

FICTION

FOR WOMEN

7
GIVEAWAYS
INSIDE!

Summer Reads

MARY KAY
ANDREWS

ROBYN
CARR

SUSAN
MALLERY

SUSAN ELIZABETH
PHILLIPS

MARY ALICE
MONROE

JILL
SHALVIS

RAEANNE
THAYNE

the friendship list

A story of humor, heartache and regrettable tattoos

“Engaging. . .
authentic. . .
entertaining”

Library Journal

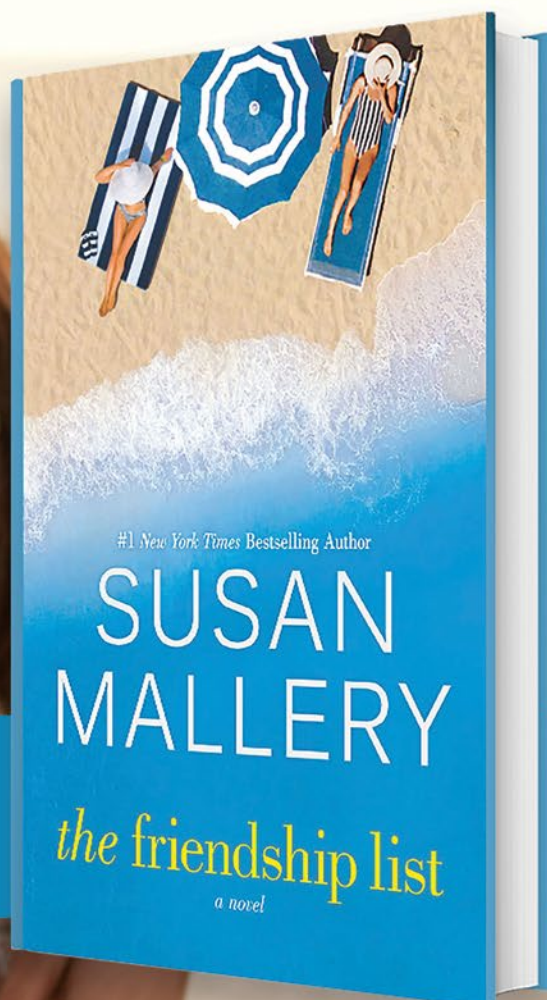
*Regrettable
Tattoo*

Giveaway

Two thousand readers will each win a *The Friendship List* goodie bag (book not included). Sign up by June 30 at susanmallery.com/members-contest.php

AUG 4

pre-order today!



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+ 7 Giveaways Throughout!

Summer Reads Calendar

April 14

Sunrise on Half Moon Bay



May 5

Hello, Summer



May 19

On Ocean Boulevard



June 2

The Summer Deal



June 9

Dance Away with Me



June 23

Summer at Lake Haven



August 4

The Friendship List



Contributing Authors



SUSAN MALLERY is the #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of novels about the relationships that define women's lives—family, friendship, romance. *Library Journal* says, “Mallery is the master of blending emotionally believable characters in realistic situations,” and readers seem to agree—40 million copies of her books have sold worldwide. Her warm, humorous stories make the world a happier place to live.

Susan grew up in California and now lives in Seattle with her husband. She's passionate about animal welfare, especially that of the two ragdoll cats and adorable poodle who think of her as mom.

Visit her online at www.SusanMallery.com.



MARY KAY ANDREWS is the *New York Times* bestselling author of 27 novels (including the summer classics *Sunset Beach*, *The High Tide Club*, and *Summer Rental*) and one cookbook. A native of St. Petersburg, FL, she earned a B.A. in journalism from The University of Georgia and spent 14 years as a newspaper reporter. In 1991, she left journalism to write fiction and penned ten critically acclaimed mysteries under her real name, Kathy Hogan Trocheck, before assuming her pen name and turning to women's fiction in 2002. Her 40+ year collaboration with her high school sweetheart has yielded two grown children, two adorable grandchildren, and countless memorable kitchen experiences. Visit her online at MaryKayAndrews.com.



ROBYN CARR was a young mother and Air Force wife when she started writing fiction. *A Virgin River Christmas* scored her first *New York Times* bestsellers list success in 2008 and since then, 11 of the Las Vegas author's novels have risen to #1. She was awarded the prestigious Nora Roberts Lifetime Achievement Award in 2016 by the Romance Writers of America. 2019 saw the debut of the Netflix-original series, *Virgin River*, based on her books.

Robyn's children are grown—her son is an orthopedic surgeon; her daughter, a police captain. They have made her a happy grandmother. Visit her online at www.RobynCarr.com.



MARY ALICE MONROE is the *New York Times* bestselling author of 23 novels. More than 7.5 million copies of her books have been published worldwide, earning numerous accolades and awards. Her bestselling novel *The Beach House* is a Hallmark Hall of Fame movie.

Monroe is captivated by the beauty and fragility of the wild habitat around her. Bottlenose dolphins, monarch butterflies, shorebirds, and loggerhead sea turtles are among the wild species she has worked with and woven into her novels. She is especially proud to be state-certified volunteer with the Island Turtle Team, the inspiration of her Beach House series. Visit her online at www.MaryAliceMonroe.com.



SUSAN ELIZABETH PHILLIPS is a *New York Times*, *Publisher's Weekly*, and *USA Today* bestselling author, known for her lighthearted, sparkling, and addictive contemporary romance novels which include the Chicago Stars series, the Wynette, Texas series, and multiple stand-alone books. Her novels have been published in more than 30 languages.

Susan met her husband on a blind date, and they went on to have two sons. From her home base of Chicago, Susan loves to travel the world and frequently shares pictures on Facebook and Instagram. Visit her online at www.SusanElizabethPhillips.com.



Multiple *New York Times* and *USA Today* bestselling author **JILL SHALVIS** lives in a small town in the Sierras full of quirky characters. Any resemblance to the quirky characters in her books is ... mostly coincidental. She does most of her writing on her deck surrounded by more animals than humans. Most of her books come from a combination of hard work, cookies, and hot guy pics, and not necessarily in that order.

Look for Jill's bestselling, award-winning heartwarming and full of humor novels wherever books are sold and visit www.JillShalvis.com for a complete book list and daily blog detailing her city-girl-living-in-the-mountains adventures.



#1 *Publishers Weekly*, *New York Times* and *USA Today* bestselling author **RAEANNE THAYNE** has written more than 60 books for HQN, Special Edition, Intimate Moments/Romantic Suspense and Bantam Loveswept. A seven-time RITA nominee, RaeAnne has received a career achievement award from Romantic Times for series romantic adventure, as well as a Pioneer of Romance award. She finds inspiration from the beautiful mountains of northern Utah, where she lives with her family.

Her books have been described as “poignant and sweet,” with “beautiful, honest storytelling (that) goes straight to the heart.” Visit her online at www.RaeAnneThayne.com.

Mr. Bill Fails Me!

by Susan Elizabeth Phillips

As some of you know, Mr. Bill and I have been married for about 100 years, but we've recently gone through a rough patch. Because...

He couldn't come up with a decent title

for my new book!

In the past he's been responsible for titles like **MATCH ME IF YOU CAN** and **FIRST STAR I SEE TONIGHT**. So was I really all that out-of-line

demanding he come up with a title for my newest book? A book that I absolutely love because of the thousands of ways it has touched my heart and, I hope, will touch yours, too. A book that is not part of a series because, as you know, I generally tend to alternate stand alone books and series books, and **BECAUSE**, as much as you say you want another Wynette, Texas, or Chicago Stars book, so many of my stand alone books are your favorites. (Reminder: **KISS AN ANGEL, AIN'T SHE SWEET?**, **BREATHING ROOM**, **HEROES ARE MY WEAKNESS**, etc. etc.)

Anyway, it was down to the wire. The only title I'd come up with, *The Runaways*, had been rejected by my cold-hearted

publisher. Okay, so maybe they were right. Yes, it fit the book, but it has been used way too much and was guaranteed to cause all kinds of confusion. Back to the drawing board.

I have no title, it's August, and I need one now. Our family is gathered in Saugatuck, Michigan, for a few days of family vacation.

It's late. I brought up the title problem and also said that Editor Carrie liked the word "dance." That unleashed the hounds of hell! My idiot family came up with the lamest "dance" titles you've ever heard, but eight-year-old granddaughter Punkin' saved the day with an interpretive dance to the title she insisted was the best of all, *Dance, Baby Shark, Dance*. (Try explaining copyright infringement to an eight-year-old.)

I go to bed depressed, but just as I'm getting ready to turn off my electronics, my phone beeps. It's my bonus daughter-in-law texting me from downstairs.

