

## The Sweet Spot

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By Stephanie Evanovich

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### Introduction

A sizzling story of everyone's favorite couple from amazing Stephanie Evanovich's *New York Times* bestseller *Big Girl Panties*: hunky professional baseball player Chase Walker and his sassy wife Amanda.

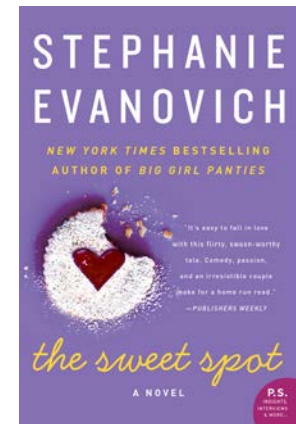
When pro baseball player Chase Walker first meets Amanda at her restaurant, it's love at first sight. While Amanda can't help noticing the superstar with the Greek-god-build, he doesn't have a chance of getting to first—or any other—base with her. A successful entrepreneur who's built her business from scratch, Amanda doesn't need a Prince Charming to sweep her off her feet. And a curvy girl who likes to cook and eat isn't interested in being around the catty, stick-thin herd of females chasing Chase and his teammates.

But Chase isn't about to strike out. A man who isn't interested in playing the field, he's a monogamist who wants an independent woman like Amanda. His hopes rally when she discovers that squeaky-clean Chase has a few sexy and very secret pre-game rituals that turn the smart, headstrong businesswoman on—and into his number one fan.

Then a tabloid discovers the truth and turns their spanking good fun into a late-night punchline. Is Amanda ready to let loose and swing for the fences? Or will the pressure of Chase's stardom force them to call it quits?

### Questions for Discussion

- 1) Chase Walker is described more than once as a "perfect gentleman." What do you think? What would be on your list of qualities that make a perfect gentleman?
- 2) Amanda tells her friends that "until you find the fatal flaw in your potential partner, the relationship can't ever be real." Do you agree? Do Chase and Amanda have fatal flaws that need to come to light before their relationship can be real?
- 3) Chase tells Amanda: "You're my perfect angel. But I'm a typical alpha male and straight-up old fashioned guy...Your job is to stay beautiful and think up ways to entertain yourself. Hopefully most of them include me. My job is to cherish and protect you. Fulfill all your heart's desires." Is that a good deal for Amanda? How do you think most women would respond?



- 4) Amanda tells Chase “as soon as things start getting too good for me, something awful happens. Every time I get too happy, I walk into a serving tray or fall down the stairs.” Is she too fatalistic? When Chase responds that her fear “sounds way too much like a self-fulfilling prophecy,” is he right? Do you know people who have a similar fatalistic approach to life?
- 5) When Amanda confesses to feeling torn between her desire to continue running her restaurant and going on the road with Chase, her mother Catherine says, “It’s not easy being the wife of a successful man. Sometimes you feel as though you’re lost in the shuffle. He gets all the accolades, but you deserve them too. Behind every great man is usually someone who bolstered his ego when he needed it, watched him struggle, often picking up the slack. When you’re a wife, that falls to you, often while having to multitask if you want to pursue your own ambitions.” Do you agree with this? Do you think Catherine’s right when she reassures Amanda that “You certainly can have both [your marriage and your career] if that’s what you want”?
- 6) If you’d seen Chase and Amanda’s video on YouTube, what would you have thought? If it had been you, what would you have done?
- 7) After the scandal breaks, Amanda’s father tells her, “The longer you let this eat at you, the longer it will stay an issue in your life. What’s done is done. There is only so long you can keep your head in the sand.” Is he right? What are the consequences of Amanda’s desire to hide from the world—and Chase?
- 8) Amanda reflects that her new friend Gertie “had helped her see her way through the dark and back into the light without trying to sway her in any direction. Gertie had been an answer to a prayer. And prayers are not always answered in the way you expect, or even want.” Does that ring true to you? Do you have a Gertie in your life?
- 9) Does Chase and Amanda’s wedding in Vegas seem like a good plan after everything they’d been through? Do you think it suits them as a couple?
- 10) What do you think happens to Chase and Amanda after the novel ends? Do they live happily ever after?