

The background features a complex network of white nodes connected by thin white lines, set against a gradient background that transitions from a deep purple at the top to a bright pink at the bottom. The nodes are scattered across the frame, with some forming distinct geometric shapes like triangles and polygons. The overall aesthetic is modern and digital.

Nothing but Trouble

Written by Susan May Warren

Published by griefconvention

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Nothing but Trouble

By Susan May Warren

Nothing But Trouble Movie

It's not fair to say that trouble happens every time PJ Sugar is around, but it feels that way when she returns to her home town, looking for a fresh start. Within a week, her former teacher is murdered and her best friend's husband is arrested as the number-one suspect. Although the police detective investigating the murder—who also happens to be PJ's former flame—is convinced it's an open-and-shut case, PJ's not so sure. She begins digging for clues in an effort to clear her friend's husband and ends up reigniting old passions, uncovering an international conspiracy, and solving a murder along the way. She also discovers that maybe God can use a woman who never seems to get it right.

This was a fun cozy mystery, but quite different story to Susan's romantic suspense which I prefer. However, if you are a cozy mystery fan, you should definitely read this. True to Susan's signature stories, she delivered a very intriguing main character who had to find who she is while facing a past she ran away from. I loved how Susan again intertwined scripture, through 1 Peter and Peter's story, to teach the reader about forgiveness and finding your purpose.

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PJ Sugar was quite the interesting character, and the things she got herself into offered a lot of laughs. I liked Jeremy's character a lot and like him would like to find out what PJ stands for, which will probably be revealed later in the series. It was fun to search along with PJ for the clues and there was one or two twists I did not see coming.

Her easy going manner with Davy (nephew) was so sweet and loved the relationship between these two.

The author did a great job of setting up certain aspects which I expect to develop through the series: the love triangle, the reconciliation between PJ and her mom and PJ's relationship with God.

Looking forward to the rest of the series. ...more

Nothing But Trouble Twins

I am not a huge mystery fan, so a 4* rating from me with this genre is high praise indeed!

I really connected with the heroine and loved how 1 Peter 1:1-3 was woven in.

I found this story very hard to put down! I had a lot of waiting to do, first in an appointment, then in car waiting for someone else, but that was okay because I was engrossed in this story.

Favourite Quotes:

Someday her heart and her head were just going to have to learn to communicate.

Sheâ€™d learned plenty in the three years since I am not a huge mystery fan, so a 4* rating from me with this genre is high praise indeed!

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Someday her heart and her head were just going to have to learn to communicate.

Sheâ€™d learned plenty in the three years since becoming a Christian. Enough to dispel the common myth that Christians always made the right decisions, that they threw off the shame or guilt of bygone mistakes without a backward glance, and most of all, that they didnâ€™t, at times, long to fold into the temptations that blinded them before.

It seemed pretty easy to forgive, or at least think sheâ€™d forgiven, when sitting in a pew surrounded by praise music. But in the real world, thatâ€™s when forgiveness got gritty.

Absolutely! Sometimes forgiveness is easy, and sometimes it something you have to work on day by day, particularly when the betrayal is deep and it's someone close to you that you see on a regular basis. And then of course forgiving yourself can be harder than forgiving someone else. I really appreciated how Susan May Warren used the aspect of forgiveness in this story

Nothing but Trouble

PJ sat up, turned on one of the bedside lamps, and stared at herself in the mirror across from the bed (which, by the way, was a horrible place for a mirror).

I totally agree! Had to smile when read this comment, because I've had that same experience when away.

“I liked the sermon. I can relate to Peter. He was a mess, had more passion than brains, and still managed to become something with God.” ~ PJ Sugar

I can relate to him too!

“He had brains, just needed direction. I think that’s one reason Christ gave him a different name.” ~ Maxine Hudson

“Being a good parent or aunt isn’t about being perfect. It’s about making him know you love him, protecting him, and seeing in him more than what he sees.” ~ Maxine Hudson

“That God would do great things through him, if he was obedient. All Peter had to do was surrender. He gave everything completely to God—his future and his reputation and his dreams. And that’s when God took over and did amazing things in Peter’s life. And He’ll do that in your life.” ~ Pastor

“That we’re not the same people we were. We’re completely new. But so many of us walk around with the same perspective as we did when we were lost. Wondering where we fit in. What a new creation looks like.” ~ Jeremy Kane

“...only God knows who you really are and who you’re becoming in Him. Maybe you just need to live on the outside who you are on the inside.” ~ Jeremy Kane

“He might have denied Christ, but that day when Jesus offered him forgiveness, he finally heard the truth—that Jesus loved him despite his flaws.” ~ Pastor

“Sometimes, someone just needs a champion.” ~ Elizabeth Sugar

Like PJ I wasn't expecting that type of comment from Elizabeth, but it's so true and really resonated with me.