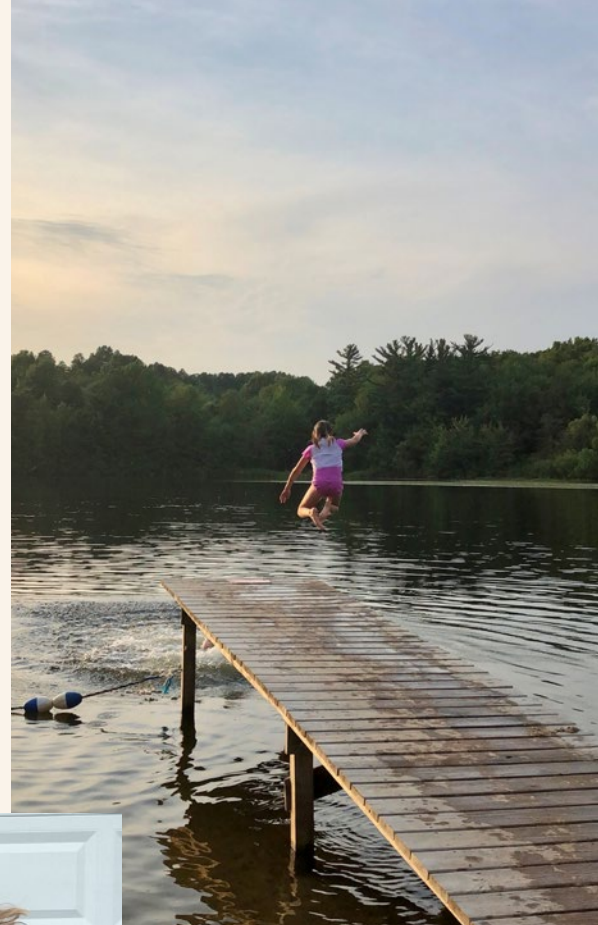
Her text message is only four words.

Dance Away With Me

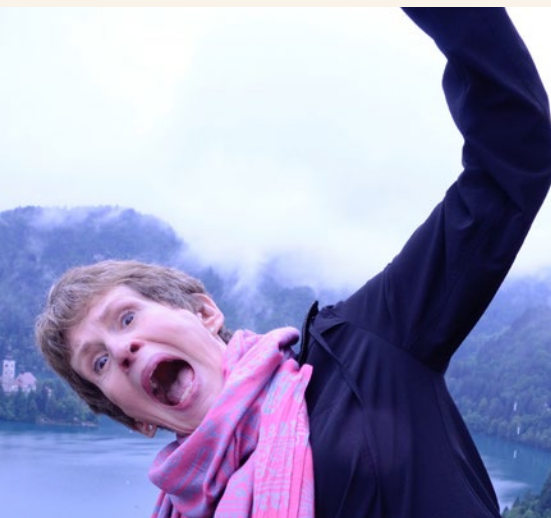
Perfect for my heroine who has so many troubles she needs to dance away from. So perfect for my difficult hero who doesn't appreciate the heroine's musical activities interrupting the Tennessee mountain nighttime quiet.

First thing next morning, I texted Editor Carrie. In response, I received a string of heart emojis.

And so, dear readers, I'm



thrilled to announce that **DANCE AWAY WITH ME** will be available June 9, 2020, and is ready for pre-order now. If you want to know more, read an excerpt at susanelizabethphillips.com/dance-away-with-me/.



FEATHERING A FICTIONAL NEST

(BUILDING A MAKE-BELIEVE
BEACH HOUSE)

by Mary Kay Andrews

As I write this from my home in Atlanta, winter is fading fast and spring is leaping out of the ground. Physically, I'm here, but mentally, I'm in the fictional beach town of Silver Bay, Florida, in a weather-beaten Gulf-front home that's been in Conley Hawkins' family for more than seventy years.

Silver Bay and Conley—the protagonist of my new novel *HELLO, SUMMER*, not to mention her family and friends, in fact all the villains and heroes of Silver Bay—exist only in my imagination.

Conley's family's beach house is also a product of my fictional nest feathering, but as a confirmed “decorator in denial,” I've had more fun designing and furnishing that imaginary beach house than the law should allow.

The Dunes is a three-story wood frame house, and it has withstood hurricanes, floods and more. Screened porches on both the upper floors look out over the dunes onto a small protected cove and offer a shady spot for sipping a cocktail and watching those magnificent Gulf sunsets.

The ground floor of The Dunes offers covered parking under the house, and an elevator shaft thoughtfully installed by Conley's late grandfather.

The living room, dining room, library and kitchen are located one story up.

The wood floors are old and scarred and covered with hooked rugs. The walls are heart-pine, shiplap, dotted with amateurish seascapes. There's a fireplace for chilly nights, and the rooms are furnished with dozens of pieces of mismatched wicker pieces, all painted and re-painted, year after year, the same shade of pale aqua and slipcovered in a deep green bark cloth fabric featuring ferns and caladiums.



The kitchen lacks a dishwasher, but there's a cast iron sink big enough to bathe a toddler in. A vintage turquoise plastic radio sits on the windowsill looking out over the Gulf.

The guest bedrooms, including a boys and girls bunkroom are also on the second floor, but the best room in the house is on

the top floor.

It was Conley's grandparents' bedroom, but now that her widowed grandmother has decided to stay in a downstairs bunk room, the “big room” is hers. It has a big brass bed dressed with a white chenille bedspread featuring blue and green peacocks, and its own bathroom, complete with a clawfoot tub, a commode with the original pull-chain flush, and a tiny corner-mounted sink. But best of all—a pair of French doors in the bedroom open out onto its very own private porch.

As the plot of *HELLO, SUMMER* unfolds, Conley, who has reluctantly returned to her hometown and a tricky family dynamic, notes that The Dunes has seen better days.

The roof leaks, water pressure is iffy, the wiring is a fire hazard, there's no central air conditioning and no WiFi, “Like covered wagon days,” the family housekeeper grumbles.

But as Conley gradually discovers, Silver Bay and The Dunes has its own special enchantments.

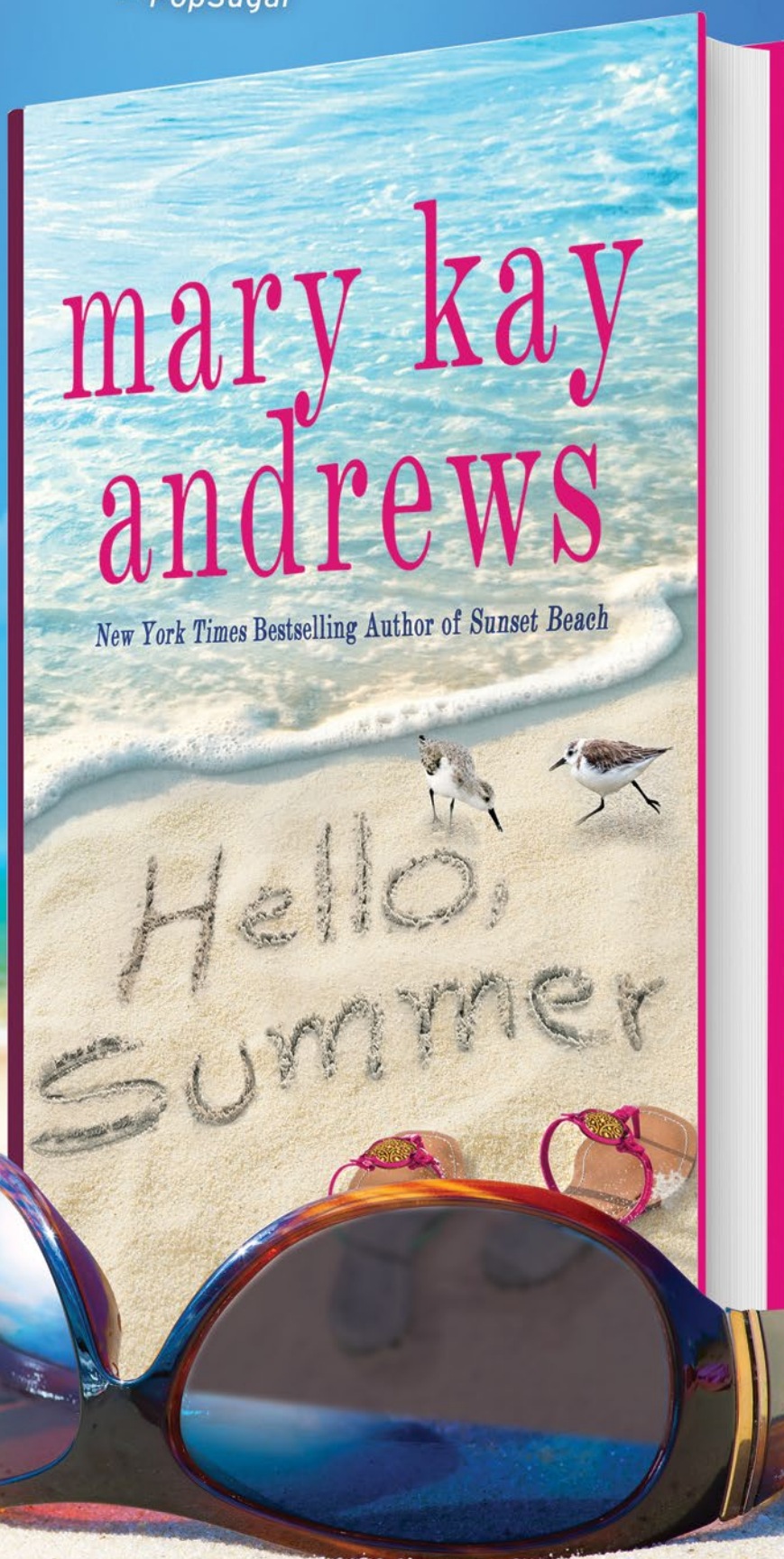
As she puts down roots and comes to grips with old betrayals and secrets, Conley begrudgingly opens her heart to the possibility that maybe she really could go home again.

Especially after she spots a certain cedar-wood swing located on the spot where the path through the dunes meets the beach, a perfect place to sit and watch the sun sink down into the waves—or even steal a kiss from a man she thought she'd left in her past.

