



## **The Secret Wife**

*Susan Mallery*

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Once, Cole Stephenson had loved his young wife with a passion so hot it nearly burned itself out. But Elissa had saved him the trouble. Shaken by his intensity, she'd abandoned their marriage. Too proud to pursue her, reluctant to divorce, for five years Cole secretly struggled to exorcise Elissa from his heart. But now she was back, driving him to sensual distraction as only his shy, virgin bride could. Loving Elissa had been heaven. Losing her had been hell. Could Cole survive a second chance at happiness?

## The Secret Wife Details

Date : Published July 25th 1997 by Silhouette

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Author : Susan Mallery

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## **From Reader Review The Secret Wife for online ebook**

### **Emily Higgins says**

Cole Stephenson and his wife Elissa married young. He spent too many hours working to establish himself at a New York law firm. She had too many hours to fill. Elissa left Cole, hoping he would persuade her to return. Five years later, Cole had given up his New York career and is working in California. Elissa finds Cole hoping to reconcile.

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### **Priscilla Coffie says**

Wow Susan its thanks to you that I now love romance novel because this is the first romance novel I read and loved every bit of it. I really hated what Elissa did to Cole, but in the end it all worked out great.

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### **Griffinyarn says**

Rating: 3.5 stars

I read this as a stand alone novel (There are references to the youngest triplet's romance but otherwise reading out of order had no impact on the story).

I really liked Mallery's writing style. The author did a good job of emotionally involving the reader. Characters were well-developed and the romance felt realistic and progressed at a good pace. This book had so much more depth than your average "penny dreadful".

An enjoyable read.

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### **Laura says**

3.5 stars.

I liked this book, and Susan Mallery is such a great writer but it was not my favorite. I think it is because the couple were separated for 5 years due to a lack of communication, honesty, and trust. It is very hard for me to relate to characters who struggle with these qualities. I mean 5 years away from your true love because you could be open and honest! How sad. On a positive note, I loved the setting. I thought the orphanage was a great place for Cole and Elissa to get to know each other again. Also, I loved Millie! She was awesome and so were the little girls. Overall, if you are a Susan Mallery fan I would definitely recommend this book to you!

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## **Rachelle says**

Elisa goes to work at an orphanage where her husband Cole Stephenson is the director. They were married five years before story is set but neither of them had filed for a divorce. Can they find their way back to each other.

I enjoyed this Special Edition Sillhouette book.

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## **Cynthia Miller says**

### **Another good read by Susan Mallery**

Trust and misunderstandings are difficult to overcome. Especially when the two parties are apart for five years. Tissues might be needed.

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## **Deanna (A Novel Glimpse) says**

Elissa hasn't seen her husband since she left him five years ago. Wanting to move forward and do something good with her life, she takes a job working at an orphanage -- the same orphanage her husband, Cole, runs. She's hoping working with him will help her gain some closure on their relationship. Cole is not happy to see

Elissa and doesn't want her to work with him. In order for her to stay, she must promise not to divulge their marriage to the rest of the orphanage. While Elissa's hoping for closure, Cole's counting the days until she leaves.

I adore Susan Mallery's Fool's Gold series, so I decided to give *The Secret Wife* a try. Overall, I enjoyed it. It was a fun, quick, well-written read. It does have an updated cover, but the story is from the 1990's so some of the references in the book are a little outdated.

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### **Gail says**

I wasn't sure the hero and heroine in this story would ever get themselves together. But they managed. This is the first romance I've read where the conflict is about the couple's problems in bed. The hero and heroine are married, but have been separated for years without ever getting a divorce. Now she's turned up in his life and they both have to decide what it is they really want. It's an interesting take and a good read.

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### **Dyan says**

I loved the premise and the location of this story. I like how it highlighted the orphanage. Another Susan Mallery hit!

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### **Maggie says**

This is middle triplet Elissa & estranged husband Cole's story. The couple's been separated five years. Cole, a lawyer, now runs the orphanage he was raised in, while Elissa, a former child actor, leaves her hospital job in LA for a clerical job at the Ojai orphanage, with the primary goal of salvaging her marriage. Nice tale, but again, too many typos for comfort; hence, the 3-star rating.

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### **Captmashpea says**

I'm so happy I read this book - it made me love Susan Mallery again. After reading a couple of her duds this book was wonderfully refreshing. A little choppy at the end overall it was a cute, funny, and believable story. On of my favorites by her.  
(eBook).

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### **Cindy says**

#### **Cole and Elissa**

This book was better than the first in the series. The story centers around an orphanage when an estranged couple try and find their love again.

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**Moey17 says**

A braincandy soap opera.

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**Izzie d says**

It was well written and the issues were different and handled well but i was annoyed that although they both accepted blame, she took the majority of it. Cole didn't go after her or try to contact her even though it mentions at one point he knew where she was. I didn't like him much at all.

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**Carol Rankin says****The Secret Wife**

Love and action are what carries the story. It surprises most people but the story is successful. Love wind all.

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