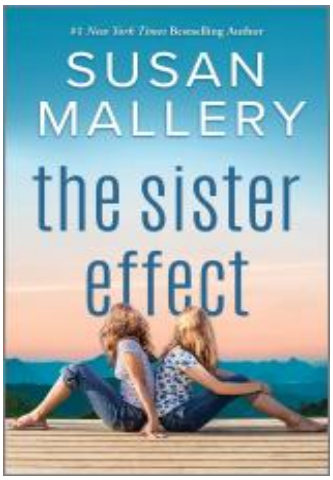
The Sister Effect

by Susan Mallery



About the Book

Beloved bestselling author Susan Mallery brings readers an emotional, witty and heartfelt story that explores the nuances of a broken family?s complex emotions as they strive to become whole in this uplifting story of human frailty and resilience.

Finley McGowan is determined that the niece she?s raising will always feel loved and wanted. Unlike how she felt after her mom left to pursue a dream of stardom, and when the grandfather who was left to raise them abandoned her and her sister, Sloane, when they needed him most. Finley reacted to her chaotic childhood by walking the straight and narrow --- nose down, work hard, follow the rules.

Sloane went the other way.

Now Sloane is back, as beautiful and as damaged as ever?and she wants a relationship with her daughter. She says she?s changed, but Finley?s heart has been burned once too often for her to trust easily. But is her reluctance to forgive really about Sloane or worry over losing what she loves the most? With the help of a man who knows all too well how messy families can be, Finley will learn there?s joy in surrendering and peace in letting go.

Discussion Guide

Note: These questions contain spoilers about the story, so we recommend that you wait until after you?ve finished the book to read the questions.

1. How did your feelings about the characters evolve as you read the book?

2. In your opinion, does the title THE SISTER EFFECT fit the story? Why or why not?

3. How would you react if someone you loved showed up on your doorstep one day and asked you to raise their child?

4. What lesson do you think Finley had to learn in order to live peacefully?

5. How did Lester?s and Molly?s behavior when Finley and Sloane were kids affect their behavior and emotions today? How did they impact the way Finley is raising Aubrey?

6. When Molly threw a family party, she insisted on margaritas. Do you think that was the right decision? Why or why not?

7. How did you feel when Sloane slipped on her one-year anniversary? And when she slipped again after Ellis? injury?

8. Discuss Jericho?s storyline. Why do you think he agreed to be the best man at his brother?s wedding to his own ex-wife? Would you have been strong enough to do the same? (Or did you see that as a strength or a weakness on his part?)

9. What was the most emotional part of the story for you, what hit you the hardest?

10. How do you think Finley and Sloane?s relationship changed in the 16 months of Sloane?s sobriety?

11. What moments in the story made you laugh?

12. Were you happy with both Finley?s and Sloane?s endings?

13. How do you think Aubrey will remember this time in her life when she grows up?

Author Bio

Susan Mallery is the #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of novels about the relationships that shape 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. She?s passionate about animal welfare, which shows in the many quirky animal characters she has created.

Susan grew up in California and now lives in Seattle with her husband.

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