"Hello, Summer is another gem
by the always wonderful Mary Kay Andrews."
— PopSugar

Giveaway

Win a copy of *Hello, Summer*
and a copy of *The Beach
House Cookbook* along with a
Mary Kay Andrews beach
towel, bookmark, and coaster.
Enter by June 1 at
bit.ly/MKASummer



Match the Authors with their Pets

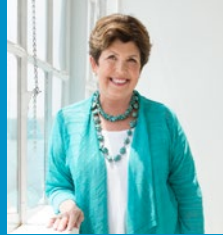
How well do you know your favorite authors? Can you match each of these critters with the human they love most?
(Some authors match up with more than one pet.)



Susan Mallery



Mary Alice Monroe



Mary Kay Andrews



RaeAnne Thayne



Jill Shalvis



Robyn Carr



Answers
Susan Mallery: A, F, J
Mary Alice Monroe: D
Mary Kay Andrews: E, G, K
RaeAnne Thayne: H
Jill Shalvis: B
Robyn Carr: C, I



Turning a Lemon into The Lemon Sisters

by Jill Shalvis

I get a lot of readers asking how The Lemon Sisters (out now!) idea came to be. For a long time the idea of two sisters floated in my head, each deeply unsatisfied with where their life had taken them, so much so that they wanted to exchange lives with each other. And the idea for The Lemon Sisters was born...

Both Brooke and Mindy needed a wakeup call, needed to make some changes, but deep, deep down, they didn't covet what the other had. They coveted what they had.

But oh my goodness, it took a while to get there. I started the book with Mindy showing up at her sister's door, a hot mess, which she basically dumped on Brooke. In real life, I don't have a sister, but if I did, I hope we would have the sort of relationship where I could do exactly that. But I did do that to a boyfriend once. And yes, I was as messed up as Mindy was.

When I was in my early 20's, I was in a car wreck and my car got totaled. This was way before the days of Uber, and I lived in LA, so having no car was a big problem. My job was a go nowhere position at barely minimum wage and I was going to college at night. I was exhausted all the time, and poor. I was eating a lot of ramen and peanut butter and apples. I lived in a 200 square foot studio apartment in Hollywood, and the same week as my car was totaled, my rent got raised.

I was a hot mess.

But with no sister to go dump my life on, I did the only thing I had available. I showed up at my relatively new boyfriend's apartment and completely lost it, sobbing and trying to talk at the same time. You know what I mean, right? When no one can understand a word you're saying, but you just keep going until you're doing that sort of hiccup sobbing because you can no longer breathe? No? Just me?

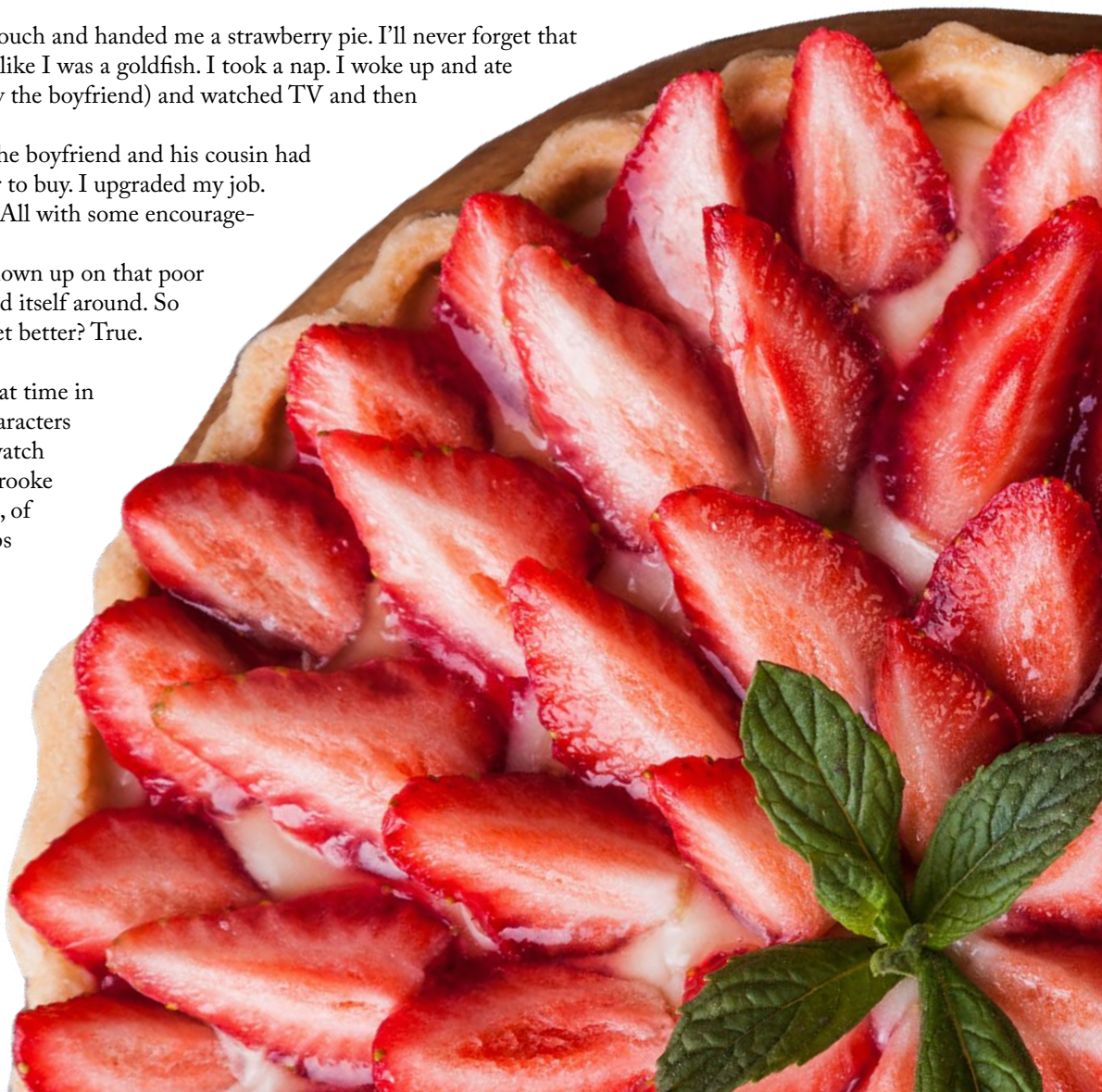
My boyfriend put me on his couch and handed me a strawberry pie. I'll never forget that strawberry pie. I ate a third of it like I was a goldfish. I took a nap. I woke up and ate some real food (handed to me by the boyfriend) and watched TV and then napped some more.

When I got myself together, the boyfriend and his cousin had found me a cheap but decent car to buy. I upgraded my job. Found a better, safer apartment. All with some encouragement and help.

And a year from the day I'd shown up on that poor guy's doorstep, my life had turned itself around. So that old adage that things will get better? True. At least in my case, thankfully.

So it was fun going back to that time in my memories and having my characters sink as low as they could go to watch them work their way out of it. Brooke and Mindy took their own route, of course, and there were a few steps forward to a few steps back, but they had each other to count on – even when they didn't know it.

I hope you enjoy their journey in The Lemon Sisters. I sure did. Oh, and what happened to that poor guy from my past? I married him...



“Readers come for the characters
but stay for the animals.”

— *New York Times*



NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF
THE SUMMER GUESTS

Mary Alice
Monroe

"I start my summer season with
Mary Alice Monroe's enchanting
novels... I'm a devoted fan."
—ELIN HILDBRAND,
New York Times bestselling author

On Ocean
Boulevard



Giveaway

Join Mary Alice's mailing list for a chance to win a signed copy of *On Ocean Boulevard* and a beautiful beach towel! Sign up at MaryAliceMonroe.com by June 1.

Unexpected Gift of Time: Obstacle or Opportunity?

by Mary Alice Monroe



In February, I was on a three-week Viking cruise along the coast of South America, to the southernmost tip of the world! Fabulous. The ship was extraordinarily mindful of hand sanitization. There was mandatory “spritz” before anyone was allowed to enter eating areas. Nonetheless, I found out afterward that people did get sick. The boat never told us.

I discovered it because after I left the boat, a woman was hacking on the bus! She was with me all day as we drove to Santiago, waited to board the plane, and as luck would have it, she was on my plane. I offered her a mask and she said, “Oh, no, I was tested for the flu. I got Tamiflu and the doctor told me if I’m not feverish, I’m not contagious.”

I gave her a mask and told her to wear it “just in case” and she did. I wore a mask, but when I got home, yep—I got a fever, chills, and a dry hacking cough. Sounds like coronavirus. I was responsible and went to get checked and tested at the doctor’s office. This was March 1st and they had no COVID-19 test kits. Nor did the cruise ship. Grrrrr. I did not have a flu. I had a virus, but I’ll never really know if I had COVID-19.

Nonetheless, I went into self isolation—but I was finishing a book, so that felt normal for me. Ha! I’m well now, and I remain at home per government request, just like many of you. We’re being challenged to act in good faith, be responsible for the community well-being. For many, the question has been what to do with so much time at home?

This experience reminds me of days back when I was pregnant with my child, and the doctor put me on forced bed rest for a few months. It was a shock. I had to leave my career as a teacher. I had little extra money as my husband was a medical resident, so first we exhausted the generosity of my mother and mother-in-law to help with the housework and care for my five-year-old daughter. My church found a kind woman who volunteered to help me. I learned then of the kindness of strangers in times of trouble.