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Sheâ€™d been living with the belief that she wasnâ€™t what God wanted. But the very fact that Christ died for her said that God liked her.

He liked her before and after sheâ€™d become a Christian. With or without flaws. God believed in her.
...more

I really liked this story, but, there were a few things that I thought were strange:

#1: It's ridiculous that PJ's sister, Connie, planned her wedding & honeymoon to coincide with Davy's 1st day of school. What parent does that? Especially when she's been waiting 3 yrs to get him into an exclusive pre-school. She leaves these responsibilities to a sister who's never raised a child, who has lived out of town for 10 years, and who is not an organized person.

#2: PJ had no right or business to re I really liked this story, but, there were a few things that I thought were strange:

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#2: PJ had no right or business to remove Davy from the school his mother enrolled him in.

#3: When PJ spoke with the school director on the phone about an overdue library book, why didn't PJ tell the school director she was not David's mother; that his mother would have to take care of the overdue library book when she returned from her honeymoon?

#4: And finally, how on earth could 4-year-old Davy have an overdue library book from school, when he has only been in school for 3 or 4 days? Most schools check out library books for one week. Incidentally, the fact that the school director told PJ that library records were confidential and she could not tell PJ the name of the book--that did ring true. As a retired librarian in Texas, I know that library records are confidential by law in Texas. I'm not sure about Minnesota, but it makes sense that Minnesota would have similar laws.

I am pretty sure the author wrote it this way for the humor factor, but it just did not seem realistic to me. However, this was just a small part of the plot, and otherwise, I really enjoyed the rest of the plot line and characters overall. I also enjoyed the way the author worked PJ's Christianity into the story.
...more

Nothing But Trouble Cast

In Nothing But Trouble we are introduced to PJ Sugar, as delightful a character as you'll ever meet (think Anne Shirley from Anne of Green Gables, only all grown up and modernized--yeah, she's that much fun)!

Some people have one of those days, but PJ Sugar has one of those lives. You know, the kind of person that trouble seems to follow like a little black raincloud.

The story opens with PJ headed back to her hometown of Kellogg, Minnesota, to confront her checkered past. Can she prove to her mother and the rest of the town that she's a changed person, or will her hometown visit result in "nothing but trouble?"

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Here are just a few of the things, I loved about this book:

Humor

This book has more LOL moments than I've had in a long time from a book. It will leave a smile on your face for weeks. Here's one from the first chapter when the guy she's expecting to propose instead tells her she's not wife material: "She stared at the place between his eyes, pretty sure she still had her shortstop aim."

When he continues to be obtuse: "Okay. That. Was. It." :D (And it gets even better!)

Character

I've already mentioned how delightful PJ Sugar is, but it bears repeating in this case. You gotta love her! Susan May Warren immediately makes us sympathize with PJ (I mean, c'mon, we've all felt the sting of being jilted), but the reader also has to respect this lovable character. She doesn't sit around and lick her wounds, nor sob for what might have been--she's up and at 'em--and headed straight for...yeah, you guessed it...more trouble! I love PJ so much, I wanna be BFF...scratch that...I wanna BE PJ!!

A Way With Words

Susan May Warren is a word-master. From a setting that makes you feel like you're in PJ's world, to a unique way of covering backstory (between the beeps of the answering machine), to poignant internalizations ("...it still wasn't so easy to share the limelight with the sister that was wanted"), to fresh

Nothing but Trouble

rhetorical devices ("PJ sat there tasting yesterday like tar in her mouth"), to witty and sparkling dialogue--this author knows how to do it all!

I could go on and on about this book. I LOVED it! It's wacky and entertaining--any story that involves a pizza guy, a Russian babushka and a goat has to be interesting! I can't wait for the next book in the series to see what kind of trouble PJ lands herself in next.

