

Given the Choice

by Susan Sellers

From the award winning author of *Vanessa and Virginia*, *Given the Choice* is about growing older and growing up, about making choices and learning to live with them.

At 39 Marion has a lot going for her. She's talented, ambitious and married to a wealthy financier who adores her. Marion's top clients benefit from her entrepreneurial flair, but when her husband says it's time they had a child, this contrary heroine starts to panic and the cracks in her carefully constructed lifestyle start to show. Will Marion become ensnared in the web of deceit she has cast round herself? Or can she learn enough to save her business and her marriage? But in the end it is the reader who is given the choice.

- Set in the contemporary art and music world, it raises the question of what constitutes talent and what talent is worth.
- Challenges the reader with a less than likeable heroine.
- Deals with the pressure on women who are not instinctively maternal, and who don't want to have children.
- Deals with the difficulty men may face when they want children, but their partner would prefer to remain childless.
- Provides a series of viable alternative endings – giving the reader their own choice of what happens to the main characters.

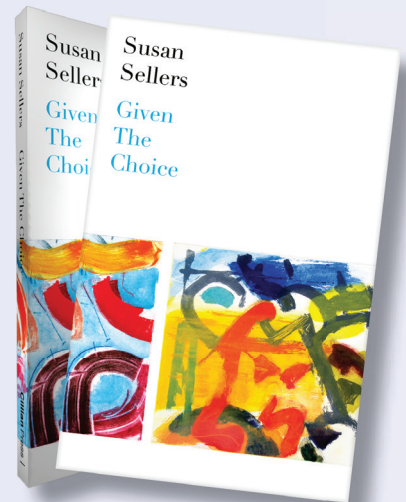


About the Author:

After a nomadic childhood, Susan Sellers ran away to Paris. While studying for her doctorate, she worked as a barmaid, tour guide and nanny, bluffed her way as a software translator and co-wrote a film script with a Hollywood screenwriter. She became closely involved with leading French feminist writers and translated *Hélène Cixous*. From Paris she travelled to Swaziland, teaching English to tribal grandmothers, and to Peru, where she worked for a women's aid agency. Moving to Scotland she became a Professor of English at St Andrews University, began to write fiction, and won the Canongate Prize for New Writing in 2002. Susan has published sixteen books, although *Given the Choice* is her second novel. Her previous novel, the critically acclaimed *Vanessa and Virginia* (Two Ravens Press, 2008) was translated into various languages and has been adapted for stage, performed at the Riverside Studio, London (Spring 2013). Susan now lives mostly near Cambridge with her husband, a composer, and their son.

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