At first, I felt sorry for myself. I was stuck in bed for a few months with no control over my home, my job. Then my psychiatrist husband took the television out of my bedroom. I was furious! “What am I going to do?”

He said to me, “Mary Alice, for as long as I’ve known you, you’ve wanted to write a novel, but you didn’t have the time. Now you have the time.” He gave me a yellow pad and a pen.

I wrote the first draft of my first novel during those few months. It took a while for that book to be completed, polished and submitted—but it sold! My life was changed forever. I gave birth to a baby—and a book!

I learned a valuable lesson then and now. What can seem an obstacle can, in fact, be an opportunity. Saying “yes!” to the universe brings rewards. The window is opened to possibilities. Saying “no!” with fear shuts the window and only creates fear and inaction.

So, I ask you... What can you do to see this unexpected gift of time at home as an opportunity? Do you have a project you’ve been eager to try but had no time? Now you have time! What would you love to have finished at the end of our period of “social distancing”?

Don’t waste it sitting in front of the computer or television. Carpe diem!



Peek Inside My Office

We asked the authors to show us where the magic happens!



*Till
Shalvis*



*Susan Elizabeth
Phillips*



*RaeAnne
Thayne*



*Mary Alice
Monroe*



*Susan
Mallery*



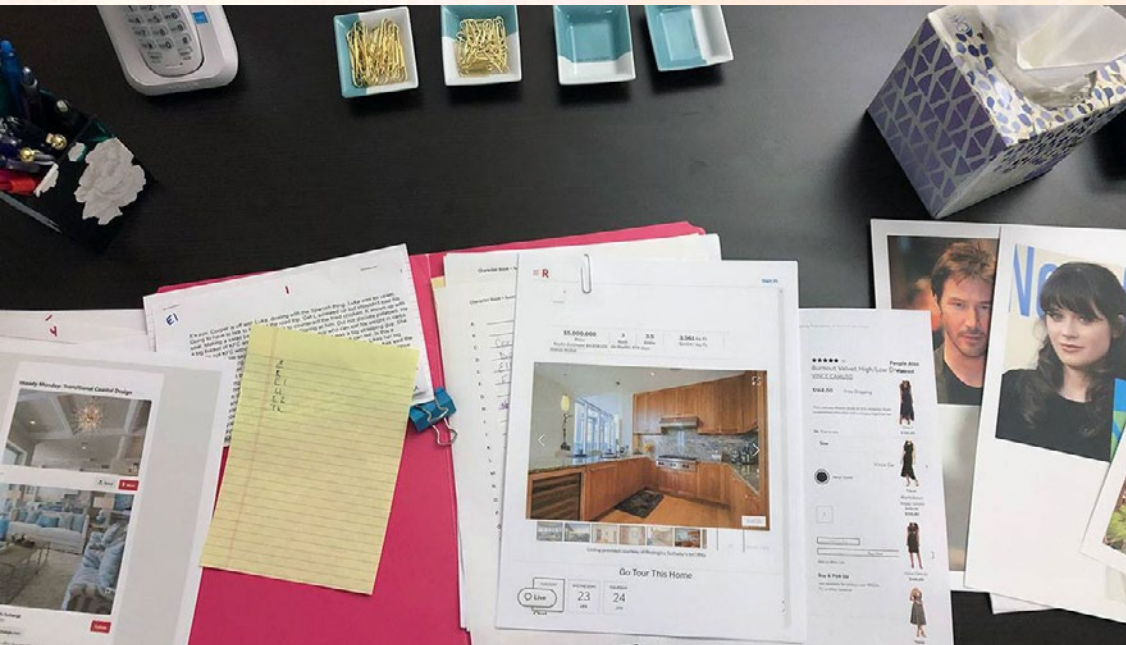
*Mary Kay
Andrews*



Diary of *The Friendship List*

by Susan Mallery

While writing *The Friendship List*, one of my favorite books that I've ever written, I shared insider tidbits with the members of the Susan Mallery All Access group. (www.facebook.com/groups/susanmalleryallaccess) I try to share moments to give readers an insight into my process, but at the same time, I'm very careful not to post any spoilers that will impact the joy of discovering a new story. I went back through and pulled some of my posts from last year while I was writing the book, which is scheduled to be released on August 4 and can be preordered at www.thefriendshiplist.com.



January 16, 2019

I'm at the stage of plotting my next book where I just wander around muttering to myself. Occasionally in public.

January 23, 2019

Plotting is finished. Yay. Now I start writing. The card with E1 is an example of plotting. One card per scene. This book (the 2020 hardcover) is about 70 scenes. There are character pics and ideas for different rooms. Don't you love the kitchen?? I am swooning over it.

February 5, 2019

We had snow in Seattle, so the city is basically shut down. My poor dog is going stir crazy. Kelli still has a lot of puppy in her. Sooooo much energy packed in that little body! Usually I take her to doggie day care. Because of the snow, she can't

go. The cats are useless as far as being playmates.

It can be a challenge to stay immersed in the story when this little blur of fur keeps whizzing by in my peripheral vision. And she keeps bringing a toy to me. A different toy each time, trying to figure out which one will convince me to stop working. The book I'm working on now will be next year's hardcover. The main characters are Ellen and Unity, two friends in their 30s who realize that for different reasons and in different ways, they're living like old women. So they challenge each other to get a little wild to shake up their lives and act their age. It's going to be a really fun story to write. (I just started.) I wrote the first scene from Thaddeus's point of view. Yes, there's a Thaddeus, and he. Is. Fabulous.

February 6, 2019

Sigh..... my heroine and hero met today, and it did not go at all as I had planned. She has bigger problems than I (or she) had realized. That means that I need to step back and take a look at all the plotting for the rest of the story. The good news is that I'm having SO MUCH FUN writing this book! I'm laughing a lot.

March 17, 2019 from a cruise ship in Barcelona

I'm working on Ellen and Unity's story, which will be out next summer. No title yet. I suggested "With You from the Start" to my editor. She has to run it past Sales & Marketing, so we'll see. Ellen and Unity are best friends from childhood who are now in their thirties. As the book starts, they realize that they have each in their own way become stuck in their lives, and they challenge each other to shake things up. It's soooooo much fun to write!!!

July 4, 2019

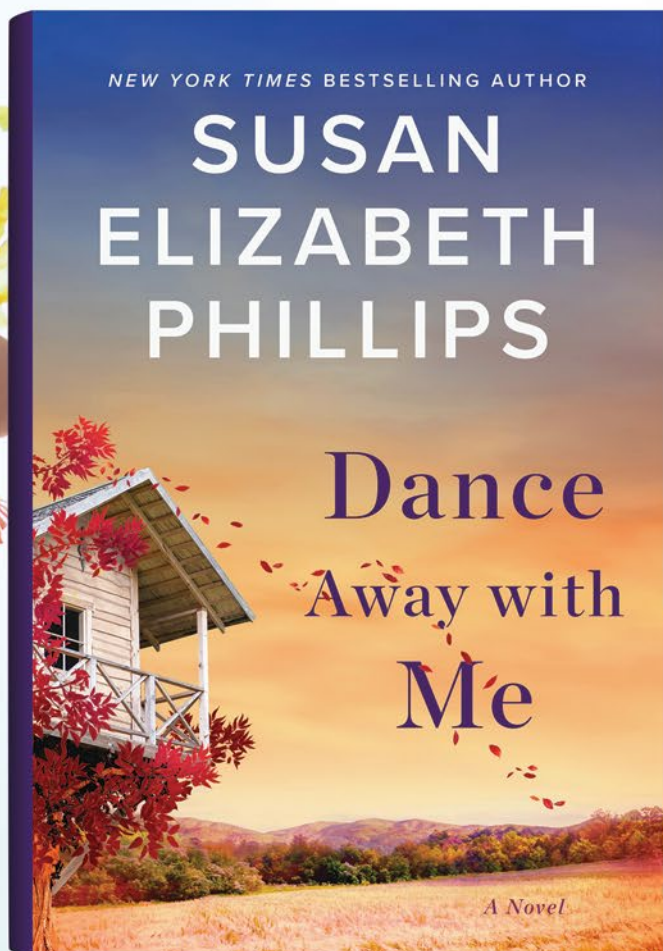
This week, I set aside Wynn's story (*Happily This Christmas*) in order to work on revisions for Ellen and Unity's book. I've told you a little bit about Ellen and Unity already, but I don't think I've told you this yet: We have a title!!!! *The Friendship List* is the perfect title for this story. Early in the book, Ellen and Unity are confronted with an uncomfortable truth: they're both stuck, for very different reasons. They're in their 30s, but they've stopped having adventures. So they challenge each other to shake things up.

It's my new benchmark for how fun I want my books to be. I enjoyed writing this one from the first page to the last. There were sooooo many scenes that I just couldn't wait to write.

“Two people determined to withdraw from society
instead discover the power of human connection
in this deeply felt romance....

This stirring romance is sure to capture readers’ hearts.”

Publishers Weekly Starred Review



Giveaway

May 2020 monthly sweepstakes
prize: an autographed mass
market paperback edition of
HEROES ARE MY WEAKNESS.
Enter by May 31 at
[https://susanelizabethphillips.com
/monthly-sweepstakes-2/](https://susanelizabethphillips.com/monthly-sweepstakes-2/)



How Covid-19 Impacted Authors

Authors tend to work from home, so we were curious to see whether they'd been impacted by the stay-home orders that have affected most of the country. Mary Alice Monroe had a very personal story to share, which you can read in her essay on page 9 of this magazine. Here's what the other authors said.

