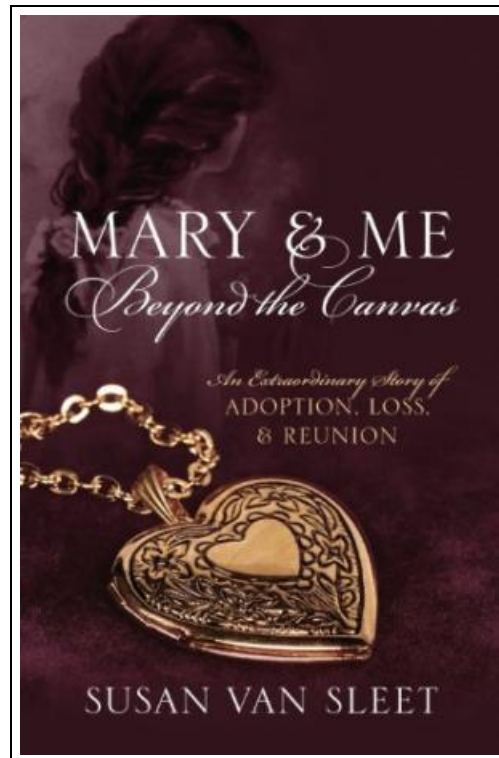


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Outskirts Press, United States, 2013. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Susan Van Sleet-artist, reunited birthmother, and writer-shares a gripping and sometimes raw account of being sent away as a pregnant teen in an era when the shame of giving up a child was punished by the deafening silence that followed. Her inspirational memoir sheds new light on the shadowy era of closed adoption and validates how her vow of secrecy manifested itself through emotionally saturated canvases and poignant poetry. *Mary Me, Beyond the Canvas* was written following the author's reunion with her twenty-seven-year-old daughter. As an artist, Susan transferred feelings of guilt to her canvases. A series of self-portraiture began to emerge during her three-month period of confinement, in 1966. Having promised to surrender her firstborn child through closed adoption, she silently channeled her remorse through art therapy as she painted somber reflections of herself. Two months after giving up her baby, while taking a three-dimensional art course at college, Susan sculpted an unusual clay piece. The hollow-bellied, veiled woman represented loss and guilt. Following her year of studies, her artwork changed dramatically as guilt gave way to deep longing for the little girl she was forbidden to see. Susan had been told to forget about her child. That never happened. Continuing to use art as therapy, Susan processed her silenced emotions for more than two decades as the girl she privately named Mary grew up on canvas. When they met, Mary-whose given name is Jeanne-shared photos from her childhood. The resemblance between Jeanne's actual pictures and the paintings Susie created for two decades (never having set eyes on her daughter) were not a coincidence. There was a connection of epic proportion between mother and child, and a reunion that...



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