroine's first interaction - it's only referenced by them both.
- (2) Lori is pretty harsh with Reid at times. At first, she only sees him as a pretty-boy all-around-charmer ex-

baseball player who gets everything he wants very easily and her opinion changes as Reid himself changes, but ... well people's essentials don't change that much, and in this case, I think Reid's change was believable because he always had that potential there, but just wasn't fully expressing it. Lori was unduly mean in certain scenes, in ways that Reid definitely didn't deserve.

(3) I love stories where the heroine is a shy-wallflower-type, but here, that point was stressed a little too much by Lori herself - it got kind of tedious.

(4) Something like 30 pages before the end, the book takes a very unhappy twist and it kind of puts a damper on the whole happy-ending thing. Really caught me off guard, too.

(5) This is part of Mallery's Buchanan family series and unlike most romance books I've read that are part of a series, the fact that I hadn't read the previous ones left me somewhat at a loss at times. Reid's family is pretty front and center and there often wasn't enough of an introduction to who these people were or what the back story was.

(6) As much as I wanted some more context for Reid's family, I thought the book focused way too much on Dani, the Buchanan sister. She's the heroine of the next book, Tempting, but there were huge chunks of pages in this one that were only about her and I was very tempted to skip them.

(7) Totally minor, but the scene where Penny (Reid's sister-in-law) says she loves cooking (she's a chef) more than her daughter or her husband really bothered me. I'm not a mother or a wife, but when I become either of those things I hope that I don't love my job more than my children/husband!! And I'm not saying this in a 1950s-sexist-wife thing - my husband better feel the same way, lol.

BOTTOM LINE

So yeah ... wasn't a total waste of time, but I still don't know whether or not I'll be giving this author another try. Glad I got the book from the library!

(Written on August 28, 2009)

Joshua says

Reid Buchanan, an ex-baseball ball star and ~~has been~~ celebrity, is humiliated when some chick writes an article insulting his beautiful penis.

*"Not good in bed? NOT GOOD IN BED?...
...He was better than good, he was a god."*

Lori Johnson, was never interested in ~~douchebags~~ bad boys like Reid.

But when Reid's grandmother Gloria breaks her hip, Lori, being a constant care provider, is sent to help Gloria recover.
Cue the "sizzle".

I actually really liked Lori. She was snappy and smart and quick witted.
Until Reid walked in, his virile sexuality seeping from his pores.
One day while caring for his grandmother, Reid's sensuality makes Lori's blood sugar drop.
When she starts fainting and swooning over Reids ~~magical penis~~ sensual power, he makes her a quesadilla.

So while she watches this beautiful man make her a quesadilla right in his kitchen instead of doing her job, I realize that maybe I'm really enjoying this terrible book... and also starting to wonder what happened to her brain.

"He gave her a slow sexy smile, one that gave a whole new meaning to the phrase 'Blown way'. If he'd shown her the slightest bit of interest, she would have ripped off her clothes and done it with him right there on the kitchen table."

Eventually Reid has some ~~real character development~~ revelations, and decides to start being charitable and not a dick. Then the story took a turn for the more serious and I actually kinda felt something for the characters.

Fuck

Yeah, I really liked this and will probably read more Susan Mallery...

Linda Sims says

IT SIZZLES

Lori Johnson has been hired to look after Gloria Buchanan, who is to recuperate at home after an operation. Gloria is a very difficult patient. But Lori is a competent nurse and takes no nonsense even from the matriarch of the Buchanan's.

Lori does the day shift, and is surprised when Reid Buchanan Gloria's grandson, moves in to avoid the press, who are on his trail after a woman had given an interview saying how he was rubbish in bed. Lori has no time for this handsome but spoilt ex-baseball player. Lori finds him compelling and she cannot help but be attracted to him. But she's just a plain Jane, Reid would never look at her.

I have not read many M&B lately but I liked the sound of this. I was not disappointed. The characters are brilliantly drawn. Lori was a take charge no nonsense woman, she certainly held her own against Reid. I liked Reid, he did have a couple of icky moments, but the reader is only told about those, thank goodness. But I did like him as well. With sensuous love scenes, this is a real treat. Longer than the normal M&B this is over 300 pages long. There is plenty happening elsewhere in the story as well. Recommended.

Leah says

I absolutely loved Lori; she was strong, sarcastic, funny, patience, insecure. I laughed every time she was a smartypants with Gloria. I love that she got Gloria to realize she needed to be nicer to her family. I loved her sassy banter with Reid, even if it irritated me sometimes when she insulted him (I did agree with her sometimes, though). I hated when she sent Reid away after her sister died and cried when she told him she'd believed he just wanted her for now, not forever.

I loved Reid, too, and loved when he started making things right in all the ways they had gone wrong under his manager. In the beginning, he was self-absorbed and selfish, but he changed because he was about to see his problem with Lori's help. I thought it was hilarious when the two women were in his bed and he went to Lori to get them out because he was freaked out. I love that he was a playboy brought to his knees by one woman. I love that he helped Lori's sister and his family was there for her with him, but I hate that he felt it was his fault that she died.

Poor Madeline! I was really, really hoping that the transplant was going to work and I was crushed when she died because of heart complications.

Gloria was hilarious and I loved her. I loved when she and Lori "argued" and then when they just talked. I was glad when they finally became friends.

I loved Dani, Cal, Walker, Penny, and Elissa, too, and I need to read all their books, too. Oh, and I loved that Walker is an ex-Marine.