Mary Kay Andrews

I'm stressed about this awful disease and the indelible mark it's making on our world. And the stress is distracting which means writing on my work-in-progress only gets done in tiny 500 word nibbles instead of my usual goal of 2k words at one sitting. I'm baking up a storm, consuming crazy levels of carbs—so much that I've labeled March (and maybe April) as Starch Madness. Wine consumption has also gone up. I'm holding my loved ones close, and trying? to practice gratefulness. I'm also trying so hard not to be sad about the fact that my favorite part of my publishing calendar—book tour—will probably not happen this May. Instead, I'll be saying *Hello, Summer* to my readers online.

RaeAnne Thayne

My middle son has multiple disabilities and is medically fragile, particularly prone to pneumonia. He's had several bad lung infections, including two requiring surgery to clean out widespread infection from his lungs. He already receives two hours of breathing treatments every day to keep his lungs clear. Given how hard Covid19 impacts those with preexisting breathing issues, we were justifiably nervous about the virus when reports first starting coming out about it from China and had made the decision to self-isolate for his protection before it became a national issue.

He is nonmobile and nonverbal and requires total care. I didn't realize how much I count on his day program until he suddenly can't go. Between that and making sure my high school junior keeps up with his classwork from home, it's been a whole new world in parenting but my husband's been amazing to step up and handle everything.

Susan Mallery

I'm very sad that we had to cancel the book tour for *The Friendship List*. I was really looking forward to connecting with my readers. You mean so much to me! But we can find other ways to stay close. My team is putting together a virtual tour instead, so you can join from the comfort and safety of your home. I've got great raffle prizes set aside for each stop. I had been planning to bring a few hundred goodie bags to give away at tour stops. Now I'm going to mail 2,000 *The Friendship List* goodie bags this summer. You can sign up on the Contest page of my website, under the Members menu.

On a personal note, I miss hanging out with my friends. But I take comfort in knowing that we will be able to get together again one day soon. This won't last forever. In the meantime, please nurture yourself and stay connected to the people you love.

Jill Shalvis

I have everyone home, and by everyone, I mean all 10 of us and four dogs and a pissed off cat all sheltering in place together. It's been hard, but also the absolute best... p.s. think about the logistics of keeping that many people fed ... :)



RaeAnne Thayne's Honey Chicken Veggie Kebabs

1/4 cup vegetable oil
1/3 cup raw honey
1/3 cup low sodium soy sauce
Ground pepper to taste
10 skinless boneless chicken tenders, cut into 2 inch cubes
2 tsp chopped garlic
1 large onion, cut into 2 inch pieces
2-3 peppers, any color, cut into 2 inch pieces
Wooden skewers
Optional: 2 small zucchini or squash, sliced

Soak wooden skewers in water for at least 1/2 hour (or longer) so they don't char on the grill.

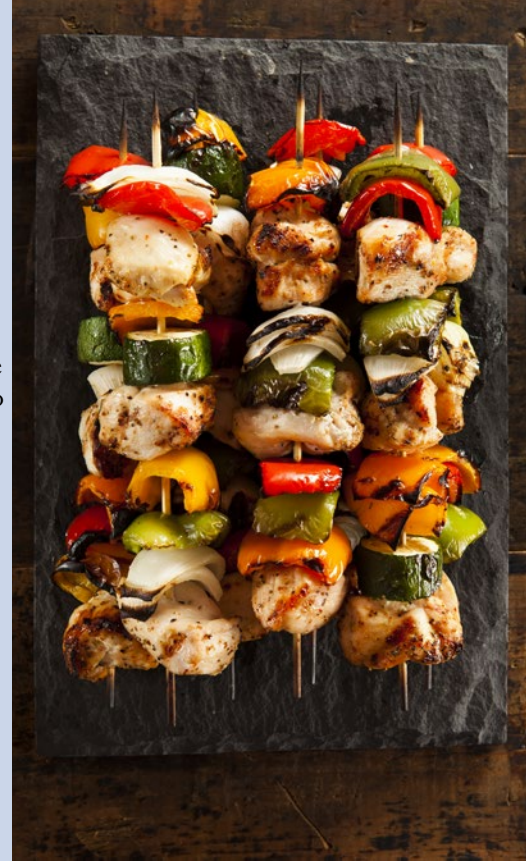
Whisk together oil, honey, soy sauce, pepper and garlic. Separate into two containers or zippered bags. In one, put chicken. In the other one, put onions and peppers and optional squash/zucchini. Marinate for at least 2 hours (longer is better).

Preheat grill, high heat

Drain marinade from the chicken, discard. Keep marinade from vegetables to brush on food while grilling. Skewer chicken

and vegetables. You can alternate them (which is prettier) but we like to thread the chicken and the vegetables on separate skewers since they tend to require different grilling times. Grill chicken for 12 to 15 minutes until chicken juices run clear. Veggies take about 9-10 minutes. Turn every 3 minutes, brushing on reserved marinade after the first turn.

We use this basic marinade for chicken breasts too and it's delicious!



Note: These recipes are available as a printable PDF at FictionforWomen.com

MAIN DISH

Susan Elizabeth Phillips' Lighter Chicken Salad

I've made this for baby showers, wedding showers, guests, and family. It's my go-to summer dish, compliments of my dear friend, writer Lindsay Longford. I have no quantities for anything, but I figure about 1 chicken breast per person and go from there.

Chicken breasts cooked (but not dried out!) and cut into bite-

sized chunks.

Celery (a LITTLE celery cut into very small dice. Too much overwhelms the salad. Be subtle.)

Pineapple (I buy the canned slices packed in their own juice and then cut them into small pieces)

Seedless Grapes (halved. This is kind of a pain. Make sure you get nice, sweet grapes.

Dried cranberries

Dressing: (This is the key to what makes it so tasty and not as cloying as most chicken salads.)

1 part yogurt to 1 part good mayonnaise. (Greek yogurt is a little too thick. I prefer 1% PLAIN yogurt.) I usually add a touch of a good balsamic if it needs it. Salt.

Toasted pecans on the side (optional)

If you want to make part of this a day ahead, I combine chicken, celery, dried cranberries, just a bit of the dressing so it doesn't dry out, and stick in the refrigerator. The next day, I add the grapes, pineapple, and full dressing.



Mary Kay Andrews' Low Country Boil

Low Country Boil is a meal—and an event! Here's how it works. You invite some friends over, and you grab the biggest stockpot you can find. If you have one of those nifty outdoor cookers with a propane tank and a stand for your stockpot, that's swell, but a stovetop works well, too. Spread newspapers over your table and put out some nutcrackers and cocktail picks for the blue crabs (if you've been able to procure them), cocktail sauce and lemons for the shrimp, melted butter for the potatoes, plenty of ice-cold beer, and lots of wet naps or paper towels. Here's what you'll need to feed ten to twelve eager pals.

- 1 (12-oz.) can beer
- 1 cup Old Bay seasoning
- 2 lemons, quartered, plus lemon wedges for serving
- ½ cup white wine vinegar
- 3 lb. medium-sized red potatoes, unpeeled, halved
- 4lb. spicy sausage (such as kielbasa or andouille), cut into 2-inch pieces
- 2 large Vidalia onions, quartered
- 8 ears corn, shucked and cut in half
- 1 dozen live blue crabs
- 3 lb. large shrimp, unpeeled

Cocktail sauce, lemon wedges, melted butter (optional) for serving

Bring 4 gallons of water, the beer, the Old Bay, the lemon quarters, and the vinegar to a boil in a large stockpot over high heat.

Add the potatoes; cook for 5 minutes. Add sausage and onions. Return to a boil, and cook for 15 minutes. Add the corn; cook for 5 minutes. Add the blue crabs. Return to a boil, and cook for about 6 minutes. Add the shrimp; cook for 4 to 6 minutes, or until the shrimp are pink and the potatoes are tender.

Drain the seafood boil in a large colander, and serve with the cocktail sauce, lemon wedges, and melted butter, if desired



3H RECIPES

Susan Mallery's Easy Chicken Quesadillas

This is a great way to use up leftover chicken. It comes together in a snap to make a truly satisfying dinner. For extra veggies, I add lettuce, onions and tomatoes to the plate and eat it all together. This makes a full meal for four people.

- 2 cups cooked chicken, diced
- 4 oz can diced green chilis (we use mild)
- 2 Tbsp olive oil
- ¼ cup diced onions
- 1 Tbsp chili powder
- ½ tsp garlic salt
- 8 oz shredded Monterey Jack cheese
- 8 flour tortillas

Saute onions in olive oil until translucent. Add the chicken, chilis and spices. Cook, stirring frequently, until heated through. Heat a clean pan over

medium-low heat. Put in one tortilla, add cheese, one-quarter of the chicken mixture, then more cheese and top with another tortilla. When the cheese on the bottom has melted, flip carefully and continue cooking until the rest of the cheese has melted and the tortilla is golden. Repeat with remaining ingredients.



To serve, cut the quesadillas into four or six wedges. You can use a knife, but I've found that kitchen shears work really well for this. Careful—they're hot.

Serve with sour cream, guacamole, tortilla chips and salsa.



Robyn Carr News

Now that Virgin River Series season 1 is streaming on Netflix, the question I am asked most often is: “When is season 2 coming out?” All I know is that Netflix announced the release to be sometime this year. With so much being put on hold, all we can hope is that that hasn’t changed. As soon as Netflix announces the date, I will share the news on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and in my newsletter. If you haven’t watched yet or don’t have Netflix, I hope you’ll check it out. Did you know Netflix offers a free 30-day trial? Virgin River book #1 is available now with a beautiful new cover. Watch the series — Read the book!

