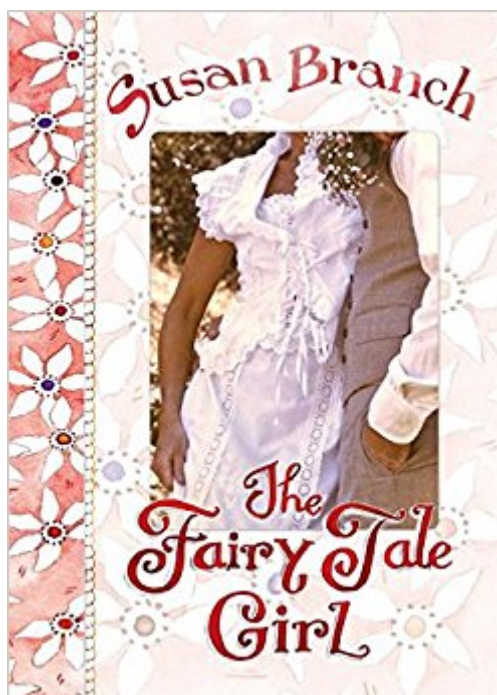


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# The Fairy Tale Girl



## 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

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## Customer Reviews

In 1977, the year I turned 30, three life-changing things happened. I got married. I got a kitty.

And I painted my first picture. All of it went into the diaries I've been keeping since I was in my 20s, because, most of the time, my life has felt like a miracle and I didn't want to forget any of it. And that's what THE FAIRY TALE GIRL is about. It's an illustrated memoir, watercolored and hand-lettered, taken from my diaries and photo albums; a story of growing up in the lovely 1950s as the oldest of eight children, coming of age in the 1960s and 1970s and discovering art, cooking, feminism, England, rock and roll, and love. When my heart was broken into a thousand pieces, I was inspired to run away from home in the naive hope of escaping the pain and confusion. But I never gave up believing in and searching for my childhood dreams of happily ever after. If you like time travel, you've come to the right place. With Love, Susan Branch

Susan Branch is the American author of the 13 HEART OF THE HOME lifestyle books, with over four million in print, all of them homemade, hand-written, and watercolored ~ books about the home arts of cooking, gardening, homemaking, family, best friends, entertaining and the little things that make life sweet. Susan has now added a three-part series to her list, all of them illustrated memoirs in scrapbook style filled with old photos, watercolors, quotes and recipes. The last in the series came first (in 2013): A FINE ROMANCE, Falling in Love with the English Countryside. The two prequels to that are, first: THE FAIRY TALE GIRL (pub date Oct. 2015, and then: MARTHA'S VINEYARD, ISLE of DREAMS (pub date Mother's Day, May 2016). Born and raised in Southern California, Susan followed her heart to the island of Martha's Vineyard in her 30s, "unable to live any longer without four seasons and picket fences as everyday architecture." She shares her 1849 home with her two kitties, Jack and Girl, and Joe Hall, the person Susan calls "the man of her dreams." She writes a newsletter called "WILLARD," named for her grandfather, and all about home, the seasons, cooking, kitties, decorating, creativity and the little things that make life sweet. To receive her free newsletter, please visit her popular Blog at [susanbranch.com](http://susanbranch.com).

The Fairy Tale Girl by Susan Branch is my new favorite book!! Susan's books are always little works of art --every little detail is all hers, from the sweet printing, to the gorgeous water color illustrations, and the actual content, which in the case of this book, is an autobiography. This book is over-the-top AWESOME! The things she discusses in the book will bring back so many memories if you are of a certain age. I've been a fan of Susan's from the time I first picked up one of her calendars in 1994, and have collected her books, and many other SB items ever since. I feel so lucky to have attended

the book signing for *The Fairy Tale Girl* a few weeks ago in New Hampshire- it was a real pleasure!  
Can't wait for the second book to come out

Oh I ate this book up like a yummy dessert. I tried to go slowly as I did not want it to end while wanting to keep reading more, more, more! It is like settling in with a good friend. My heart was warmed, my eyes were delighted. It is a story that gives one hope and strength. I immediately gave my copy to my stepmom and will probably have to just buy more to give to other people I love!

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.

All 3 of the books in the trilogy are like candy to me and I hated for them to end. The handwritten style with photos and her pretty watercolors are so inviting. Each book is like a personal letter to the reader, me! Her life and travels are interesting, quite surprising, and inspiring! You should figuratively and literally take a page from her book!!!

I have been swallowed up by the book- I have followed Susan for most of my adult life- I don't know how I found her. I think her first book found me and somehow, we were family. This is the best book so far. I am reading pages over and over again. It is my life in so many ways. I see the Thanksgiving table, the mismatched plates, the fire in the hearth, the french doors flung open wide. I feel the magic, the charisma, the part of her life and mine that had to be to become who we are....all so delicious and yet so terribly painful. It is candid; it is genuine; it is the part of Susan she has yet to share and I wanted to sit with her over tea and ask the questions I'm learning answers to now. Did she write my life? In many ways, yes. I look back to 1976 and I can 'see' her in California....I can see me in my own kitchen, trying to figure it all out, and my first turkey and finding the bag of 'stuff' that was unknown to me. If you love Susan, you will adore this book. You will cry and you will laugh

and you will understand so much more about yourself, too. This book is a treasure. It is a gift to my soul. Thank you Susan for writing it....I can hardly wait for the next one. xoxo

I received the book yesterday and I'm already half way through it. It is fantastic!!! I have three books to read on my nightstand and they got pushed aside. You dont want to put this book down BUT I dont want it to end either!!!! The story stands alone and the artwork is an added bonus. Not only is Susan a brilliant artist-her writing ability is excellent - I am there right and can envision everything!!! I have all of Susan's books and I am so glad that I bought this one for myself and didnt wait to put it on my Holiday Wish List. Thank you Susan Branch..you touch our hearts through your art and writings!!!!!! Plus I want to kick a Cliff !

It seems that talented Susan Branch surprised herself by becoming a successful artist and kindred-spirit homemaker for her thousands of admirers. It took years for her to understand that she had a gift of spirit, art and joy to share with like-minded people. Today she is still a humble woman who is sometimes bewildered by our admiration!If you are a Susan Branch fan then you will truly enjoy The Fairy Tale Girl. It is an enjoyable account of of youth, friendship, love, and love-lost... and the blossoming woman that she was becoming.

A beautiful book and quality as everything Susan Branch puts her hand to. I just got it in the mail today and pre-ordered it. So I am wondering how all these other reviewers got their book before this. I also want to add that she used an USA publisher and printed it in the USA!!!! Thank you Susan for the support of USA workers.

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