(Read more at <http://wordvessel.blogspot.com>) ...more

This was the first book in the PJ Sugar series by Susan May Warren and I really cannot wait to read more from her! The story involved a jack-of-all-trades girl, PJ, who left her small-town when she was 18 after she was accused of setting the kitchen of the country club on fire and her boyfriend, Boone, doing nothing to absolve her. She spent the next 10 years doing everything and anything - stunt girl, manicurist, clown - she could get her hands on, never fully finding her place anywhere.

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She returns to Kellogg when her sister needs her to babysit her son, 4-year-old Davy, while she goes off on her honeymoon. Her mom had just been in an accident and was on crutches so she couldn't watch him. A few days after her sister and new husband leave, there's a murder in the town and PJ's old best friend's husband is accused of murdering him.

From then on, PJ sets out to prove his innocence, taking on the role of PI with Nancy Drew-style. Her old boyfriend, Boone, is the lead investigator on the case but he seems certain about her friend's husband's guilt. Through her investigating, she meets Jeremy, who is the husband's cousin and also a former Navy SEAL now doing PI work.

PJ easily became someone I identified with immediately. She tries hard but makes mistakes. She wants to live a full life, but finds it hard to meet everyone's expectations. One thing I liked about her is that while she did get into troubling situations a lot, they weren't goofy and silly like many protagonists get into. They seemed REAL and something I could imagine happening to me!

This was such a great read and I would recommend it to anyone! ...more

Nothing But Trouble Lyrics

I borrowed this book from OverDrive after finishing that huge book because I needed something much lighter in tone and in subject matter. The book had some first-book syndrome going on in the beginning; lots of backstory and info-dumping. However, the first scene in the book hooked me and I settled into the story and in PJ's head fairly quickly. Once she was back in her hometown and the murder took place, then things got interesting - more than enough to have me borrowing the second book in the series. There is a hints at a love triangle, but at the end PJ decides on neither of the men and wants to work on herself. PJ is lovable, good-hearted without being overly weird like most cozy mystery amateur sleuths, but damn is she impulsive at times. She also had a lot of character development going on in this book; it is almost like it is part mystery, part chick lit. There is a lot of Christianity in this book, but it is authentic to PJ's character and never feels preachy - it is PJ who kept reminding herself of biblical verses to help her think through and calm down in some low points while investigating the murder. I even like the recurring side characters and they helped in world building as well as added to the plotline. ...more

It took me a little bit to get into this book. The problem is not the story or characters, but my expectations going in. Had I read another reviewers comment that PJ Sugar is a Christian version of Stephanie Plum before starting, I think I would have gotten into the tone of the book faster. Once I understood the tone of the book, I really enjoyed it and look forward to reading other books in this series!

Nothing But Trouble Tupac

Cute, fun read. While I like this author's work, I missed having more POV's. I will probably read the rest of the series though. Not a huge fan of triangles, but still a good read if you are into a light-hearted mystery/romance.

This review has been hidden because it contains spoilers. To view it, [click here](#).

Overall good book, but the plot seemed a little far fetched and the way she came to the conclusions about who the murdered was seemed a little pieced together!

Nothing but Trouble

Nothing But Trouble Trailer

I loved this story. I loved the characters. It is a great mystery. I can't wait to read the next book.

Cute. Fun. Exactly what I needed after several heavier books.

Nothing But Trouble Judge

It has been a while since I read it but remember that I enjoyed it.

Ten years ago PJ Sugar left her small hometown of Kellogg, Minnesota, in disgrace, and has been running from her past ever since. After an unexpected call from her sister for help, PJ does the one thing she thought was impossible – returns to the scene of her “crimes,” the town she fled after earning the nickname “nothing but trouble” and being accused of setting fire to the country club. From the moment she sets foot in Kellogg for her sister’s wedding, everywhere PJ turns it seems that her failures and shortcomings are dredged up, crushing her hopes for a fresh start. She was always the wild child, frustrating her mother and leaving her best friend to cope with becoming a single parent. But perhaps the most painful and dangerous memories are wrapped up in the form of handsome, blue-eyed bad boy-turned-cop Boone, her former flame. Boone’s betrayal is the main reason she kept running, and his magnetic pull even ten years later is the primary test of PJ’s resolve to prove she’s genuinely changed.