Big News! My Sullivan’s Crossing Series is being optioned by Reel World Management, the same fabulous team that brought the Virgin River Series to Netflix. Follow me on Facebook for updates and stay tuned.

My new stand-alone women’s fiction novel, **SUNRISE ON HALF MOON BAY**, is now available. I hope you’ll join me.

Sometimes the happiness we’re looking for has been there all along...

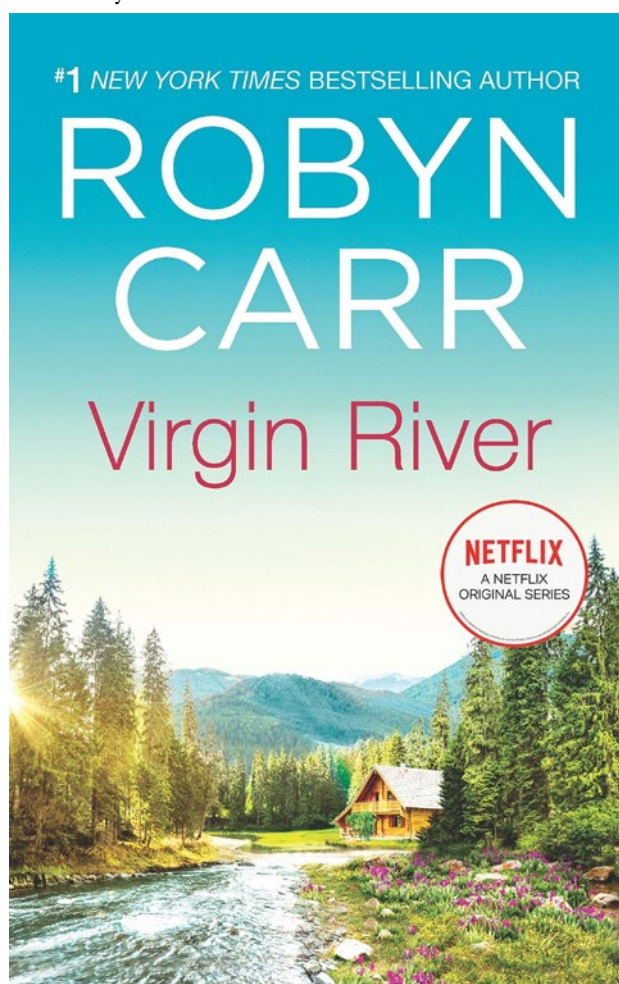
Adele and Justine have never been close. Born twenty years apart, Justine was already an adult when Addie was born. The sisters love each other but they don’t really know each other.

When Addie dropped out of university to care for their ailing parents, Justine, a successful lawyer, covered the expenses. It was the best arrangement at the time but now that their parents are gone, the future has changed dramatically for both women.

Addie had great plans for her life but has been worn down by the pressures of being a caregiver and doesn’t know how to live for herself. And Justine’s success has come at a price. Her marriage is falling apart despite her best efforts.

Neither woman knows how to start life over but both realize they can and must support each other the way only sisters can. Together they find the strength to accept their failures and overcome their challenges. Happiness is within reach, if only they have the courage to fight for it.

Set in the stunning coastal town of Half Moon Bay, California, Robyn Carr’s new novel examines the joys of sisterhood and the importance of embracing change.





*Sometimes the happiness we're
looking for has been there all along...*

**“An absolute heartbreaker of a story...
with the best kind of happy ending!”**

ReadingReality.net

Giveaway

Enter Robyn's monthly website contest by May 31 for a chance to win a signed hardcover edition of **THE COUNTRY GUESTHOUSE**, Sullivan's Crossing book 5.
<https://www.robyncarr.com/contest/>

Ending a Series

RaeAnne Thayne



When does an author say good-bye to a series? That is a dilemma I've faced many times in my career. I love writing connected books, as evidenced by my many series (The Cowboys of Cold Creek, Hope's Crossing, Cape Sanctuary, to name a few recent series). I have been writing my Haven Point series since 2013 and Summer at Lake Haven marks the 11th book in the series. It will also be the final book, at least for now.

I'll admit, I'm a little sad to say good-bye. I've loved the community I've created. I wish it really existed so I could buy a lakeside house here and spend my days next to the stunning blue waters, sur-

rounded by pine trees, snowcapped mountains and warm, kind people.

Readers often ask me how and why I make the hard choice to move on to something else after many of years of writing a long-running series. I don't have an easy answer to that, other than I usually know instinctively when it's time to pack up my laptop and find a new fictional place to live for awhile. Sometimes the series becomes so big and unwieldy that readers don't know where to jump in and are afraid they will be lost if they start half-way through. Sometimes my own creative well seems to have run dry and writing in a new setting is the best way to ensure I am still providing my muse (and my readers!) something fresh. Sometimes I've simply run out of secondary characters whose stories I want to write.

I have loved writing each and every book in Haven Point. I love the town and the setting and could possibly go on forever, introducing new people and new situations. But at some point, I need the challenge of starting over in a new place where the opportunities for character development aren't limited by what I'm already done in that particular series.

I never say I'm completely done with a series, I usually say this is the last book FOR NOW. That's an important distinction. I might reach a point where I decide to revisit Haven Point (or Hope's Crossing, for that matter). I never say never! Last year I started another trilogy in my Women of Brambleberry House series, 10 years after the last book in the original series came out.

Starting a new series or a standalone book gives me the same rush I used to get as a girl when I would open a shiny, brand-new package of 64 crayons with the points still sharp and the paper still clean. It's a fabulous feeling full of endless possibilities and I can't wait to see what I create!

THE END

Return to Haven Point
for one last summer by the lake...

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR

RAEANNE THAYNE

SUMMER AT LAKE HAVEN

*Includes
a bonus
novella!*

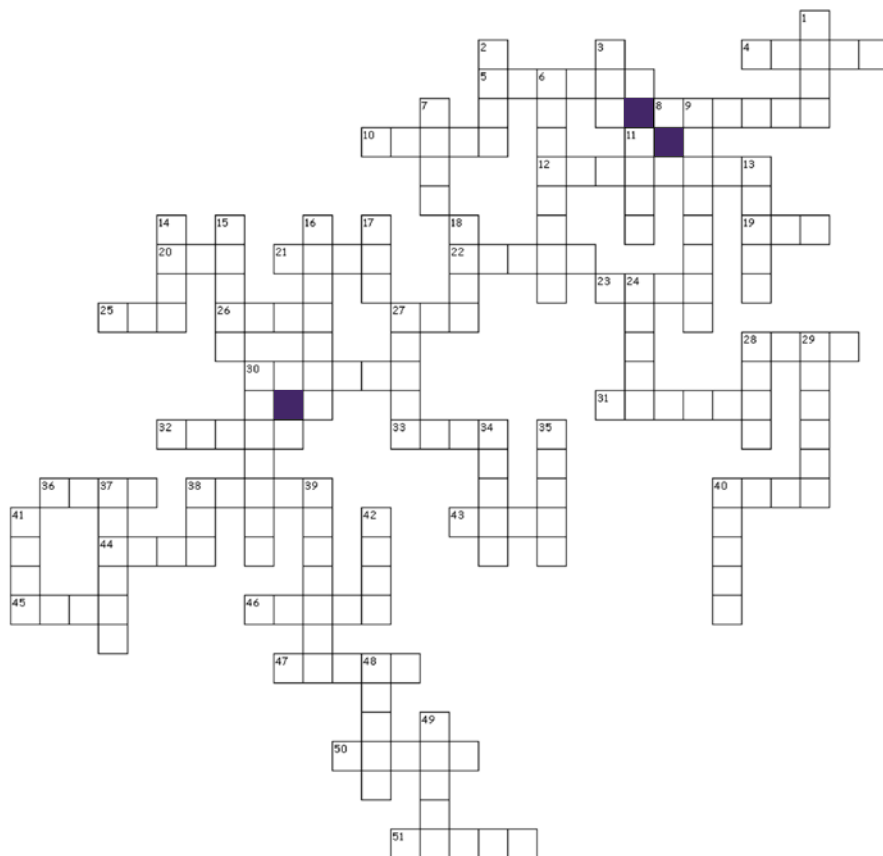
A HAVEN POINT NOVEL

Giveaway

For a chance to win a \$25 Barnes & Noble gift card + a signed copy of *Summer at Lake Haven*, sign up for RaeAnne's mailing list by June 1 at <https://www.raeannethayne.com/contest/>

Fiction for Women Crossword Puzzle

Each of the clues below is the title of a book written by one of the contributing authors to this magazine. If you're stuck, look at the BOOKS page of that author's website to find the answer! Keep track of how many times you check. Note: you can get this puzzle as a printable PDF at FictionforWomen.com.



