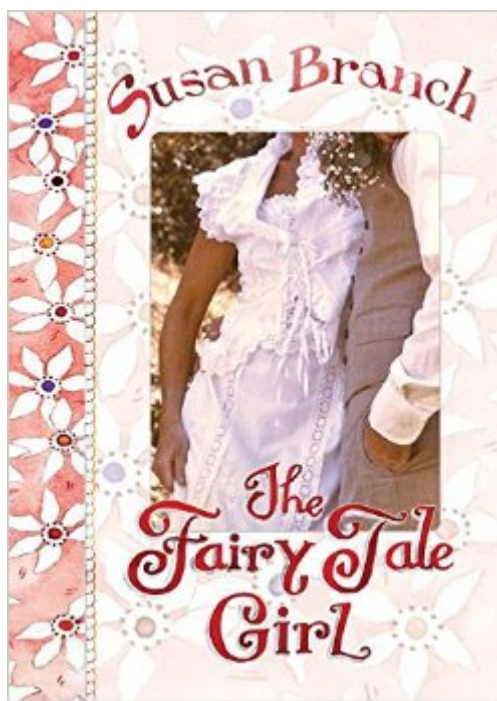


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# The Fairy Tale Girl



## Synopsis

Based on the diaries Susan has kept since she was in her 20s, *THE FAIRY TALE GIRL* is book one of a three-part series. Together the three books are an illustrated memoir, charmingly designed in Susan's style with her whimsical watercolors and personal photographs. It's an enchanting story of love and loss, mystery and magic that begins in a geranium-colored house in California, and ends up, like any good fairy tale, on the right side of the rabbit hole, in a small cottage in the woods on the New England Island of Martha's Vineyard. *THE FAIRY TALE GIRL* humorously explores Susan's journey as an artist and as a girl/woman, from the 1950s through the 1980s. In the first book of the series we get a revealing look at Susan's early life as the oldest of eight children and at the marriage she imagined would last forever. It's filled with inspiration, romance and discovery, a little bit of heartbreak, and a leap into the unknown. Journey back to the olden days with Susan, to the land of happily-ever-after, where men were men and girls just wanted to have fun. Bring a hankie, we think you might need it. Coming Mother's Day, 2016, book two in the series: *MARTHA'S VINEYARD, ISLE of DREAMS*. Both books are prequels to Susan's 2013 bestselling book, *A FINE ROMANCE, Falling in Love with the English Countryside*, and both are proudly printed in the USA. More expensive? Yes ~ but hey, we're worth it.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 288 pages

Publisher: Spring Street Publishing; First Edition edition (September 18, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0996044019

ISBN-13: 978-0996044011

Product Dimensions: 6.8 x 1 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.9 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars See all reviews (189 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

She did it again! This book is as entertaining as *A Fine Romance, Falling in Love with the English*

Countryside. While I love-love-love her books on cooking, homemaking, life in Martha's Vineyard, her kitties, her wonderful husband Joe, this book is her autobiography of her early years in CA and her mis-matched marriage. It's written in the same conversational way as her blog ([susanbranch.com](http://susanbranch.com)), in her very own handwriting, peppered with quotes we all love and want to stash away, and illustrated with her beautiful watercolors, as well as many photographs. I read it in two sessions. I had to stop reading on Saturday night, fearing the possibility of a black eye if I fell asleep and dropped the book on my face, but still in my jammies, I finished it Sunday by noon. And, of course, the signature ribbon marker is included.

So well written.....loaded with pictures and artwork....this book is a wonderful must-read. It absorbs you back into your own past, with all the complexities and blurred boundaries of the changing times, while you are discovering what went on in Susan Branch's personal life. It is a fun book, but it is also will touch your heart. I ended up feeling like I understood the many layers of relationships from that period of time even better. From family, neighbors, friends, spouses, and finally myself.....this book is a gem from the past. Noone could describe it all better than Susan Branch! Loved it!

I've always thought Susan Branch had pretty artwork, but I never knew much about her as a person. This is book one in a 3 part series she is writing about her own life and experiences. The Fairy Tale Girl by Susan Branch. This is one you will want in hardback because the illustrations and style of the book are amazing. Her story was fascinating to me. She was very open and honest about her own shortcomings and her failed marriage. I had no idea that the book would end up being so personal. It also documents her artistic journey as she discovered her talents. It's hard for me to believe that she didn't even start drawing or painting until her late twenties/early thirties. So interesting. Her writing style is fun and very easy to enjoy. What I loved most about the book is that it felt like a combination of a scrapbook + art journal + autobiography. I would love to put together a book like this about my own life. This is a great read and a beautiful keepsake as well!

Back in the day, I bought Susan's Christmas cookbook, right after it came out. My BFF and I were shopping in Cambria and saw it in a shop window. Neither of us had much money then, but it was so beautiful and darling that we both splurged! This book, all these years later, is just as wonderful. I have almost all her books and this one just fills in the blanks like frosting on a birthday cake!

Once upon a time, in a land very far away, a young sweet girl ventured out from her loving home to

find her life, herself and her fairy tale. Bringing the experiences from her childhood, she wades through the changing times of the 60's, 70's and early 80's with boundless enthusiasm and the heart of knowing what really matters. Lucky for us, she wrote it all down as she went. Beautifully written and illustrated in her signature watercolor art, she reveals her personal story of love, loss, heartache and forever friendships. Drawing from her well-kept dairies ( thank you Mrs. Stewart), her story unravels. Funny, heart-warming, tragic and inspirational all at the same time...and a cliff-hanger to boot!!! A must read for both the seasoned Susan Branch fan,( I am a name-tag bookmark-carrying Girlfriend) and to those new to her work. You will relish in her youthful exuberance finding young love, feel her heartbreak and rejoice in her courage and happiness....perhaps even finding a bit of yourself in there. So what happens???... all I know right now is that " they lived happily ever after". Go Read!!!

Susan's conversational writing style will pull you in immediately. Be prepared to relive the 50s and 60s with recollections of things long buried (but not forgotten) in your soul. Been humming songs that I haven't thought of for years (Little Latin Lupe Lu!). For those who weren't around in the mid-twentieth century, her experiences transcend time; it's a girlfriend-thing. Another one of her great storytelling volumes that you just can't put down. Looking forward to the sequel of The Fairy Tale Girl.

I like Susan Branch, have a half-dozen of her books, and enjoy her blog immensely. But..... I did not like this book. Many readers and potential readers of this book will know that this is one of a trilogy of autobiographical books, published out of chronological order. Having read and loved the first/last book, about the author's 2012 oh-so-romantic Atlantic crossing on the Queen Mary II and extended tour through England, I read the middle one - 'Martha's Vineyard - Isle of Dreams' next, and after slogging through the first hundred pages of thoroughly depressing detail about heartbreak, that book was redeemed by the telling of her story about purchasing a dream of a tiny cottage and starting a new life. I thought I might as well read this book too, but as the story of her dysfunctional and co-dependant relationship with a husband she was married to briefly 40 years ago went on (and ON), I found myself wondering "Why am I reading this? Why did she WRITE this?" Some cuteness about her childhood was the only reason it got any stars from me. I'm glad it was cathartic for the author (she said as much on her blog), and I'm sure there are those that will find it helpful, but I found this account of her past, which encompassed this, and half of another book, to be strange. By comparison, her current husband, to whom she has been married for many years, the 'the love of

[her] life,' only gets a fraction of the attention in these books that she gives to the previous guy.  
Weird and unpleasant.

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