PJ Sugar is a great heroine – fun, feisty, and daring, she’s no shy wallflower. A relatively new believer, she’s desperate to prove she’s finally making some good choices and will no longer disappoint people. Her drive to prove her worthiness to others and to God is extremely well-drawn and relatable. The harder she tries to fit in, the more she fails, but when she starts to realize that maybe, just maybe, God can use her redeemed, messy, unorthodox self in spite of her best efforts does PJ start to loosen her grip on the past and walk into a future full of promise. Warren always does an excellent job incorporating a subtle spiritual thread into her stories, and PJ’s is no exception – it works because Warren doesn’t hammer you over the head with a message, she presents faith as lived out by her very real characters.

Susan May Warren has long been one of my favorite authors, but it’s been a while since I’ve picked up one of her novels (my TBR stack is out of control!). From the first, *Nothing but Trouble* was a great reminder of why I love Warren’s writing. The dialogue hums with life, and the plot grabs you from the first page and never lets go. The characters, from PJ to her mother to Boone, are multi-faceted and wonderfully real. Warren’s characters aren’t cookie cutter, flat creations – they’re messy and real and fun. Speaking of Boone, Warren excels at writing swoon-worthy heroes, and in this novel she gives us not one, but two charismatic leads to vie for PJ’s affections. I can’t wait to see how that one plays out (I’m pulling for Jeremy, the mysterious private investigator). I loved how Warren gives a nod to her time in Russia as a missionary. The unexpected culture shock PJ encounters with her sister’s in-laws provides fodder for some of the book’s most comical scenes. Part chick

Nothing but Trouble

lit, part cozy mystery, Nothing but Trouble is an expertly plotted tale of romance, redemption, and grace. ...more

Nothing But Trouble Soundtrack

I received this as an ARC. In all fairness to all parties, and as you can plainly see above, there is no reference to the fact that Susan May Warren is a Christian Lit author in the blurb. If there had been, I never would have requested to review the book. Not that I have anything against Christianity or any other religion, for that matter, (I just don't like points of view, religious or political, being forced on me) and I'm certainly not here to spark a religious debate. However a review is only as strong as the reviewer's point of view, so here goes.

The phrase "That was before I was Christian," is tossed around in this novel by several characters in an attempt to excuse everything from Grand Larceny to refusing to date someone. This type of blanket moral escapism infuriates me. Being Christian, Muslim, Jewish, Hindu, etc. makes you who you are, but it doesn't automatically make you a better person. It doesn't excuse past wrongs and it doesn't preclude a person from making mistakes in the future. There is no celestial delete key. PJ also credits surrendering to Jesus with her dumb-luck in solving the case and nearly getting herself, her nephew, and her friends killed in the process. Actually the only times that PJ turns to prayer in the book are in passing and it seems purely self-serving. I could have looked beyond all of it if it didn't seem so forced into the story. It almost feels like the author went back and added it as an afterthought.

Religion aside, neither the plot nor the characters have much depth. I had a hard time finding likable character. PJ's mother is supposed to be a hard woman with soft heart but she's so flat as a character that it just comes off as inconsistent writing. Her sister is too busy creating her own perfect career and marriage to pay any heed to her attention starved toddler; she just uses PJ. Boone, her high school sweetheart, wants her back but won't trust her and completely dismisses her opinions. PJ herself seems to be a 100% knock off of Janet Evanovich's Stephanie Plum, with none of the humor or charm. She has a bad-girl reputation she didn't earn and is really just a drifter who ran from her problems and never grew up.

The plot is far fetched, at best. (Who goes to a shooting range on a date?!? Oh, wait, it was just a rather obvious plot device.) In the end, PJ is hired by a detective agency, but for the life of me, I don't know why. (At least with Stephanie Plum, the fact that she still has a job makes sense; Vinnie is (blackmailed)

Nothing but Trouble

family and Ranger finds her amusing.) And PJ's country club privileges are restored... because that's what's important, right?

If you're looking for a Christian Stephanie Plum with no personality, this is the book for you.

<http://girlsjustreading.blogspot.com/...> ...more

P.J. Sugar is a quirky character who I enjoyed laughing with.