ACROSS

4. _____ that Kiss – Jill Shalvis
5. The _____ of Sunshine and Margot – Susan Mallery
8. The Great _____ – Susan Elizabeth Phillips
10. Daughters of the _____ – Susan Mallery
12. Last Light over _____ – Mary Alice Monroe
19. The Summer's _____ – Mary Alice Monroe
20. Chasing Christmas _____ – Jill Shalvis
21. The Summer _____ – Jill Shalvis
22. Virgin _____ – Robyn Carr
23. Sunrise on Half _____ Bay – Robyn Carr
25. Nobody _____ You – Jill Shalvis
26. A _____ Creek Holiday – RaeAnne Thyne
27. The Wrangler and the Runaway _____ – RaeAnne Thyne
28. Dance _____ with Me – Susan Elizabeth Phillips
30. _____ Beach – Mary Kay Andrews
31. _____ of Wonder – RaeAnne Thyne

32. _____ Eyes – Mary Kay Andrews
33. The _____ Tide Club – Mary Kay Andrews
36. Springtime in _____ River – RaeAnne Thyne
38. On _____ Boulevard – Mary Alice Monroe
40. The Friendship _____ – Susan Mallery
43. The Friends We _____ – Susan Mallery
44. Save the _____ – Mary Kay Andrews
45. The _____ She Wants – Robyn Carr
46. _____ Me at Christmas – Susan Mallery
47. The _____ House – RaeAnne Thyne
50. The _____ Sisters – Jill Shalvis
51. _____ Summer – Mary Kay Andrews

DOWN

1. When We Found _____ – Susan Mallery
2. First Star (2 wds) Tonight – Susan Elizabeth Phillips
3. The _____ Glass Cottage – RaeAnne Thyne
6. The Girls of _____ Bay – Susan Mallery

7. The _____ from Alameda Island – Robyn Carr
9. _____ Lessons – Mary Alice Monroe
11. The Long _____ Home – Mary Alice Monroe
13. Heroes (2 wds) Weakness – Susan Elizabeth Phillips
14. The _____ of Us – Robyn Carr
15. _____ Town – Mary Kay Andrews
16. A Lowcountry _____ – Mary Alice Monroe
17. _____ I Want for Christmas – Robyn Carr
18. Shelter _____ the Storm – RaeAnne Thyne
24. The House on _____ Street – Robyn Carr
27. _____ Me if You Can – Susan Elizabeth Phillips
28. _____ She Sweet – Susan Elizabeth Phillips
29. _____ Just Friends – Jill Shalvis
30. _____ by Choice – Susan Mallery
34. Summer at Lake _____ – RaeAnne Thyne
35. Playing for _____ – Jill Shalvis
37. _____ Night – Mary Kay Andrews
38. _____ Wish – Robyn Carr
39. _____ Born Charmer – Susan Elizabeth Phillips
40. Christmas in _____ Harbor – Jill Shalvis
41. _____ in the Mirror – Mary Alice Monroe
42. Glitter _____ – Susan Elizabeth Phillips
48. Spring _____ – Mary Kay Andrews
49. Beach _____ for Rent – Mary Alice Monroe

How Did You Do?

I checked 0 times!

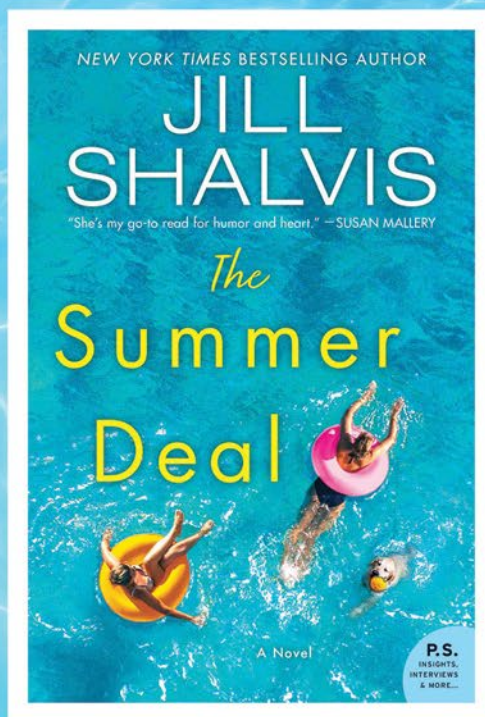
You're a women's fiction maniac, the envy of all your peers.

I checked 1-5 times

Good job! You're a true fan, and still have some fun reads in store.

I checked 6+ times

Did you make note of all the wonderful books you want to read?



“Tender... Believable, realistic characters are at the heart of this novel. Shalvis will immediately grab the reader’s attention with a strong heroine and caring connection between two wounded souls.”

— *Publishers Weekly*

“Fans of the TV drama series *This Is Us* as well as love stories ripe with secrets waiting to be spilled will devour Shalvis’s latest in the series.”

— *Library Journal*

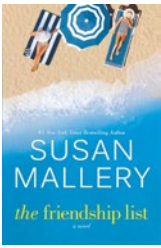


Giveaway

Everyone who signs up for Jill's newsletter by June 1 will be in the running for a Shalvis tote filled with the Wildstone series.

jillshalvis.com/newsletter

Summer Reads



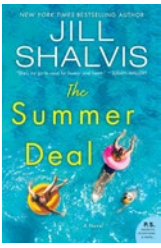
Two best friends jump-start their lives in a summer that will change them forever...

Single mom Ellen Fox couldn't be more content—until she overhears her son saying he can't go to his dream college because she needs him too much. If she wants him to live his best life, she has to convince him she's living hers.

So Unity Leandre, her best friend since forever, creates a list of challenges to push Ellen out of her comfort zone. Unity will complete the list, too, but not because she needs to change. What's wrong with a thirtysomething widow still sleeping in her late husband's childhood bed?

The Friendship List begins as a way to make others believe they're just fine. But somewhere between “wear three-inch heels” and “have sex with a gorgeous guy,” Ellen and Unity discover that life is meant to be lived with joy and abandon, in a story filled with humor, heartache and regrettable tattoos.

Where to Buy: thefriendshiplist.com



From New York Times bestselling author Jill Shalvis comes a friends-to-frenemies-to-lovers story... Add in a few secrets. Shake. Stir. Then read on a lazy summer day at the beach...

Brynn Turner's personal life is like a ping-pong match that's left her scared and hurt after so many attempts to get it right. In search of a fresh start, she heads back home to Wildstone.

Kinsey Davis, after battling serious health issues her entire life, is tired of hoping for . . . well, anything. She's fierce, tough, and she's keeping more than one bombshell of a secret from Brynn -- her long-time frenemy.

But then Brynn runs into Kinsey's best friend, Eli, renewing her childhood crush. The good news: he's still easy-going and funny and sexy as hell. The bad news: when he gets her to agree to a summer-time deal to trust him to do right by her, no matter what, she never dreams it'll result in finding a piece of herself she didn't even know was missing. She could have real connections, possibly love, and a future—if she can only learn to let go of the past.

As the long days of summer wind down, the three of them must discover if forgiveness is enough to grasp the unconditional love that's right in front of them.

Where to Buy: jillshalvis.com



Return to the beloved Beach House series with this breathtaking novel about one family's summer of forging new beginnings against the enduring beauty and resilience of the natural world.

It's been sixteen years since Cara Rutledge returned home to the beautiful shores of Charleston. She's weathered the tides of deaths and births, struggles and joys. And now, as Cara prepares for her second wedding, her life is about to change yet again.

The rest of the Rutledge family is also in flux. Cara's niece Linnea returns to Sullivan's Island to begin a new career and an unexpected relationship. Linnea's parents, having survived bankruptcy, pin their hopes and futures on the construction of a new home on Ocean Boulevard. But as excitement over the house and wedding builds, a devastating illness strikes the family and brings plans to a screeching halt. The Rutledge family must come together yet again to discover the enduring strength in love, tradition, and legacy from mother to daughter to granddaughter.

Like the sea turtles that come ashore annually on these windswept islands, three generations of the Rutledge family experience a season of return, rebirth, and growth.

Where to Buy: maryalicemonroe.com



It's a new season...

Conley Hawkins left her family's small town newspaper, The Silver Bay Beacon, in the rearview mirror years ago. Now a star reporter for a big-city paper, Conley is exactly where she wants to be and is about to take a fancy new position in Washington, D.C. Or so she thinks.

For small town scandals...

When the new job goes up in smoke, Conley finds herself right back where she started, working for her sister, who is trying to keep The Silver Bay Beacon afloat—and she doesn't exactly have warm feelings for Conley. Soon she is given the unenviable task of overseeing the local gossip column, "Hello, Summer."

And big-time secrets.

Then Conley witnesses an accident that ends in the death of a local congressman—a beloved war hero with a shady past. The more she digs into the story, the more dangerous it gets. As an old heartbreaker causes trouble and a new flame ignites, it soon looks like their sleepy beach town is the most scandalous hotspot of the summer.

Where to Buy: marykayandrews.com

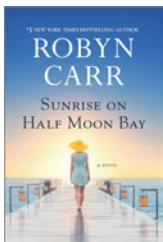


A lakeside summer, a new beginning...

Samantha Fremont has been struggling with the weight of her mother's expectations for years. But now that her mother has passed away, it's time for Sam to be bold and finally establish the fashion design business she's always dreamed of. And the perfect opportunity has fallen into her lap. Her friend's getting married and has asked Sam to create her wedding dress...if only she can avoid the bride's infuriating brother, who's temporarily the boy next door.

Ian Summerhill knows a sabbatical in Haven Point is exactly what he and his children need to recover from their mother's death. His romantic relationship with his ex-wife may have ended years ago, but caring for her throughout her illness broke his heart. All he wants is to watch his little sister walk down the aisle and to see his kids smile again. And somehow his lovely new neighbor is instrumental in both. But as their uneasy truce blossoms into a genuine friendship and more, Ian has obligations in England he can't ignore—and a secret that threatens the fragile trust he and Sam have built.