Nothing But Trouble Bobo

I started out reading the third book, "Licensed for Trouble" in the PJ Sugar series first. It can be read alone or first, no problem. I loved that one so much that I knew I'd be reading the whole series. It was my first Susan May Warren book.

Having just finished "Nothing but Trouble" I really want to write a review that does this series justice, if possible. I read a lot, many top list best sellers, am an English major, and have attempted writing and getting my own kid detective stories published. I started out reading the third book, "Licensed for Trouble" in the PJ Sugar series first. It can be read alone or first, no problem. I loved that one so much that I knew I'd be reading the whole series. It was my first Susan May Warren book.

Having just finished "Nothing but Trouble" I really want to write a review that does this series justice, if possible. I read a lot, many top list best sellers, am an English major, and have attempted writing and getting my own kid detective stories published. These books in the PJ series are exactly the books I would have written if I had thought of them. An author who creates stories like these that are so full of life, truly knows the Giver of Life. Stories so full of intricate plot details, has a very sharp mind. And who can create a character like PJ who is so flawed, yet so full of humor, has got to have an incredible sense of humor. You can't write great, clever funny lines if you don't see the world with eyes of humor. It's not that PJ doesn't take herself and her dilemmas seriously, she just doesn't take them TOO seriously. Great role model for all of us. Still Warren makes us feel her angst.

And yet PJ has this wonderful sense of discernment as well as a very multi-dimensional past job history that evolves, with God's help, into her becoming a natural at solving crimes. It is not easy to weave all of these things together, and yet, Warren seems to do it so smoothly, seemingly effortlessly. Having read two of the three books of the series so far, I can't imagine how anyone can keep from falling in love with PJ . . . she is all of us. At least, she is me.

PJ makes us love her as a detective because she truly cares about the people she is trying to defend, not just trying to do a job. I believe that that is where her Christianity comes in. It eventually helps her to do exploits in His name. All heroes and heroines in Christian fiction should be super amazing characters dressed in everyday clothes. And this book shows with crystal clarity how God helps us to be so much more than we are!! Surrender being the operative word.

But what I think I love most about these books is that fumbling as we are, God watches us, sees our foibles, and loves us anyway. It's a classic theme . . . PJ is the Maxwell Smart, the Colombo, who solves the crime in spite of themselves. But in this case, believable, because she has had the greatness of God behind her, helping her all the way.

I think that the plot takes us places where we probably would not go without deeply caring about others and without surrendering, laying our lives on the line and just jumping in!

Nothing but Trouble

And I love PJ for the tremendous way she operates, under the terrible pressure of trying to prove that she is anything but trouble.

So uplifting, so impressive. I have a new favorite writer!! ...more

Although this one wasn't completely what I expected, I enjoyed it. I knew this one was going to be Christian when I requested it, but then forgot by the time I received it. I don't remember the description saying anything, and the back of the book didn't, but I knew from the publisher. When I started reading, I was a bit surprised when she mentioned it. I didn't think it was presented in an offensive, in your face way that I have seen it before. In fact, for the first half of the book, I felt it was rarely mentioned, and for the first 2/3 of the book until PJ actually went to church, she was really the only Christian character.

PJ's mom is a big influence on her (to her surprise), and it struck me that it was often her voice she heard, either things she said to her as a teen or through the book. This was interesting to me from the way the author portrays their relationship throughout the book.

It bothered me that her nephew Davey didn't speak much. I worked in Child Care for years, and never heard such a quiet 4 year old. =)

There were parts in the book that PJ's lack of common sense (like so many mystery heroines tend to have these days) really bothered me. PJ knows that breaking and entering is wrong. She said so. Before AND after. And yet, she did it. Twice. Um, ok. I guess the end justifies the means?

The last quarter of the book became heavier in scripture. But it seems appropriate to me.

Toward the end she started to remind me of someone. I couldn't quite put my finger on it. Then at the end when she is standing in the park with the Cop (Boone) and the PI (Jeremy), it hit me. She was trying to be quirky, and fun, and a little sarcastic, and be in the good boy/bad boy love triangle like Stephanie Plum. Which almost worked, but it fell a little flat for me. It was kind of trying to reinvent the wheel. But maybe these 2 genres don't mesh well. But if you take it for what it is, and not compare it, it's still a cute story and an enjoyable read.

And there is enough set up at the end, not to be frustrating, but to see where this series goes!

...more