Where to Buy: raeannethayne.com



Sometimes the happiness we're looking for has been there all along...

Adele and Justine have never been close. Born twenty years apart, Justine was already an adult when Addie was born. The sisters love each other but they don't really know each other.

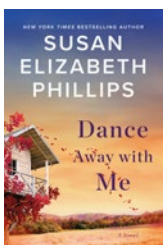
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Set in the stunning coastal town of Half Moon Bay, California, Robyn Carr's new novel examines the joys of sisterhood and the importance of embracing change.

Where to Buy: robyncarr.com



At long last, the legendary New York Times bestselling author returns with a heartfelt novel of womanhood, a wild heart, and the healing power of love.

Run, run, as fast as you can!

When life throws her one setback too many, midwife and young widow Tess Hartsong takes off for Runaway Mountain. In this small town high in the Tennessee mountains, surrounded by nature, she hopes to outrun her heartbreak and find the solace she needs to heal.

But instead of peace and quiet, she encounters an enigmatic artist with a craving for solitude, a fairy-tale sprite with too many secrets, a helpless infant, a passel of curious teens, and a town suspicious of outsiders, especially one as headstrong as Tess. Just as headstrong, is Ian North, a difficult, gifted man with a tortured soul—a man who makes Tess question everything.

In running away to this new life, Tess wonders— Has she lost herself . . . or has she found her future?

Where to Buy: susanelizabethphillips.com



12 Random Things in *Dance Away with Me*

In no particular order...

- An abandoned moonshine still
- Good espresso
- A can of Krylon
- Doughnuts. Lots of doughnuts
- A crimson dress
- A dangerous hero
- A grieving widow
- A rundown log cabin
- A fairy sprite
- A schoolhouse bell
- Sexy stuff
- Poop

Forget that last one Yes, it's in the book, but since there's a baby involved... Never-mind. (I really, really need to get better at this promotional stuff!)

Susan Elizabeth Phillips

Mary Alice Monroe's Daily Superfood Drink

- 1 Yerba Mate tea bag
- 1 TBSP Maca powder
- 1-2 TBSP Complete plant protein powder, vanilla flavor (I use PlantFusion brand)
- 1 TBSP Sun Potion raw cocoa blend "Anandamide"
- 1 TBSP coconut oil
- 1/2 – 1 tsp. hemp seed
- 1/2 – 1 tsp. ground flaxseed
- 2 pitted dates

Pour boiling water in a coffee mug, and add one tea bag. Steep for 5 minutes. Meanwhile, in a blender dump in all other ingredients. Remove tea bag from coffee mug and discard. Pour hot tea liquid in blender and puree for approximately ten seconds.

Pour warm blended drink into your mug and enjoy.



Jill Shalvis's You're My Honey Bun Muffins

- 1/2 cup (1 stick) butter, softened
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1/4 cup honey
- 1 egg
- 3-4 ripe bananas
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1/2 teaspoon almond extract or black walnut extract
- 1 1/2 cups self rising flour

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Prepare 12 cup muffin pan by spraying with no stick oil or lining with cupcake holders

Combine butter, brown sugar, honey and egg in a mixing bowl. Peel bananas and mash on a plate with a fork. Add to bowl and stir until smooth. Add vanilla and almond or walnut extract. Add flour and stir until it forms a thick, smooth batter. Spoon batter into muffin pan

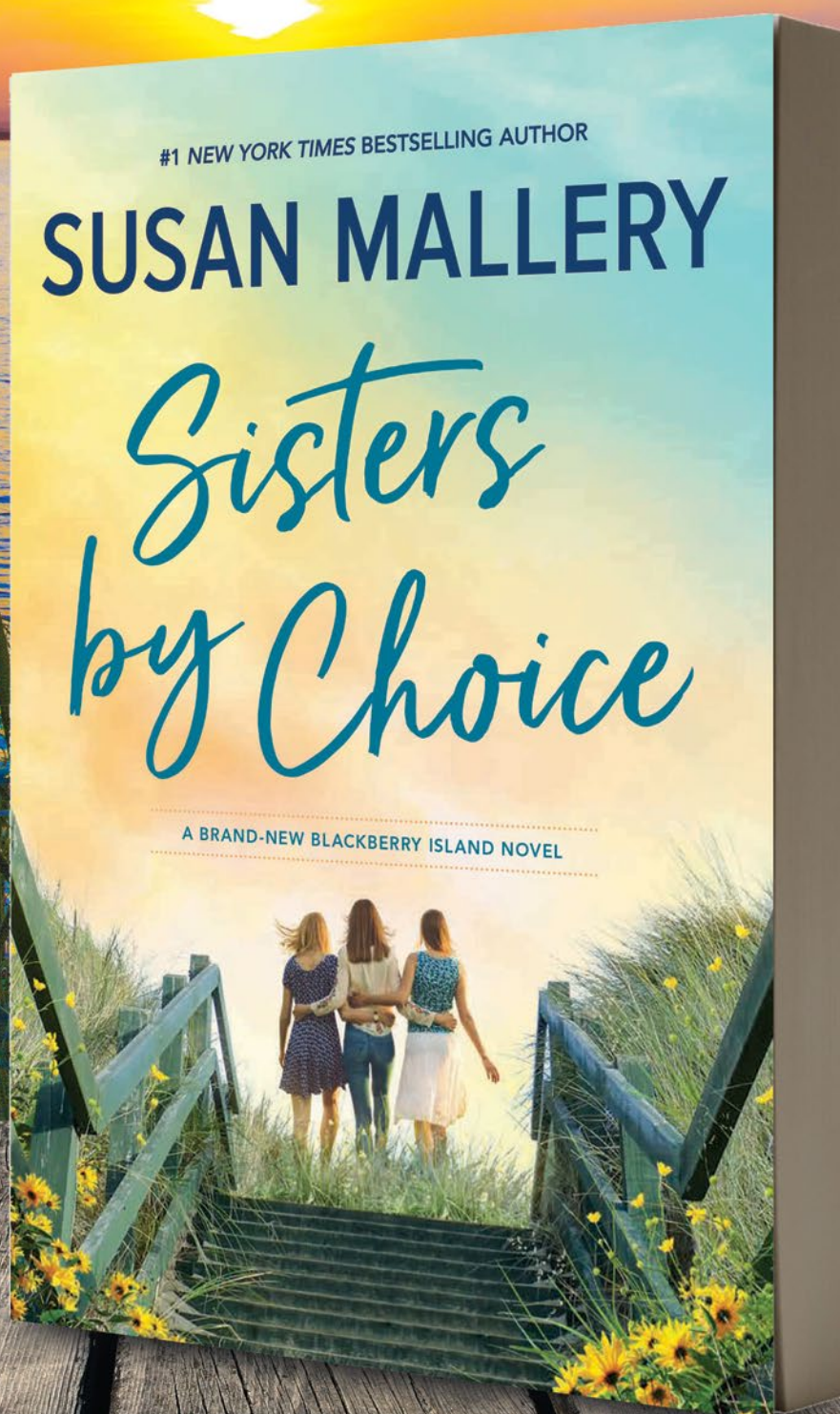
Bake at 400 degrees for 15 minutes. Remove from pan immediately to cool.

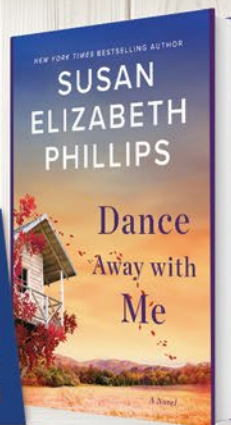
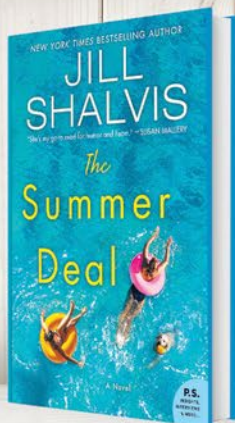
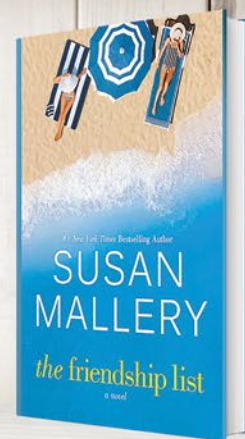
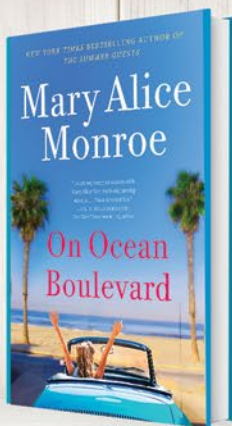
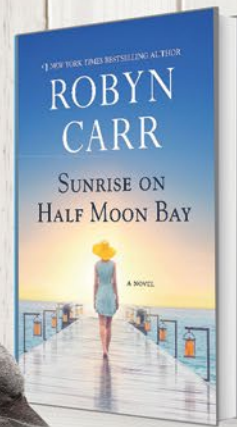
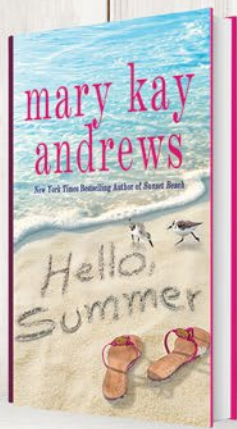
Serve warm with milk and try not to eat all in one sitting. Inspired by Jill's book *Almost Just Friends*.



Cousins by chance . . . sisters by choice

BlackberryIsland.com





Go forth and read.